

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 50/02/99

24 March 1999

Further information on UA 48/99 (EUR 50/01/99, 16 March 1999) - Fear of forcible deportation/fear for safety

UKRAINE/UZBEKISTAN

Muhammad Bekzhon

Yusif Ruzimuradov

New names: Kobil Diyarov, 44, teacher

Negmat Sharipov, 24

The Uzbek government is reported to have made an official request for the handover of an unspecified number of Uzbeks detained in Kiev during a joint operation between Uzbek and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. Muhammad Bekzhon and Yusif Ruzimuradov are believed to be still detained in Ukraine.

Among those detained, and possibly facing imminent forcible deportation, are Kobil Diyarov and Negmat Sharipov. They were detained in Ukraine around the same time as Muhammad Bekzhon and Yusif Ruzimuradov. If returned to Uzbekistan it is believed that they too could be at risk of imprisonment, torture or ill-treatment, simply because of their political affiliations.

Kobil Diyarov is a former member of the banned opposition movement *Birlik* ("Unity"), and mathematics teacher at Samarkand Technical College. He reportedly lost his job in the early 1990s as a result of his opposition activities and has been making his living as a trader, assisted by his nephew, Negmat Sharipov. The two are believed to have been in Kiev on business when they were detained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Birlik was the first opposition movement set up after Uzbekistan's independence in 1991. It advocated a secular democratic system and liberal economic reforms. It was officially registered as a movement in 1991 but was never allowed to register as a political party.

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

- urging the Ukrainian authorities not to forcibly return Muhammad Bekzhon, Yusif Ruzimuradov, Kobil Diyarov and Negmat Sharipov to Uzbekistan, where they may be at risk of serious human rights violations for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs;
- noting that agreements between countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States permit Ukraine to refuse extradition if there are fears that the person in question will face human rights violations if extradited;
- reminding the Ukrainian authorities of their obligations under international law, in particular the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

APPEALS TO:

Procurator General of Ukraine, Mykhaylo POTEBENKO
252601 g. Kiev-II,
ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15
Prokuratura Ukrainy
Generalnomu prokuroru POTEBENKO M.
UKRAINE

Telegrams: Ukraina, 252601 g. Kiev, generalnomu prokuroru Potebenko
Fax: + 380 44 296 89 03
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Yuriy KRAVCHENKO
252024 g. Kiev
ul. Bogomoltsa, 10
Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del
Ministru KRAVCHENKO Yu.
UKRAINE

Telegrams: Ukraina, 252024 g. Kiev, ministru vnutrennikh del KRAVCHENKO
Fax: + 380 44 291 17 33
Salutation: Dear Minister

Head of the Directorate for Migration and Refugees of the State Committee
of Ukraine for Nationalities and Migration, Olena Malynovska
g. Kiev
21/8 Institutska ul.
UKRAINE

Telegrams: Ukraina, g. Kiev, Komitet po natsionalnostyey, direktoru po
delam migratsii Malynovska
Fax: + 380 44 293 22 46
Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Borys TARASYUK
252501 g. Kiev 24
ul. Karla Liebknecht 15/1
Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Ukrainy
Ministru TARASYUKU B.
UKRAINE

Fax: + 380 44 226 3169 **Telex:** 131373 Rubin

Head of Department of Migration and Minorities at Kiev City State
Administration, Volodymyr Novik
252070 g. Kiev-70
Voloshskaya ul. 31
UKRAINE

Fax: + 380 44 416 3054

and to diplomatic representatives of Ukraine and Uzbekistan accredited to
your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 May 1999.