

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 233/93 (EUR 62/17/93, 16 July 1993) - Prisoners of conscience

UZBEKISTAN: Babur Shakirov  
Khazratkul Khudayberdi  
Salavat Umurzakov  
Olim Karimov  
Otanazar Aripov  
Abdulaziz Makhmudov

(in cyrillic

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The trial of the above six men in the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan finished on 6 August 1993. All received conditional sentences of varying lengths. Khazratkul Khudayberdi and Otanazar Aripov were sentenced to five years, Olim Karimov, Salavat Umurzakov, Abdulaziz Makhmudov to three years and Babur Shakirov to one year. Since the sentences are conditional Babur Shakirov, Khazratkul Khudayberdi and Salavat Umurzakov, who had been in detention, have now been released. They are all appealing against their conditional sentences, except for Babur Shakirov.

After the first hearing on 2 August 1993 the judges announced that hundreds of telegrams had been arriving complaining about the trial. The men had been charged under Article 62 of the criminal code with "organization activity directed towards commission of especially dangerous state crimes, and participation in an anti-government organization". The charge relates to their membership of a non-violent social organization-in-formation called Milli Mejlis (National Council), the draft statute of which envisaged it as a parliamentary-style forum uniting opposition parties and movements.

No further action is required from the Urgent Action network. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.