

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 77/98 (EUR 57/12/98, 15 October 1998) and follow-ups (EUR 57/02/99, 15 February 1999; EUR 57/04/99, 9 June 1999) - Fear of Torture / Fear of Execution

CHINA/KAZAKSTAN Hemit Memet (aka Khamit Memet), 28
Kasim Mahpir
Ilyas Zordun
Zulikar Memet
Saydakhmet Memet

Zulikar Memet and his brother Hemit Memet have reportedly been sentenced to death.

Zulikar Memet was reportedly one of 10 Uighurs sentenced to death on 25 June 1999 by a court in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of the People's Republic of China. The names of the other nine are unknown. It is not known when Hemit Memet was sentenced.

Saydakhmet Memet, another brother of Zulikar Memet, has reportedly been sentenced to six years in prison.

The fate of Kasim Mahpir and Ilyas Zordun is still unknown. They and Hemit Memet were detained by Kazakstan authorities while attempting to cross the border from China to seek political asylum in Kazakstan. All three were forcibly returned to China.

Zulikar Memet was detained in 1998, and Saydakhmet Memet in February 1999, in the XUAR. Both were accused of "assisting separatists / terrorists".

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1996 the Chinese authorities have carried out a harsh crackdown on suspected Uighur "separatists" and "religious extremists" throughout XUAR. This has led to 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 after anti-Chinese protests by Uighurs in Gulja (*Yining*), near the border with Kazakstan. The "ethnic separatists", as the Chinese authorities refer to them, are seeking independence from China.

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

- urging that the death sentences passed on Zulikar Memet and Hemit Memet be immediately commuted;
- urging that the arbitrary and massive use of the death penalty in China be stopped, and expressing grave concern at the growing number of executions and the use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression in the XUAR;
 - expressing concern that many of those executed in the XUAR have been sentenced to death after summary proceedings, in violation of international fair trial standards;

- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment and as a violation of the right to life as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

APPEALS TO:

President of the People's Republic of China

JIANG Zemin Guojia Zhuxi

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telegram: President Jiang Zemin, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

President of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional High People's Court

Abdurehim Kadeer Yuanzhang

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Gaoji Renmin Fayuan

Wulumuqishi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: President of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional High

People's Court, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, China

Salutation: Dear President

Director of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional Department of Justice

Rozi Simayi Tingzhang

Sifating

Jiangkanglu

Wulumuqishi 830002

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Director of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional Department of Justice, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, China

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Chairman of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Regional People's Government

ABDULAHAT Abdurixit Zhuxi

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhongshanlu

Wulumuqishi 830041

Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Chairman of the Regional People's Government, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang Weiwuer Zizhiqu, China

Salutation: Dear Chairman

and 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 31 August 1999.