

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 161/99 (EUR 62/13/99, 12 July 1999) - Fear for safety / Medical concern / Incommunicado detention /possible prisoner of conscience and new concern - Prisoner of conscience

UZBEKISTANIsmail Adylov, human rights defender

On 29 September 1999, 49-year-old Ismail Adylov, an active member of the unregistered Independent Human Rights Organization of Uzbekistan (NOPCHU) and the democratic opposition movement *Birlik*, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Amnesty International believes that he is a prisoner of conscience detained because of his human rights work and his support for the democratic political opposition. The organization also remains concerned for his state of health as he suffers from a chronic kidney disease which makes him extremely susceptible to infection.

Ismail Adylov was found guilty of attempting to overthrow the constitutional order, sabotage and possessing materials constituting a threat to public security and order (Articles 159, 161 and 244.1 of the Uzbek Criminal Code). All the charges relate to documents which Ismail Adylov states were planted during a search of his home. (Amnesty International has frequently received allegations that incriminating material is planted by the Uzbek police.)

According to reports, the documents consist of a plan of Tashkent City Prison and leaflets attributed to the illegal Islamic organization *Hizb-ut-Tahrir*. Many of the members, and supposed members, of this organization have in recent months received long prison sentences after what appear to be unfair trials. In June this year, during a trial of members of *Hizb-ut-Tahrir* which Ismail Adylov was observing as a member of NOPCHU, the presiding judge reportedly threatened to charge him with membership of *Hizb-ut-Tahrir*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The government has used a series of bomb explosions in February 1999 in the capital, Tashkent, and other violent incidents, to justify a clampdown on individuals and groups it perceives as a threat to its stability and authority. The authorities have blamed the bombings on violent, foreign-trained Islamic groups operating in concert with the exiled secular, democratic opposition. Hundreds of supposed conspirators have been detained, including members and presumed members of independent Islamic congregations and members of banned opposition parties or movements and their relatives. Heavy sentences, including death sentences, have been handed down after trials whose conduct gives serious cause for concern. NOPCHU activists have been documenting arrests and monitoring trials.

In July NOPCHU member Makhbuba Kasymova (f) received a five-year sentence for "concealing a crime" and "misappropriation of funds" after a grossly unfair trial. She is a prisoner of conscience (see external document EUR 62/22/99). NOPCHU member Akhmadkhon Turakhanov, a diabetic, died in custody in June this year, apparently as a result of neglect (see Extra 34/99, EUR 62/04/99, 8 March 1999 and update). He was a possible prisoner of conscience. Former prisoner of conscience, NOPCHU President Mikhail Ardzinov is still without his passport, computer and human rights archive following their seizure by the authorities in June and has received no redress for the serious injuries he suffered during the search of his flat (see UA 149/99, EUR 62/12/99, 28 June 1999.)

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/e-mails/faxes/express/airmail letters in Russian or in your own language:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release, as a prisoner of conscience, of Ismail Adylov, who was sentenced to six years in prison on 29 September 1999;
- expressing concern for his health and asking that he receive all necessary medical treatment for the chronic kidney disease from which he suffers.

APPEALS TO (fax numbers can be difficult to obtain):

President of Uzbekistan, Islam Abduganievich KARIMOV
700000 g. Tashkent, pr. Uzbekistansky, Rezidentsiya Prezidenta, Prezidentu Karimovu I. A., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams: Prezidentu Karimovu, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Faxes:+ 998 71 139 5315
E-mails: uzinfo@uzinfo.gov.uz
Salutation: Dear President Karimov

The Oliy Majlis (Parliamentary) Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Sayora Rashidova
700008 g. Tashkent, pl. Mustakillik, 2, Oliy Majlis Respubliki Uzbekistan
Upolnomochenoy po pravam cheloveka pri Oliy Majlis Rashidovoy S., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams: Upolnomochenoy po pravam cheloveka, 700008 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Faxes:+ 998 71 139 8555
E-mails: mtillaboev@oliymajlis.gov.uz
Salutation: Dear Ms Rashidova

General Procurator of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Buritosh MUSTAFOYEV
700000 g. Tashkent, ul. Gogolya, 66, Prokuratura Respubliki Uzbekistan,
Generalnomu prokuroru MUSTAFOYEVU B., MUSTAFOYEV, UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams:Generalnomu prokuroru, 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Salutation:Dear Procurator General

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ubaydulla MINGBAYEV
700183 g. Tashkent, ul. Abdulla Kodiri, 1,Verkhovny Sud Respubliki Uzbekistan,
Predsedatelyu MINGBAYEVU U., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams:Predsedatelyu Verkhovnogo Suda, 700183 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Faxes:+ 998 71 141 00 28
Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Zakirzhan Almatovich ALMATOV
700029 g. Tashkent, ul. Novruz,1, Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del,
Ministru vnutrennikh del Almatovu Z.A., UZBEKISTAN
Telegrams: Ministru vnutrennikh del, 700029 Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Faxes:+ 998 71 133 89 34
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 November 1999.