

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead to protest the continued detention of journalists Dzamshid Karimov.**

2 February 2007

His Excellency Islam Karimov  
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
Tashkent  
Fax: +011 998 71 1395325 (Press Office)  
E-mail: [presidents\\_office@press-service.uz](mailto:presidents_office@press-service.uz)

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to express concern over the continued detention of your nephew, journalist **Dzamshid (Jamshid) Karimov**.

Karimov went missing for two weeks in mid-September 2006. He was eventually found in a psychiatric hospital in Samarkand, where he remains under a five-month detention order. Authorities have apparently confirmed that Karimov is in psychiatric confinement, without specifying the reason, calling it a "private" matter. Recent reports suggest that there will be a review of the detention order on 15 March 2007, based on a medical assessment.

Karimov is known for being an outspoken critic of the government and for his reporting on socio-political issues. Shortly before his incarceration, in August 2006, Karimov's family complained about the high levels of police surveillance at their home and demanded that listening devices be removed. This request was not met. The family's long-distance telephone connections were cut. At the end of August, the head of the regional administration allegedly visited Karimov and offered him a position on two state newspapers, an offer that was refused.

**PEN Canada is deeply concerned over the hospitalization of Dzhamshid Karimov in a psychiatric institution and calls for his release. We demand that Karimov, while deprived of his freedom, be granted access to his family, independent legal advice and any necessary medical treatment. We call on your government to do all that it can to respect freedom of expression, as recognized in the Uzbek Constitution, and to guarantee that cases like this will not occur again. Finally, PEN Canada urges the government to comply with its obligations under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Uzbekistan is a signatory.**

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

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Copies to:

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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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