

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 31/00

Death penalty / Danger of imminent execution 5 April 2000

TAJIKISTAN

Khakimbek Chingakovich KHOMIDOV (aged 22),(?????????
???????????? ????????)

Amnesty International believes that Khakimbek Khomidov may be executed very soon. His only chance of survival now lies with the President who has the right to commute death sentences after all appeals have been exhausted.

The Supreme Court of the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan passed the death sentence against Khakimbek Khomidov on 30 March 2000. He was charged with organizing an armed gang that was reportedly responsible for multiple house robberies between October 1998 to May 1999. Other members of the gang were sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fifteen articles of the Criminal Code of Tajikistan carry the death penalty. In 1999, Amnesty International learned of at least 15 death sentences and two executions, but since no official statistics are published the real number may be much higher. It seems that a previously reported *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty is no longer in effect.

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

- urging the President to use his constitutional authority to commute the death sentence passed on Khakimbek Khomidov, as well as all other death sentences that come before him;
- urging a moratorium on death sentences and executions until a comprehensive review of the death penalty is carried out;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of crime and their families, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and is brutalizing to all those involved in its application.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that fax numbers are difficult to obtain. If a voice answers, repeat 'fax' until connected; otherwise it is advisable to leave your fax machine on auto-redial).

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Imamali Sharipovich RAKHMONOV

Respublika Tajikistan, g. Dushanbe, Apparat Prezidenta Respubliki

Prezidentu RAKHMONOVU I.Sh.

TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Prezidentu Rakhmonovu, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Salutation: Dear President Rakhmonov

Chair of the Clemency Commission of the Tajikistan Supreme Council

Respublika Tajikistan, 734051 g. Dushanbe, pr. Rudaki, 42; Komissiya po

voprosam pomilovaniya Verkhovnogo Soveta Respubliki Tajikistan

Predsedatelyu

TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Predsedatelyu, Komissiya pomilovaniya, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Salutation: Dear Chairman

Procurator General of the Republic of Tajikistan

Salomiddin SHAROPOV

Respublika Tajikistan, 734022 g. Dushanbe, prospekt A. Sino 126,
Prokuratura Respubliki Tajikistan, Generalnomu prokuroru
SHAROPOVU S.

TAJIKISTAN

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan

Ubaydulo A. DAVLATOV

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TAJIKISTAN

Chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Council Committee for Legislation and Human Rights

Zarif ALIYEV

Respublika Tajikistan, 734051 g. Dushanbe, pr. Rudaki, 42; Komitet po
zakonodatelstvu i pravam cheloveka pri Majlis Oli Respubliki
TadzhikistanPredsedatelyu KHOLIKOVU A.

TAJIKISTAN

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Talbak Nazarovich NAZAROV

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TAJIKISTAN

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and to diplomatic representatives of Tajikistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.