

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 62/010/2001

1 August 2001

Further information on EXTRA 91/00 (EUR 62/24/00, 13 December 2000) - Death penalty/Fear of imminent execution/Torture/Ill-treatment

UZBEKISTANVazgen Arutyunyants [m], aged 24,
Armen Garushyants [m], aged 23

After international pressure, including an intervention by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee, Vazgen Arutyunyants is said to be still alive on death row.

Last December Vazgen Arutyunyants's mother lodged a complaint with the Human Rights Committee raising concern that her son's trial did not meet international standards for a fair trial and that he was tortured while in pre-trial detention to extract a confession. Reportedly, in the first quarter of the year the Committee approached the Uzbek authorities requesting them to put the execution on hold while they consider the case.

Vazgen Arutyunyants's mother reportedly last visited him in Tashkent City Prison on 18 July 2001. Recently, she was received by an advisor to the President. He is said to have told her that as Vazgen Arutyunyants did not confess his guilt, his appeal for clemency to the President would not be examined.

Vazgen Arutyunyants was sentenced to death, with Armen Garushyants, by Tashkent Military Court on 31 May 2000, convicted of two counts of premeditated aggravated murder and robbery. Vazgen Arutyunyants was also found guilty of possessing drugs and Armen Garushyants of deserting his military unit. Amnesty International has not received any further information on the case of Armen Garushyants or on his current situation.

Vazgen Arutyunyants was reportedly severely beaten by police in the Yakkasaraysk district, Tashkent, in an apparent attempt to extract a confession following his arrest on 9 July 1999. When Vazgen's father came to see him shortly afterwards, he was reportedly severely bruised and was unable to stand up. He also suffered from headaches and kidney pain, and had blood in his urine. The investigating officer reportedly told Vazgen's father that he would be executed. To spare his wife, Vazgen's father did not tell her what he had seen and heard and later committed suicide, apparently because he could not live with the burden of knowing what had happened to his son.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Russian, Uzbek or in your own language:

- urging the President to use his constitutional authority to commute Vazgen Arutyunyants's death sentence;
- asking for information about Armen Garushyants and, if he is still on death row, for his sentence to be commuted;
- expressing concern at allegations that Vazgen Arutyunyants was severely beaten by police, and urging the authorities to launch an independent and impartial investigation into these allegations with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to impose a moratorium on death sentences and executions, in line with the international trend towards abolition of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO (Please note that it may be difficult to send faxes. If a voice answers during office hours, repeat 'fax' until connected; fax machines may be switched off outside office hours -five hours ahead of GMT):

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Respublika Uzbekistan
700163 g. Tashkent
ul. Uzbekistanskaya, 43
Rezidentsia prezidenta
Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan
KARIMOVU I.A.
UZBEKISTAN

Faxes: + 998 71 - 2 89 00 46 (Write on the top of your fax: "Tel.: 139 53 75; 139 82 60; 139 59 29; Prezidentu Respubliki Uzbekistan; KARIMOVU I.A.")

Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700163 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
e-mails: uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz (if your e-mail bounces back, please fax it)
Salutation: Dear President Karimov

Head of the Clemency Department at the President's Office

Respublika Uzbekistan
700000 g. Tashkent
Apparat Prezidenta
Respubliki Uzbekistan
Otdel po voprosam pomilovaniya
Zaveduyushchemu otdelom
AKHMANOVU N.
UZBEKISTAN

Telegrams: Akhmanovu N., Otdel pomilovaniya, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Salutation: Dear Mr Akhmanov

COPIES TO:

Oliy Majlis Commissioner for Human Rights

Respublika Uzbekistan
700008 g. Tashkent
pl. Mustakillik, 2
Oliy Majlis Respubliki Uzbekistan
Upolnomochennoy po pravam
cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis
RASHIDOVU S.
UZBEKISTAN

Faxes: + 998 71 139 85 55
E-mails: mtillaboev@oliymajlis.gov.uz

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Respublika Uzbekistan
700029 g. Tashkent
pl. Mustakillik, 5
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del
Respubliki Uzbekistan
Ministru KOMILOVU A.Kh.
UZBEKISTAN

Faxes: + 998 71 139 15 17

and to diplomatic representatives of Uzbekistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 September 2001.