

Date: _____

Abdulkarim Shodiev
Head of the Directorate of Execution of Sentences
Ministry of Internal Affairs
GUIN MVD Respubliki Uzbekistan
Ferganskoye shosse, 25
Tashkent 700005
UZBEKISTAN

Dear Mr. Shodiev:

I am writing to bring to your attention the situation of **Azam Farmonov**, a member of the independent *Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan*. He has been imprisoned since April 2006, after he was arrested for defending the rights of farmers who had accused district officials of extortion and corruption.

Authorities charged Azam Farmonov with extortion, claiming that he had pressured the farmers to make their accusations. He has stated that he was tortured while in pre-trial detention in an effort to get him to sign a confession. He had no defense lawyer or legal representation in his trial, and was sentenced to nine years in prison. In April 2015, shortly before he was scheduled for release, he was sentenced to a further five years, allegedly for “violating prison rules.”

Amnesty International considers **Azam Farmonov** to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely because of his peaceful human rights activism. It has been reported that Azam Farmonov continues to be held at Yaslik prison camp.

I respectfully urge you to bring about the immediate and unconditional release of Azam Farmonov, and I ask you to ensure that he is not subjected to any further torture or other ill-treatment.

Sincerely,

