

JAILED AND BRUISED



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DILOROM ABDUKADIROVA

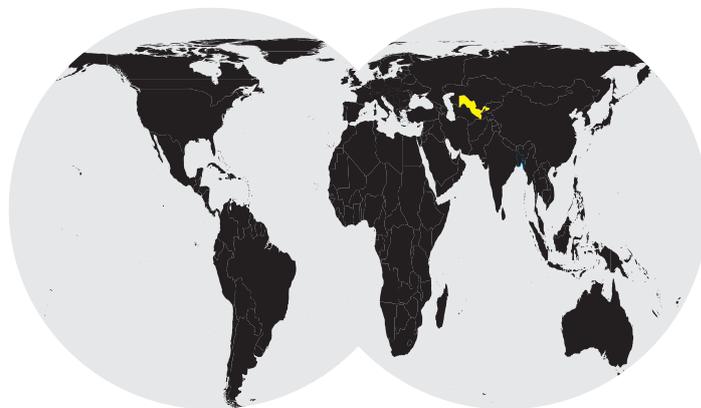
Uzbekistan

Dilorom Abdukadirova worked with her husband and mother-in-law on their small farm. On 13 May 2005, she joined thousands at a protest in Andizhan to voice concerns about the economy. The protest was mostly peaceful, but security forces fired on the crowds, killing hundreds.

Dilorom fled across the Kyrgyzstani border, and arrived in Australia on a refugee visa in February 2006. She desperately missed her family, however, so after receiving assurances from the Uzbekistani authorities that nothing would happen if she went back, she returned in January 2010. At the airport, however, she was detained for four days.

In March 2010, Dilorom was detained again and charged with attempting to overthrow the constitutional order and leaving the country illegally. She was kept in a cell for two weeks without access to a lawyer or her family. At her trial in April 2011 relatives said she looked unusually thin, had a bruised face and was not wearing her headscarf, something she would not have done voluntarily.

Following an unfair trial, Dilorom was found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison. She was then accused of breaking prison rules, and her sentence was extended by a further eight years following a closed trial inside the prison.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Uzbekistan has severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners by security forces are systematic. Thousands of prisoners have been convicted after unfair trials for their alleged extremist Islamist beliefs, their convictions based solely on 'confessions' extracted under torture.

Uzbekistan is closed to international scrutiny and, despite renewed requests, continues to refuse to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit. Despite some positive steps in recent years, including a new law prohibiting torture, persistent allegations of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials and prison guards, including reports of the rape of women in detention, continue.

TAKE ACTION

Amnesty International calls on the President of Uzbekistan to ensure that Dilorom Abdukadirova is immediately and unconditionally released from prison and her allegations of torture independently investigated.

Please write to:

President Islam Karimov
Rezidentsia Prezidenta
ul. Uzbekistanskaia 43
Tashkent 700163
UZBEKISTAN

SAMPLE LETTER

This is an example of what you could write. Please include the three bullet points below in your own letter.

Dear President,

Dilorom Abdukadirova, a vegetable seller from Andizhan, peacefully attended a protest on 13 May 2005 to voice her concerns about Uzbekistan's economy. When the police opened fire on the protests she ran for safety and fled the country.

Almost four years later she returned to her family in Uzbekistan, but on arrival was detained and charged with attempting to overthrow the constitutional order and illegally exiting the country. At her trial family members said she looked unusually thin, had a bruised face and was not wearing her headscarf, something she would not have done voluntarily.

Dilorom Abdukadirova's sentence was extended by eight years and her family fears she is again being ill-treated. She is a prisoner of conscience, convicted solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression and peacefully attending a protest.

I call on the Uzbekistani authorities to:

- Drop all charges against Dilorom Abdukadirova and release her immediately and unconditionally.
- Conduct a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into the allegations that Dilorom Abdukadirova was tortured in custody and ensure anyone found responsible is brought to justice.
- Allow the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Uzbekistan.

SOLIDARITY WITH DILOROM

A solidarity message takes only a few minutes to write, but can make a big difference to Dilorom. Please let her know that you are thinking of her and support her struggle for justice. Send your message to Dilorom care of our office and we will make sure it is passed on to her family.

Address: Dilorom Abdukadirova
C/o IAR Programme
Amnesty International UK
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

Preferred language: English

Suggested message:

I stand with you as you seek justice and will campaign for your freedom.

Can I send a religious card? No

Can I mention Amnesty? Yes

Can I include a return address? Yes

Amnesty International has campaigned against torture for over half a century. Thirty years ago we helped to secure an historic global ban.

But the governments that signed up to it have failed to live up to their promises. They still use torture to obtain 'confessions', to silence opposition – or simply to punish.

Everybody in the world has the right to live free from torture.

To find out more about this case:

www.amnesty.org.uk/stoptorture