

URGENT ACTION

TAJIKISTANI ACADEMIC RETURNS TO CANADA

Tajikistani PhD student Alexander Sodiqov has safely returned to Toronto, Canada, where he will continue his studies.

On 10 September, **Alexander Sodiqov** flew to Toronto from Dushanbe, Tajikistan. His wife and daughter joined him on 12 September. The Tajikistani authorities responded positively to a request from Alexander Sodiqov to allow him to return to Canada and continue his university studies. The investigation into the criminal case against Alexander Sodiqov is still ongoing in Tajikistan.

Alexander Sodiqov is a PhD student at the University of Toronto and was detained on 16 June while conducting a research interview. He was held in connection with investigations into a charge of “high treason” under Article 305 of the Criminal Code (punishable by 12 to 20 years’ imprisonment). Alexander Sodiqov was considered by Amnesty International a prisoner of conscience who was detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression, as he had been undertaking legitimate academic research intended for publication.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor this case and take further action as necessary.

This is the fourth update of UA 157/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR60/006/2014/en>

Name: Alexander Sodiqov

Gender m/f: m

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