Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sergei Lavrov
Ul. Smolenskaya-Sennaia pl, 32/34
119200 Moscow

Russian Federation

Dear Minister

**Re: Five asylum-seekers at risk of extradition to Kyrgyzstan**

I write concerning **Abdilaziz Hamrakulov**, 19, **Vohid Aliyev**, 25, **Murodil Tadzhibayev**, 25, **Botir Turgunov**, 35, and **Nabid Abdullayev**, 52, all ethnic Uzbeks who fled to Russia from 2010 to 2012 and face a real risk of torture and other ill-treatment if extradited to Kyrgyzstan. All five men are held in pre-trial detention centres across the Russian Federation and all have applied for asylum in Russia this year.

I understand your office approved requests between 24 July and 17 September 2013 for the extradition of all five men. All are appealing the decisions made while **Abdilaziz Hamrakulov**, **Vohid Aliyev**, **Botir Turgunov** and **Nabid Abdullayev** were appealing against an earlier decision of the migration authorities to deny them refugee status, and **Murodil Tadzhibayev** against a decision to deny him temporary asylum.

The Moscow City Court has already rejected an appeal submitted by **Abdilaziz Hamrakulov**‘s defence team against the extradition order. The other four appeals against extradition are lodged with regional courts. In all five instances, their defence teams have documented many inaccuracies in the documents submitted by the Kyrgyzstani authorities and believe the charges are fabricated and ethnically motivated.

Despite diplomatic assurances given by the Kyrgyzstani authorities, Amnesty International believes such assurances are not a reliable safeguard against human rights violations, and the men would be at serious risk of torture and other ill-treatment and their rights to a fair trial would be denied if returned to Kyrgyzstan. So I call on you to uphold the Russian Federation’s obligations under international law, and your own **Supreme Court**’s **Decree Number 11** of **14 June 2012**, not to forcibly return anyone to a country where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations.

I therefore urge the Russian authorities to halt the extradition to Kyrgyzstan of **Abdilaziz Hamrakulov**, **Vohid Aliyev**, **Murodil Tadzhibayev**, **Botir Turgunov** and **Nabid Abdullayev**.

Yours sincerely

cc Konstantin Romodanovskii, Head of the Federal Migration Service, Moscow

 His Excellency Dr Alexander V Yakovenko, Embassy of the Russian Federation, London