

Prosecutor General
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Prosecutor General's Office
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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Oslo, August 16th 2017

Dear Prosecutor General

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I write to you express my concerns about the situation of Uzbek asylum-seeker and journalist Khudoberdi Turgunalievich Nurmatov, also known as Ali Feruz, who is at risk of serious human rights violations.

Khudoberdi Nurmatov was born in Russia in 1986, and spent his childhood in Russia before moving to Uzbekistan. He was forced to flee Uzbekistan in 2009 after he allegedly was detained and tortured by officers of the Uzbekistani National Security Service for refusing to secretly collaborate with them.

On August 1st 2017 the Basmannyi Court in Moscow ruled to forcibly return Khudoberdi Nurmatov to Uzbekistan. On August 8th the Moscow City Court overruled this decision, and stated that Nurmatov's deportation must be suspended pending review of his case by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The judge, however, also ruled that the journalist has to stay in the Special Facility for Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens (SUVSIG) while his case is being considered by the ECtHR.

Immigration-related detention should be used only as a last resort, for the shortest time possible and only when necessary and proportionate to the objective of preventing absconding, to verify identity or ensure compliance with a deportation order. None of this applies in Khudoberdi Nurmatov's case.

- I therefore urge you to immediately release Khudoberdi Nurmatov from detention.

Khudoberdi Nurmatov showed bruises in the courtroom on August 8th which he said resulted from a beating by one of the security guards during his transfer to the detention centre.

- I urge you to promptly and effectively investigate Khudoberdi Nurmatov's allegations of ill-treatment in custody and, pending his release, ensure he is protected from future torture and ill treatment.

Khudoberdi Nurmatov remains at risk of forcible return including abduction to Uzbekistan while in detention. Amnesty International has documented numerous instances of forcible return of individuals from Russia to Uzbekistan, including the abduction and secret rendition of asylum seekers and refugees by security forces. Khudoberdi Nurmatov is at risk of serious human rights violations including torture if deported to Uzbekistan.

- I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure Khudoberdi Nurmatov is not abducted and subjected to secret rendition, or in any other way forcibly returned to Uzbekistan, where he will be at risk of serious human right violations.

Yours sincerely,

John Peder Egenæs
Secretary General
Amnesty International Norway