

President
Islam Karimov
Rezidentsia prezidenta
ul. Uzbekistanskaia 43
Tashkent 700163
Uzbekistan

Dear President,

Muhammad Bekzhanov has spent the last 16 years in prison. He was sentenced to imprisonment based on a forced confession. He was beaten, suffocated and given electric shocks. None of the charges were investigated properly. Courts in Uzbekistan often uses these "confessions" to sentence the defendant although it is clearly prohibited by the law.

Uzbekistan has signed international treaties that prohibits torture and to use forced confessions during a legal proceeding.

I urge you to:

- to ensure that Muhammad Bekzhanov is released since repeated calls for fair retrial haven been ignored for more than 15 years;
- to issue a Presidential Decree requiring the Criminal Procedure Code to be amended to include an absolute and explicit prohibition of the use of torture to obtain testimony or confessions and the use of torture tainted evidence in court.

Your sincerely,