

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Legal concern

4 August 1993

UZBEKISTAN:

Pulat AKHUNOV  
(in cyrillic \_\_\_\_\_)

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Pulat Akhunov, a probable prisoner of conscience who is currently serving 18 months in prison after being convicted of an allegedly fabricated criminal charge of petty hooliganism, is currently on trial again in the city of Andizhan, Uzbekistan, charged with illegal possession of narcotics and with assaulting a prison guard. If convicted he faces a maximum additional sentence of 10 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International is concerned about allegations that the new charges against Pulat Akhunov are also fabricated, and is particularly concerned about reports that Pulat Akhunov is not receiving a fair trial because his defence lawyer has been prevented from calling important defence witnesses. Amnesty International is calling on the authorities in Uzbekistan to ensure that Pulat Akhunov receives a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pulat Akhunov is a deputy chairman of the opposition Birlik ("Unity") movement and a former deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet. He was born in 1962 and is a teacher of biology by profession. He was arrested in July 1992 and tried in December in Andizhan Regional Court for "malicious hooliganism", for which he was sentenced to 18 months in a labour camp. It has been alleged that the case, which concerned an alleged assault, was fabricated because of Pulat Akhunov's opposition political activities. Amnesty International is calling for a judicial review of this conviction.

Pulat Akhunov was detained in a prison in Andizhan pending the outcome of an appeal against his first conviction. On 6 February, following a search of his belongings, he was accused of illegal possession of 15 grammes of *anasha* (a type of hashish) and 10 packs of syringes containing a two per cent solution of the drug promidol. He has been charged under Article 216 part 1 of the criminal code ("illegally making, keeping or selling narcotic substances"), and also Article 194 part 2 ("inflicting light bodily injury on an official performing their duty"). The latter charge is reportedly based on the accusation that on 6 February, after being accused of possessing narcotics, Pulat Akhunov kicked and punched a prison guard with the aim of escaping from the prison.

Pulat Akhunov went on trial on these charges in July 1993. It has been reported by unofficial sources that his defence lawyer has been obstructed from calling as defence witnesses fellow prison inmates who allegedly witnessed an incident on 5 February when a prison guard attempted to plant a package in a pocket of Pulat Akhunov's clothing while the latter was taking a shower.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Russian, English or in your own language:**

- calling on the authorities in Uzbekistan to ensure that Pulat Akhunov is given a fair trial in accordance with international standards, and in particular that his defence lawyer is not prevented or obstructed from calling witnesses for the defence;

- calling on the authorities to order a review by way of judicial supervision of Pulat Akhunov's conviction for petty hooliganism.

**APPEALS TO**

The President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

pl. Mustakillik

Apparat Prezidenta

Prezidentu Karimovu

**Telegrams: Uzbekistan, Tashkent, apparat Prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu  
I.A.**

**Faxes: + 7 3712 39 55 25 or + 7 3712 39 54 00 or + 7 3712 55 10**

**Telexes: 116116 BAHOR SU**

**Salutation: Dear President Karimov**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Chair of the Andizhan Regional Court, (Ms) Adina Naredinova:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Andizhan

Oblastnoi sud

Predsedatelyu Naredinovoi A.

2) Procurator General of Uzbekistan, Buritosh Mustafoyev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

ul. Gogolya, 66

Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan

Generalnomu prokuroru Mustafoyevu B.

3) Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Sadyk Safayev:

Respublika Uzbekistan

g. Tashkent

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru Safayevu S.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 September 1993.