

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 193/06 (EUR 57/003/2006, 07 July 2006) Incommunicado detention/fear of forcible return/fear of torture

KAZAKSTAN/UZBEKISTAN

Gabdurafikh Temirbaev (m), aged 33

Gabdurafikh Temirbaev, a refugee from Uzbekistan, was released from detention on 15 August and handed into the care of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Almaty, Kazakstan. According to the UNHCR he and his family were immediately flown out of Kazakstan for permanent resettlement in a European country.

Gabdurafikh Temirbaev, who had lived in Kazakstan since 1999 and who had been recognized as a refugee by UNHCR in June 2006, was detained by officers from the Kazakstan Committee for National Security in Almaty on 24 June following an extradition request received by the Kazakstani authorities from their Uzbekistani counterparts. He was reportedly sought for membership of banned religious groups; a charge his family had denied.

UNHCR welcomed the decision by the Kazakstani authorities to comply with their international obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and to reject the extradition request and release Gabdurafikh Temirbaev from detention.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.