

PUBLIC

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9 June 1999

Further information on EXTRA 77/98 (EUR 57/12/98, 15 October 1998) and follow-up (EUR 57/02/99, 15 February 1999) - Fear of Torture / Fear of Execution

CHINA/KAZAKSTAN Hemit Memet (previously written as Khamit Memet), 28  
Kasim Mahpir  
Ilyas Zordun

new names: Zulikar Memet  
Saydakhmet Memet

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Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for the safety of Hemit Memet, Kasim Mahpir and Ilyas Zordun who were reportedly moved from a prison in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in May 1999 to the Public security (police) detention centre in the city of Gulja (*Yining*) where they are detained incommunicado. They are at serious risk of being tortured in detention and may face the death penalty.

The organization has further concerns for Zulikar Memet and Saydakhmet, brothers of Hemit Memet, who are also now reported to be in detention in the XUAR, accused of "assisting separatists / terrorists". Zulikar, the younger brother, was detained in 1998 and Saydakhmet in February 1999. Both are at risk of being tortured and may also face the death penalty.

Amnesty International has no information about any charges brought against the men or of any judicial proceedings. Arrest warrants had reportedly been issued for Hemit Memet, Kasim Mahpir and Ilyas Zordun in 1998 by the Gulja Municipal Security Bureau alleging that the three men had been involved in "separatist" political activities.

Hemit Memet, Kasim Mahpir and Ilyas Zordun were reportedly arrested by Kazakstan authorities while attempting to cross the border between China and Kazakstan. Information just received by Amnesty International from unofficial sources confirms they were forcibly returned to China after seeking political asylum in Kazakstan.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1996 the Chinese authorities have carried out a harsh crackdown of suspected Uighur "separatists" and "religious extremists" throughout XUAR resulting in gross violations of human rights, including torture and executions of political prisoners (see Amnesty International report "Gross Violations of Human Rights in the XUAR", ASA 17/18/99, 21 April 1999). This intensified last year following anti-Chinese protests by Uighurs in Gulja (*Yining*), near the border with Kazakstan. The "ethnic separatists", as they are referred to by the Chinese authorities, are seeking independence from China.

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

- expressing serious concern for the welfare of Hemit Memet, Kasim Mahpir, Ilyas Zordun, Zulikar Memet and Saydakhmet Memet and urging the authorities

to take every necessary measure to ensure that they are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated in detention;  
- urging the authorities to disclose the charges and accusations against the men as well as their whereabouts;  
- seeking assurances that they will not, in any circumstances, face the death penalty;  
- seeking information about any judicial proceedings brought against them and assurances that any proceedings will meet international standards for fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the People's Republic of China

JIANG Zemin Guojia Zhuxi

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

**Telegrams: President, Beijing, China.**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Director of the XUAR Department of Public Security

ZHANG Xiuming Tingzhang

Gong'anting

Huanghelu

Wulumuqishi 830000

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Telegrams: Director of the XUAR Justice Department, Wulumuqishi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, China.**

**Salutation: Dear Director**

Chairman of the XUAR People's Government

ABDULAHAT Abdurixit Zhuxi

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhongshanlu

Wulumuqishi 830041

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Telegrams: Chairman of Regional People's Government, Wulumuqishi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, China**

**Salutation: Dear Chairman**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 July 1999.