

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead calling for the release from prison of journalist Dzamshid Karimov.**

20 April 2007

Islam A. Karimov  
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
Rezidentysia prezidenta  
Ul. Uzbekistaniskaia 43  
Tashkent  
Uzbekistan  
Fax: +011 998 71 139 5325 (Press Office)  
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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 call for the release of journalist **Dzamshid Karimov**.

Karimov is an outspoken critic of the government and Your Excellency's nephew. In mid-September 2006, he went missing, only to be found two weeks later in a psychiatric hospital in Samarkand. His relatives were informed that he had been served with a six-month detention order, although no reasons were given as to why, only that it was a "private matter".

In mid-April 2007, Karimov's parents were informed that the detention order had been extended a further six months and that he would not be freed before September 2007, by which time he would have been held for a year. The decision is said to have been delivered by a court, although it is reported that no formal documents or reason for the detention have been made available.

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. 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.

According to the Uzbek website UzNews, Karimov's family doctors have previously admitted that Karimov has no psychiatric disorder but that it was beyond their power to order his release. It goes on to report that Karimov "was counting the days and hours left until his release [only to be] told that he had to wait a little until June or July because doctors knew that he would not be able to put up with another six months' treatment". His detention was reviewed in mid-March but it took a month for the decision to be made available. UzNews surmises that this may be because doctors were waiting for instructions from higher officials.

**PEN Canada is extremely concerned about the hospitalization of Dzhamshid Karimov in a psychiatric institution since September 2006, and is deeply disappointed that his detention has been extended a further six months, apparently with no justification. PEN Canada is calling on the Uzbek 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. PEN Canada urges the Uzbek 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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