



*"Our torturers know that they
will never face the law ..."*

THE SYSTEM OF TORTURE AND EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION IN UZBEKISTAN

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"Our torturers know that they will never face the law": The system of torture and extrajudicial execution in Uzbekistan.

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- Sources:
- Association for Human Rights in Uzbekistan (France)
 - Association Petition (France)
 - Archives of human rights defender Diloram Iskhakova (Uzbekistan)
 - Archives of independent journalist Khusnutdin Kutbitdinov (Uzbekistan)
 - Archives of human rights defender Nematillo Botakozuev (Kyrgyzstan)
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Executive Summary

On the 13th of May 2005, a massacre took place in Andijan, Uzbekistan. The country's National Security Service (SNB) and Interior ministry troops fired into a crowd of protesters. The number of victims has not been conclusively established. Uzbekistan's government claims 187 people died. But according to witnesses and human rights activists there were more than 800 people killed.

After ignoring calls for an independent international investigation, the authorities carried out a public relations campaign highlighting their efforts to bring national law in line with international humanitarian norms. Three months after the Andijan tragedy a presidential decree did away with the death penalty, effective January 1, 2008. It has been three years now since Uzbekistani citizens were free of death penalty.

In reality, there are systematic abuses of citizens' right to life. The statistic about these crimes, as well as the information about individuals, who have been given death penalty, is still being concealed systematically. This report is based on the first-hand testimony of an Andijan Regional Hospital morgue employee. It gives evidence of wide-ranging torture and illegal killings carried out by the state and the cold-blooded, methodical approach used by the National Security Service to cover up these crimes.¹

We recorded this testimony about a year ago, and the allegations were so grave that we were sceptical about their veracity at first. We sought out other sources to verify the information we had been given. Sadly, these efforts corroborated the grim evidence.

Main allegations

Our witness was arrested after the Andijan massacre, detained and tortured for three months, before he was released and then subsequently ordered to work for the Andijan Regional Hospital morgue.

Between September 2005 and February 2007 he examined 500 bodies at the morgue. This was done under the close supervision of the SNB, who were bringing the bulk of these corpses in. Of these, more than 300 had gunshot wounds and bore evidence of having been recently tortured. Most of the bodies belonged to men, but there were also about 20 to 25 women as well as six children. The bodies brought in by the SNB were registered with special "green cards" bearing only a number for identification that our witness had not seen used in any other morgue. The SNB monitored bodies and personnel at the morgue at all times. Personnel were ordered to conceal evidence of gunshot or stabbing wounds on the bodies and were required to falsify causes of death. No official records about these bodies were kept at the hospital.

¹ The interview with this witness was broadcasted by Al Jazeera on 31 March 2011. See: <http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/peopleandpower/2011/03/2011331101737911390.html>

Corroborating information

Khusnutdin Kutbitdinov, an independent journalist working for the Uzbek-language service of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, travelled to Andijan one week after the massacre. He managed to interview a few employees of the Andijan hospital where the majority of the wounded were treated.

According to the employees, the security services had set up a command centre in the intensive care unit where they carried out interrogations. Men, women and even children were indiscriminately questioned as if they had all played a direct role in the revolt, in many cases while falling in and out of consciousness and with their stitches bursting. Many might simply have been hit by stray bullets but urgent medical treatment was postponed in favour of harsh interrogations.

Doctors were not allowed to leave the hospital without the permission of security agents from Tashkent. During this time, nurses were said to have occasionally fainted from exhaustion and hunger because they weren't allowed to go to the store to buy food for long periods of time.

Kubitdinov later learned that many of these doctors and nurses quit their jobs. Some quit the medical profession entirely. But as was the case for our witness before he escaped, most of the people that worked at the hospital at that time had to regularly report to the SNB and were not allowed to travel abroad to this day.

According to Kubitdinov and three other sources, the hospital was under the guard of the security services as long as a year after the Andijan events.

Dozens of the private homes near the massacre site still remain empty. Five years after the tragedy, none of the neighbors would talk to Kubitdinov about what had happened to the owners or why plainclothes agents continued to keep watch over these buildings.

Nematillo Botakozuyev, a human rights activist from Kyrgyzstan, helped us gather a number of letters from prisoners at Andijan prison, some of which are attached to this report. They tell the inside story of the prison during and after the massacre. For the five-year anniversary of the Andijan events the Voice of Freedom Central Asia website published one of the letters to honor the victims. Soon after, the prison was said to be closing. Some time later our organization received a letter signed "son of a former inmate of Jaslyk prison colony." It contained a drawing of the floor plan of the prison's cellar, including four torture chambers. This prison also was closed after stories of torture in the prison began to circulate.

Rights activist Diloram Iskhakova of the Mazlum human rights centre provided us with information on the high mortality rates in Uzbek detention facilities. She had the opportunity to examine the bodies of a few inmates who were tortured to death and provided us with a few photographs from her archive. She uncovered prison cells used to house prisoners who went insane from the torture. None of them have been amnestied on health grounds, and they continue to languish in prison.

Obstacles to further investigation

The observations of our organization show that the latest changes to Uzbek legislation have not improved the conditions for investigating allegations of abuse and gathering evidence.

Medical evaluations and court medical papers are required in investigations of complaints about torture. Article 81 of Uzbekistan's Code of Legal Procedures states that guilty pleas are not the only form of evidence. Testimony of suspects, the accused, victims and witnesses are also to be considered. But courts often do not take such testimony under consideration.

As a rule, courts accept only an expert's opinion as evidence of the use of force. But court-approved medical experts can only investigate bodily harm and how it was caused when authorized to do so by investigators, prosecutors or a court.

The Law on Lawyer's Activity² allows defence attorneys to collect evidence. But in practice they are not allowed to see their clients until their wounds are no longer visible, which often renders such medical examinations meaningless.

Without formal evidence of torture, courts disregard the statements of defendants who claim they were forced to confess through torture.

The Presidium of the High Court has issued instructions on "Court procedure for rulings in cases where torture and other cruel, inhumane or humiliating forms of treatment or punishment are used,"³ but they are not followed.

Complaints to prosecutors or the human rights ombudsman are addressed formally. But they always conclude that incidents of torture simply boil down to individual enforcers exceeding their authority and do not represent state policy.

Rights defenders and journalists have, however, been able to uncover at least some of the abuses. As a result, they have been hounded by the authorities. In the last five years 145 journalists and members of human rights organizations have been targeted. Sixty-eight have been convicted of "anti-constitutional activity" under Article 159 of the criminal code. Thirty-one human rights activists and journalists are currently behind bars. Meanwhile, a baseless criminal investigation into the activities of a group of six independent journalists has been underway since January 2010. Two of the group have already been convicted.

Our report is an attempt to underscore our belief that the current impunity will lead to more crimes. The Government of Uzbekistan assures the international community that it aims to respect international norms of jurisprudence in its legislation and in judicial

² Republic of Uzbekistan law № 721-I, passed on the 25.12.1998, guaranteeing lawyer activity and the social protection of lawyers, (changes were brought in in accordance with the Republic of Uzbekistan law N ZRU-198, passed on 31.12.2008)

³ CCPR/C/UZB/Q/3/Add.1 (From the answers by the government of Uzbekistan to the UN Committee on Human Rights in connection with the review of the third periodical Uzbekistan report on the implementation status of international treaties about citizenship and political rights.

practice. But the Uzbek government is responsible for the massacre in Andijan. Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov admitted as much in an evening broadcast on UzTV's Channel One on May 13th 2005 when he said: ***“Let the people of Andijan and the whole Ferghana valley know that if we give the order to our troops, that's it... bullets, after all, do not discriminate.”***

Introduction

Since 2006 the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia has regularly, through various channels, received letters from individuals currently serving jail sentences or those previously condemned, as well as statements from victims of torture or their close relatives. The material gathered for this report comes in part from 42 interviews with refugees from Uzbekistan. Due to political persecution, they were forced to flee the country between 2005 and 2010. We also included interviews with former political prisoners and public statements made by other human rights organizations, including international ones. We were able to interview two former employees of medical institutions in Uzbekistan, and one who is currently still working there.

The association has the witness account of a former employee of Andijan's morgue. His responsibilities included taking bullets out of bodies, sampling tissue for histological examination and describing the overall condition of bodies. In his accounts he draws some conclusions about the condition of the bodies he examined: Before death they were held without water or food, in unsanitary conditions. There were marks of violence of various types and degrees on their bodies, including evidence of rape. These accounts document the practice of torture and extra-judicial executions in Uzbekistan.

The practice of torture is continuing to this day and is an inherent part of investigators' and national security services' work in Uzbekistan.

The analysis of our materials indicates that representatives of various levels of government, as well as medical employees, are involved in the practice of torture and in the subsequent efforts to cover it up. At the request of many of the interviewees, we do not reveal victims' names, as they have expressed fears for their own safety and that of their relatives still living in Uzbekistan.

The accounts that were given to us by medical employees include information about them having been forced to cooperate in such activities by representatives of the national security services.

The information we have gathered is also invaluable because through these accounts from victims and their relatives, we were able to understand how the evidence of torture and of extra-judicial killings is destroyed. Even recovering the victims' names is extremely difficult. For this very reason, we have decided to present to you the full account of the former employee of the Andijan morgue and prisoners' letters. They speak for themselves.

Eyewitness testimony

The witness

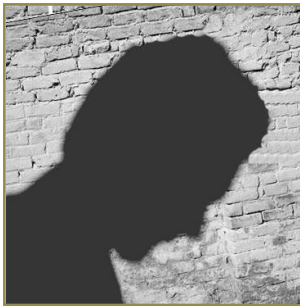
The witness is an Uzbek citizen born in the Ferghana region of Uzbekistan and a medical school graduate. The witness started working as a physiologist in 2003.

From May 17th to September 6th, 2005 the National Security Services (SNB) of Uzbekistan held the witness under guard.

From September 2005 to February 2006, the witness was ordered to work at the Andijan Regional Hospital in its morgue as a physiologist-anatomist.

For security reasons we are not releasing the witness' full personal details.

Account of Andijan massacre



Witness testimony:

“Actually, I ended up on Bobur square by accident. I was on vacation from the 12th of May (2005). That day I met with my former classmates from the medical institute at a friend's house in Andijan. Out of 11 friends five lived in Andijan so it was convenient for us to meet there. We didn't sleep the night of the 12th to the 13th. We socialized. It was a lot of fun. And then we all went out to see the sunrise. On the way back we

stopped in a restaurant near Bobur Park, had another cup of tea and it was when we were leaving there to head to our friend's house we heard that people were gathering on the square from all directions. All the residents of Andijan were gathering to support the 23 businessmen. All sorts had come to the square: Women with children, old folks and men. It was very noisy. And then we heard a man with a loudspeaker say: 'The President should come! He should hear us out and see how we are living.' His words were met with the approval of the crowd and people were shouting things back to him.

After a while, a military vehicle, with its back covered in tarpaulin, arrived. Soldiers started jumping out of the vehicle and lining up opposite the crowd. People panicked and then the man with the loudspeaker started calming everyone down and saying 'the soldiers have come to protect us, everything's okay.' And people started talking again.

And then suddenly, the soldiers started shooting in every direction and in just one moment the picture before my eyes changed completely. I saw people, who just one minute earlier stood before me quite alive, dying and screaming on the

ground. It's hard to imagine such a thing and may God protect anyone from having to ever see such a thing! I heard the soul-wrenching cries of a child standing over his murdered mother through the din of bullets whizzing over my head. There was blood everywhere. I saw it all and couldn't move. And then I felt someone grab me by the shoulders. I turned around and saw a classmate. He was shaking my arm and trying to drag me off the square. He screamed as loud as he could, "Run, run away from here!" We ran, and around us there were many who were killed and many more running away... But the child kept screaming 'Mama!'

During my interrogation I had to name all of my classmates who I met the night of the 12th to the 13th of May and tell the investigators everything that I had seen that day. The same may have happened to all of my classmates. I don't know. I haven't seen any of them since then and have never tried to contact any of them. We ran from the square into some small streets and ended up on a one-way street. We were able to stop a car there and I managed to get to the city of Kokand. At home all was quiet. No one knew what had happened. I was too afraid to say what happened to anyone except my mother, and we both sat there in silence."

Arrest

Witness testimony:

"Early in the morning of May 16, 2005 I was awoken by my mother's wild screams. I ran out of the room and saw a stranger who was holding her arm behind her back and was pushing her up against the wall. I immediately tried to pull them apart to ease her suffering. And then he

told me he would let her go himself if I didn't do anything stupid, warning it would be worse if I did. I agreed, because I had no other choice. I had an idea of why he had come. We asked this man in civilian dress 'Why? What for?' He stated that our questions would be answered in the precinct, but he wouldn't say which precinct. He locked me in handcuffs and led me to his car. I saw his partner standing behind the door in the gray uniform of the security services. We drove off in the car together and I was taken to the SNB building of the city of Kokand (Ferghana region). We drove into an underground garage or something like that. As soon as the car stopped, two agents led me to some stairs, then down the stairs to the left and we walked down a long corridor. One of my escorts opened the last door on the left and entered while the other stayed with me. The door was slightly open and I heard the words: 'We've got another monkey!'"

"They wanted me to 'confess' that I was a participant in the events on Bobur Square in Andijan."

Interrogation and torture

Excerpts from witness testimony:

“...I was led into a small office. It had a table and a metal chair that looked like a gynaecological examination chair. The air was thick in the office, full of smoke and it smelled terrible. There was a stack of paper on the table and a large desk lamp. I was undressed down to my underwear and put in the chair and my handcuffs were taken off. Two agents immediately started strapping my arms and legs to the chair with a thin wire that cut into my skin like a blade if I moved my hand. Then they turned the lamp on and turned it on me. I couldn't see the person sitting at the table because of the smoke and the bright light. I was frightened. I panicked and started asking questions: 'What are you doing? Why are you doing all of this?' I was answered with a blow to the back of the head and as I felt the pain I was told that I wouldn't be the one asking the questions here.

The investigator began the conversation by telling me that if I wanted to walk out of there on my own two feet I had to answer truthfully. He said: 'We know what you were doing there, we have video footage.' And then I understood that they were interested in Andijan.

They started asking questions: 'Why? When? For what? Who with? How? Whose place? At home? What was the time?' The questions were repeated over and over.

I told them what I knew and what I saw on May 13, 2005 on Bobur square. After every answer I was hit with a rubber truncheon in the crotch or stomach. This went on for a very long time. There were many people questioning me and they kept switching the interrogators. They all asked the same questions. I was deprived of sleep. My eyes were closing from fatigue. They changed like the changing of the guard but I was kept in that situation the whole time and I couldn't see the end to my suffering!”

“...They took my shoes and socks off. I was becoming more and more panicky. I saw in the opposite corner a bucket that was filled with twigs. I understood right away that these were the same twigs they use in the villages to whip animals. The branches stank of chlorine. They were soaked in chlorinated water so that they wouldn't break quickly. And they started whipping the soles of my feet and kept repeating that I wasn't answering the questions correctly. They wanted me to 'confess' that I was a participant in the events on Bobur Square in Andijan. They kept offering me a paper to sign that said I participated in the rally and came to Andijan to attend it.

I can't say for sure how long the torture and interrogation lasted, but it seemed like a very long time. I lost consciousness for some time from the intense pain. I awoke when they poured cold water over me.”

Conditions in detention

Based on witness testimony:

“At the entrance to a small cell, my T-shirt and underpants were taken off of me. I was completely naked. I was locked inside a cold cell about 2.5 meters by 1.5 to 2 meters in size that had no windows or lights. The floor, walls and ceiling were all made of concrete and there was a metal bed. I can’t remember how long I was on the floor barefoot, naked and exhausted. Then they came back to take me to another interrogation session. When I was sent back after the interrogation I was threatened with more violence at the cell door if I didn’t sign the paper. I didn’t even try to resist because I had no strength. They could see this but it didn’t stop them from bouncing me around the cell like an animal. The whole time my hands were in cuffs behind my back. You know, the fear of death, gives you physical strength [witness breaks down in tears].

After a short pause the witness continues:

“Someone who has gone through this stops trusting people and believing that they are a living person. After that you definitely become someone else!” [Witness cries].

“All this humiliation was repeated every day, sometimes twice a day. As soon as the cell door opened, I would be beaten. I said goodbye to life. I didn’t have the strength to take it. But I wanted more and more to survive” [Witness cries].

“Sometimes I was given food. It wasn’t even fit for an animal.”

Release from detention

Witness testimony:

“At one point the cell door was opened and some person walked in. He told me to get dressed. I couldn’t lift my body. I had no strength. He yelled and swore at me but I couldn’t have gotten up even if my life depended on it. I just didn’t have the physical power. After he saw my condition, he came over and helped me get up.

“You know, the fear of death, gives you physical strength”

I managed to get my underpants on and he pushed me out of the cell. Every time I fell down he hit me in the back of the head or punched me in the chest. We got to a car in the courtyard in this manner. As it turned out later, my brother had arrived in this car. The handcuffs were taken off of me and I can’t remember anything after that.

I regained consciousness in my bed at home (September 6, 2005). My mother sat next to me with a doctor. We trusted her because she had been a neighbor for a long time.

It turned out that my brother brought me home the night of September 3rd to the 4th. Only then did I realize that that hell had lasted for three and a half months. I tried to get up, but couldn't, because my whole body was in pain, especially my kidneys and my abdomen. Because of the cold conditions I got a kidney disease, which I suffer from still. I was in bed and under the observation of our trusted doctor for almost two weeks after I came to my senses.

“Someone who has gone through this stops trusting people and believing that they are a living person. After that you definitely become someone else!”

That's the condition I was in when an SNB agent came to tell me that I had to go to the precinct on September 23, 2005. There was no convincing him my condition was too severe to go. He just said 'That's an order!' and left.

Before my arrest I weighed 92 kilograms. After three months of internment and torture I weighed only 48 kilograms. I had never been ill in the past.” [Witness crying...]

“I said goodbye to life. I didn't have the strength to take it. But I wanted more and more to survive”

Andijan morgue

Witness testimony:

“They were waiting for me at the SNB building. They took me into an office I had never been in before. An investigator named Olim was sitting behind a desk. I heard his name when

a colleague addressed him. He didn't introduce himself. He immediately started accusing me of sedition and of being a traitor saying I was circulating false information about what happened in Andijan. I stood in silence because I knew that any explanations I tried to make would be used against me.

After a while he calmed down and gave me a piece of paper, telling me I needed to sign it. He said they would worry about the rest of the documents themselves. This document was titled “Transfer for voluntary work in the city of Andijan in the regional hospital in unit 12 (morgue).” Investigator Olim told me: ‘Having signed the document you will become an employee of the Andijan Regional Hospital, department 12 (morgue), and a freelance employee of the National

Security Service.’ He said my job would be to examine the bodies of the dead and establish their causes of death. I had to keep this information secret.

Olim told me unambiguously that if I said no to the job I would be arrested again. So under duress I ‘voluntarily’ signed up to working for the SNB in the Andijan morgue”.

<...>

Escape from Uzbekistan

..In February of 2006 my ‘business trip’ to the Andijan morgue ended (Our witness had worked there since September 23rd 2005). I returned to my old job, at the City Hospital of Kokand. But I continued to live in fear because I knew that at any moment I could be sent on another similar ‘business trip’ or be killed so that I wouldn’t talk. Every month I met an SNB agent so that he could

check that I hadn’t gone anywhere. He would ask how I’m doing, if I’m working and so on. There was no evident pressure from them at that time, but I felt constantly under threat, dependent on them, and obligated to fulfil any orders they might have given me. This is what made me decide to leave the country. The difficulty in getting out was that I didn’t have a stamp in my passport from the authorities that would give me permission to leave the country [these are issued by regional offices of the Interior Ministry]. I was able to ‘buy’ the permission through a good connection. Then I was helped to get a visa in a neighboring country [the witness was able to obtain a visa for a country in Eastern Europe].

I arrived to Europe through Moscow. The next day in this new country I went and got a lawyer and he recommended I request asylum.”

<...>

“Before my arrest I weighed 92 kilograms. After three months of internment and torture I weighed only 48 kilograms. I had never been ill in the past.”

Work procedures at the Andijan morgue



Google image of the Andijan Regional Hospital
(See the floor plan of the hospital and the morgue in the attachments)

Morgue work schedule

Witness testimony:

“I worked according to a sliding schedule from September 2005 until the end of February 2006. I had five or six eight-hour shifts every week. Shifts were from 8 am to 4 pm, 4 pm to 12 am and 12 am to 8am. There were two or three people on every shift.”

Personnel and morgue staff responsibilities

Witness testimony:

“Personnel were as follows:

Shift chief: He did not take part in the autopsies. He set diagnoses, signed the ‘green cards’ and stamped them. There were two alternating shift chiefs at the morgue.

Pathologist-anatomist: There were three in the department.

Assistants: There were five of them. Assistants took part in the autopsies. There was one or two depending on the workload during a shift. The assistants formally worked for the department of surgery and intensive care. They were temporarily transferred to the morgue during the (relevant) period. 7

At that time 16 to 18 people worked at the morgue, five of whom were women. The staff was from 25 to 45 years old. All had medical training.

Procedures for the registration, storage and examination of bodies and transfer of bodies out of the morgue

Excerpts from witness testimony:

“Just as everywhere else, bodies in the Andijan morgue are registered in the following categories:



Reconstruction of a toe tag for a body brought in with a "green card". Below is the record on a tag.

Ан.вил.кас
Ф.И.О. (графа пустая)
№ 0158183

*Label: Andijan area, last name,
first name, father's name
(empty), number. Number from
the green card*

— *Death caused by illness or accidents. If a body was, for example, brought from the intensive care unit at the hospital then we would receive it with a cause of death already established. These patients always had relatives who would come pick up the bodies. This category would be registered on a white form, which the staff called a 'white card.'*

— *Unidentified bodies. These are kept in the cooler for 40 days at the expense of the government if relatives are not found. Throughout this period the police advertise a description of the body and its location in the local media. This category is registered on a red form, a so-called 'red card.'*

— *The first time I ever saw a green form or a 'greed card' was*

in this morgue. On forms of this colour bodies are registered by a seven-digit number attached to the big toe of the left leg instead of using a name. The numbers looked like this: 'No.0112184'. The number always started with a zero.

These bodies were brought to the Andijan morgue in an ambulance or on a gurney and were covered with a white sheet.

Most of the bodies received in the Andijan morgue came with a 'green card' and were given priority for examination. Green forms were used exclusively on bodies that had been brought by members of the SNB. The names of these victims are unknown to me because there were never names on the 'green cards;' they had just the seven-digit number that corresponded to the tag on the body's left big toe."

"The bodies that had green cards were always brought in a RAF-brand (Riga Automobile Factory) van, the windows of which were painted over white. It had '03' (the emergency telephone number) and 'ambulance' written on the sides. The drivers were probably SNB agents because they behaved in a military manner and only talked to SNB agents. (Green card graphic is attached). Completed 'green cards' were placed on a shelf next to the SNB office door after autopsies were complete. [See map 2]

The bodies that had 'green cards' were carefully kept under the control of the SNB agents. They always kept an eye on the morgue staff and stopped outsiders from coming inside."

"We even went to the toilet under escort of an SNB agent. We were so tightly controlled that I was not able to make copies of any documents, photograph bodies or anything else.

The bodies were put in the corridor of the morgue right away. Before anybody with a 'green card' was put in the cooler, SNB agents examined the body.

During the entire time I worked in the morgue I examined just two bodies of patients who had died of old age and were registered with a 'white card.' Their personal details are known.

"Bodies, which bore evidence of having been beaten, were not handed over immediately."

The bodies were almost always warm when they arrived, that's about one to three hours after the time of death. They did not show symptoms of rigor mortis. Writing autopsy reports was very time consuming, which is why we could never examine more than four bodies in one shift.

The bodies that had 'green cards' were taken away very quickly, usually a few hours after the examination, maximum three days later. Unlike other bodies that were brought to the morgue, they were not registered in the hospital's morgue registry. There were only two copies of documents filled out for bodies that had 'green cards.' One copy was sent to the SNB as a medical certificate, after which relatives were allowed collect a death certificate and a 'permission for

burial' document. The other copy was kept by the SNB agent in the morgue and was registered in a notebook that only he had access to."

"Usually nobody came [for the bodies]. But if relatives did come – which happened very rarely – they were given a death certificate in the presence of an SNB agent. The relatives would go into his office where they would get a death certificate and burial permission, he would then call the public registrar, and then they made an appointment with the registrar where they were to pick up a certificate of cause of death.

The shift chief would always consult the SNB agent when deciding on a cause of death. From what I heard from the shift chief – sometimes when he was nervous he would let something slip – someone who had died of being shot near the heart would be diagnosed as having died of heart disease. In these cases we were ordered to stitch the patient with organic 'catgut' thread in the area of the gunshot wound. That's how we 'fixed' knife and gunshot wounds. Then the chief would write that the subject had died during heart surgery.

Bodies, which bore evidence of having been beaten, were not handed over immediately. After an examination they were put out in the corridor where the air conditioning would be turned off. This was done to accelerate the decomposition process, making it difficult for a non-specialist to tell the difference between bruising and post-mortem discoloration. These bodies had to be quickly buried. Then the authorities would have to make sure that the bodies were buried as quickly as possible. Relatives were most likely forced to bury that person quickly or some excuse was found for the state to handle the burial."

<...>

Conditions in other morgues

Witness testimony:

"In a regular morgue there is no SNB office and security services personnel do not interfere with the examination process. All of the bodies are registered with their personal data and none of the information is kept secret.

There are no 'green cards' at all. The staff socializes normally. In the Andijan morgue there was always an atmosphere of fear and everyone was afraid to ask each other questions. Even if we did talk, then we asked each other questions in such a way that the SNB agents would hear that we're only talking about work. We even went out to smoke one at a time.

I don't know if working there is still like that now, but when I worked there, that's exactly how it was."

"This was done to accelerate the decomposition process, making it difficult for a non-specialist to tell the difference between bruising and post-mortem discoloration. These bodies had to be quickly buried."

Registration of corpses in the Andijan morgue

Examination of bodies with gunshot and knife wounds

Witness testimony:

"One of the responsibilities of the staff at the Andijan morgue was conducting autopsies by cutting through soft tissues, extracting bullets and stitching the areas around knife and bullet wounds. The cause of death was established by the head of the department of physiology and general anatomy (morgue) in the Andijan Regional Hospital. Bullets were removed in the presence of National Security Service (SNB) agents and were handed over with signed documents. The agent would then leave and the examination of the body would begin. In some cases the SNB agent would attend the whole examination conducted by an

"25 to 30 percent of the bodies I examined had a torn rectum. Of those, 15 percent died of gunshot wounds."

anatomist and an assistant. I examined knife and bullet wounds on the bodies. Incisions were made that were larger than the wounds themselves and were then stitched together in a way that hid the exterior evidence of knife or bullet wounds. When necessary, this allowed for the larger incision to be attributed to intervention during the autopsy. The methodology for examining bodies with bullet and knife wounds, which

were received with a 'green card' differed from regular examinations in that such examinations started from the abdomen instead of the head⁴. The methodology for examining men and women differed too.

The procedure for examining men went in the following order: Abdomen, chest (lungs), heart, intestines, kidneys, liver, reproductive organs. The procedure for women was: Abdomen, followed by chest (internal and external), heart, intestines, liver, kidneys, womb, reproductive organs.

Abdomen: Food remains, if available, were analyzed. However in most cases we examined people who had not eaten for 18 hours prior to the time of death and therefore analyzed only secretions of the stomach. Lack of food in the intestines suggests that subjects were unlikely to have been at home before their deaths. Their bodies were noticeably malnourished.

⁴ Cutting the head open was not allowed, with rare exceptions to this rule.

Liver: *Scalpels were used to take tissue samples from the surface of the liver, which is covered by a thin film, for bacterial analysis.*

Intestines: *Description of changes in the intestinal tract. We often encountered trauma in the area between the small and large intestine and damage to the anus in the area where it connects to the large intestine. In my opinion, this was caused by hot liquid (hotter than 41 degrees centigrade), possibly mixed with glycerin, being sprayed under high pressure into the anus of the living subject. This led to a rupture of the intestine and resulted in peritonitis after which the subject could survive only 4 or 5 days.*

SNB agents would not allow us to describe trauma to the rectum in cases where the damage had the characteristics of being caused by rape. They would cynically tell pathologists 'We're not interested in this!' According to my own observations, 25 to 30 percent of the bodies I examined had a torn rectum. Of those, 15 percent died of gunshot wounds.

"During the time I worked at the Andijan morgue, I examined about 500 bodies, 300 of which had gunshot wounds. The rest had knife wounds or died of torture."

At the same time, SNB agents were interested in pathological changes in the intestine, but they would not let us include this information in the 'green cards.' We told them about it verbally. They listened but did not write anything down.

If the internal organs were not damaged, the subject's duodenum was removed in order to be used for making catgut, an organic tissue,

which is used in suturing during surgery.

Bladder and kidneys: *The kidneys were examined for damage. The bladder would be opened and urine would be removed for laboratory analysis.*

Reproductive organs: *External and internal examinations of the reproductive organs were always conducted on female subjects. The internal examination was carried out to establish whether the subject was pregnant. In case the subject had been more than six months pregnant, the embryo would be examined separately. After examination only the abdomen would be stitched back together. Internal reproductive organs were not stitched. This procedure in the Andijan morgue represented a violation of normal practice. Special examination procedures: After the body was examined, all knife and gunshot wounds were 'fixed.' Wounds were enlarged by incisions with a scalpel and then stitched together. The result was a wound that resembled an incision made during autopsy in the morgue.*

Corps storage conditions: *After an autopsy, the subjects' bodies were moved into a cooler. Bodies with gunshot and knife wounds had a separate cooler. If it was full, bodies would be left in the corridor for two or three days. In temperatures*

above 1 degree centigrade a body usually changes color. Areas around wounds turn blue. Only then can a pathologist differentiate between traumatic injuries and livores mortis (discoloration that occurs after death).

External appearance of bodies with 'green cards' bodies were received in different conditions.

They were:

- Totally unclothed;*
- In old civilian garb;*
- In black clothing.*

The bodies were dirty. Dirt could be seen on the back and in the area of the abdomen and waist, the upper part of the legs and from the elbows to the shoulder. Skin on the ankles and neck was often encrusted with filth and inflamed. The odor from the bodies evidenced that the subjects had been living in unsanitary conditions for an extended period of time. I don't exclude the possibility that many of the bodies were brought from prisons, but it's possible some of them were homeless."

Role of SNB agents in the morgue

Witness testimony:

"There was an office next to the exit of the morgue where there was always an SNB agent. Usually there was only one on duty but on holidays there would be two or three. No one ever knew their names. We gave them our own nicknames, for example, we called one 'Big Guy' or 'Crow.' When we needed to tell them something we tried to attract their attention simply by being present and then quickly gave them the facts. We were afraid to communicate with them closely.

"Their internal organs had suffered so many traumas that their effectiveness was only 20 percent, which is too low to survive."

The agents were replaced by a colleague roughly every six hours. The SNB agents always kept watch over morgue staff and made sure outsiders could not access the morgue. Even when going to the toilet, staffs were escorted by SNB agents. The toilet was about 100 meters from the morgue. Such close and constant oversight made it impossible for me to make copies of documents, photographs of bodies or other objects and what's more, when we left work we had to report to them the day's work. All of our things, including pockets and bags, were searched. The SNB agents went so far as to ask what morgue staff members planned to do after work and in the evening.

Number of bodies the witness examined

Witness testimony:

"During the time I worked at the Andijan morgue, I examined about 500 bodies, 300 of which had gunshot wounds. The rest had knife wounds or died of torture."

Bodies' demographic profiles

Witness testimony:

"Judging by the appearance of those being sent to the morgue, they were natives of the Ferghana Valley. Of those who died of gunshot wounds, most were men between the ages of 16 and 55. About 20 to 25 bodies belonged to women from 20 to 40 years of age. I remember clearly that I examined the bodies of six children aged between three and 10 years."

Evidence of torture

Excerpts from the witness testimony:

"I will recount the incidents which were most memorable to me. These were, first of all, the children. There was a ten-year-old boy who had a gunshot wound to the head and another to the stomach. His body bore signs of having been beaten while he was alive."

"...most were men between the ages of 16 and 55. About 20 to 25 bodies belonged to women from 20 to 40 years of age."

I removed a bullet from the skull of a six-year-old child. His body also bore evidence of having been beaten while he was alive. The markings were not fatal. The bodies of these children evidenced dehydration and malnourishment."

"At one point we were given the body of a woman who was 20 weeks pregnant. I remember this body well because she had been raped before she died. There was a wound to her left breast, her nipple had been cut off. The woman had suffered from a chemical burn on the inside of her vagina, there were a number of knife wounds on her body and the cause of death was a gunshot wound. I removed the bullet from her right breast." "I had to do autopsies on five or six bodies that didn't show external evidence of having been [violently] killed. Once opened however, I saw that their kidneys were severely damaged and their lungs were filled with blood and mucus. When examining such bodies it was impossible to find the liver or other vital organs"

because the insides had been turned into mush. Their internal organs had suffered so much trauma that their effectiveness was only 20 percent, which is too low to survive (a person can survive if 40 percent of their vital organs remain undamaged). These bodies characteristically had light pink spots on the skin and soft stomachs. Bodies like these decompose very quickly so we conducted autopsies on them immediately.

Inmates who died of ruptured internal organs were probably beaten with heavy objects wrapped in soft fabric."

"There were other bodies, which I assume also belonged to prisoners, because they bore multiple, thick scars. They differed from ordinary [bodies], they looked clawed; malnourished; beaten-up, they had knife wounds; penetrative wounds, and in a number of cases parts of their bodies had been cut off. Finger and toenails had been removed or there was evidence that sharp objects had been inserted under them; often, bloody markings went as far as the base of the nail. Their heels bore wounds caused by barbs and many other cuts. Two subjects had sustained gunshot wounds to their palms while still alive and lost a lot of blood. In a few cases where such badly damaged bodies were concerned there were deep wounds, probably made with a scalpel, on their shins; lower calves; heels and palms. The wounds were very badly stitched while the subjects were still alive. But the cause of death of these subjects was gunshot wounds.

Many of the bodies brought in with 'green cards' had twisted arms and legs. I remember the bodies of two particular men very well. These two subjects had lungs that seemed to be dried out. This can happen when a person is held for an extended period of time in an area polluted with poisonous chemicals. I assume these bodies belonged to inmates who were forced to work in a dangerous production facility without the proper clothing or respiratory devices." "During one of my shifts I was brought the body of a man who had been tortured and mutilated before death. When we made an incision with my assistant he started to breathe. Suddenly he had a pulse and opened his eyes. This was the first such case in my practice. My assistant and I immediately ran to the chief of the morgue. An on-duty SNB agent also materialized very quickly. When he found out what had happened he locked the three of us in an office and left. A few minutes later he came back and ordered us to get back to work. When we came back into the operating theatre we saw fresh wounds on the subject's body, which caused him to die. After our shift was over the SNB agent told us not to talk about what had happened."

Prisoners' letters about torture

Andijan prison

Excerpts from a prisoner's letter:

"Operative officers abuse prisoners. At the medical unit they provide aid only to sycophants⁵ and informants. Dietary food is prescribed not by doctors, but by operative officers. Medical care is provided not by doctors, but by operative department officers. Rooms at the medical center have already become resorts for traitors and informers, and the real patients are left in conditions designed to speed up death."

"Erkin Abdurazzokov, is an operative department officer. He controlled the people convicted under Article 159. By the way, he was removed from office. People will remember him for a long time. He tortured one prisoner so terribly! Those who heard him scream will never forget it. He forced the prisoner to crawl on all fours with his hands tied behind his back. There is a method of torture when they lift up a prisoner high above the floor and then with all their might throw him on the floor. And the rest of the 'wolfhounds' (officers) surround him and kick the victim."

"The most common forms of torture in the Andijan prison are rape with a club or a metal bar; in winter they throw cold water on a prisoner and leave him naked out in the cold; in cold weather the prisoners are forced to wear working clothes on their bare skin, they are not allowed to wear warm clothing."

***"They rape us with clubs,
give us enemas with chili
pepper and whip our heels
till they bleed age."***

"After May 13th [2005] the administration of Andijan prison was changed, but the administrations' treatment of the prisoners did not. These chief officers label as 'terrorism' the behaviour of prisoners or provoke fights among prisoners who fight for their rights. And then they initiate new criminal proceedings against such prisoners." <...> (see full text of the letter is in attachments)

Prison colony 64/49 (Navoi region)

Excerpt from a letter by prisoner R. Ibrakhimov:

⁵ Sycophants are referred to as "reptiles" between prisoners

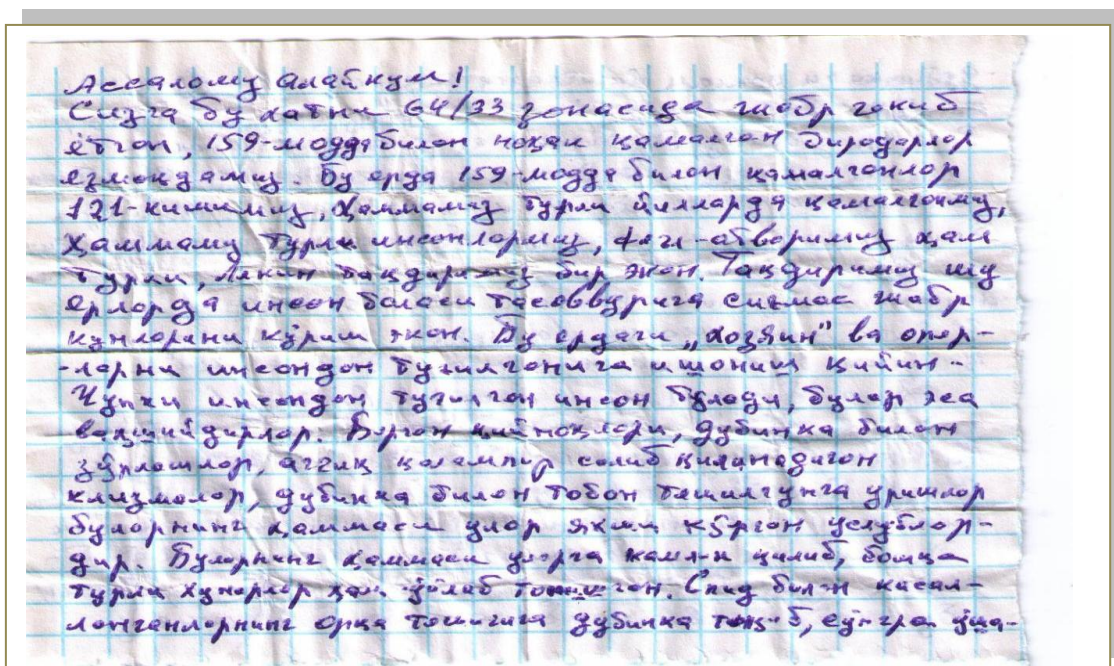
"...We have a lot of problems with water. There often is no water. It's hard to survive in these kinds of conditions. The prison guards humiliate us. They line up in two rows and each take a turn hitting a prisoner on the head with a rubber club as he passes through. This goes on for as long as the prisoner is conscious. In the winter we are forced to stand barefoot in the courtyard and in the summer we're forced to stand in the sun without anything to cover our heads. They always say: "The president himself ordered me to make you suffer until you're dead. You are enemies of the state and the people. There are fewer people with tuberculosis here than other prisons I've been in."

Prison colony 64/4 (Chirchik, Tashkent region)

Prisoner letter:

"The prisoners here are forced to smash rocks. This labor is very difficult. There was one man among us who had a broken leg. He couldn't fulfil the quota because of the pain in his leg and he was on crutches. When they saw how much pain he was in one of them grabbed his crutch and thrashed his broken leg with it. He screamed as loud as he could. It was impossible to watch. Those beasts rammed a stone in his mouth so that the pain wasn't the only thing making it difficult for him to breathe..."

Colony 64/33 (Karshi, Kashkadarya region)



This letter was passed secretly from high security prison colony 64/33 (Karshi city, Kashkadarya region) in July or August 2009 and received by the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia in December 2009:

"We write from colony 64/33. We were imprisoned on false charges and sentenced according to Article 159 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. There are 121 prisoners imprisoned here under Article 159. We all came here in different years. We are all different people. Our characters are also different, but our destiny is the same. We have seen things no man could ever imagine. Looking at these overseers and prison-guards it is hard to believe that they were born of women. A human being should remain human. But they are wild creatures and inhuman monsters. The pain they cause us is impossible to describe. They rape us with clubs, give us enemas with hot pepper and whip our heels till they bleed. These are the methods they enjoy. But this is not enough for them, and they come up with new methods of torture. They use clubs to rape AIDS sufferers, and then use these same clubs to rape other prisoners. They laugh and jeer: "You all pray, call each other 'brothers', aren't you ashamed to infect each other with AIDS?" In the medical unit they use syringes, which were previously used for patients with AIDS. A prisoner called Holmirza expressed indignation at this: They forcibly injected AIDS-infected blood into him. Holmirza was then transferred to another colony. His whereabouts are unknown.

"The most common forms of torture in the Andijan prison are rape with a club or a metal bar; in winter they throw cold water on a prisoner and leave him naked out in the cold; in cold weather the prisoners are forced to wear working clothes on their bare skin, they are not allowed to wear warm clothing."

"Dear friends! Mothers! Fathers! Our torments are increasing, not diminishing. The torturers have set their madness on us. They know they will not be held accountable by law, but what they don't know is that they will be held to account by Allah and a higher judge. For reasons known to you we do not write our names. Consider that this letter was signed by 121 prisoners."



Prison colony 64/48 (Zarafshan, Navoi region)

Pictured: Evidence of torture on the body of Uzbek citizen Istam Khudoberdiyev, DOB: 1957, Place of Birth: Denau, Surkhandarya region. Not long before his death he was being held in solitary confinement and was repeatedly refused visitations from his family. His wife, Musharraf Khudoberdiyeva repeatedly requested that the General Prosecutor and head of the penitentiary

service of Uzbekistan deal with the issue but never got any reply.

Khudoberdiyev was sentenced to 16 years in prison by the Tashkent City Court stemming from cases opened on May 30th, 2002. He was convicted on Articles 159 (Attempt on the constitutional system of the Republic of Uzbekistan), 244-1 (distribution of materials containing threats to public security) and 244-2 (membership in a banned religious organization) of the criminal code of Uzbekistan. He was accused of being a member of the banned Hizb-ut-Tahrir party. Witnesses say that there were multiple bruises and welts on his body and his arms and legs were twisted out of place. Khudoberdiyev's relatives were given only three hours for a funeral, the ceremony was overseen by the authorities and they would not allow photographs to be made of the body.



On June 16, 2009 relatives of prisoner Nagimat Zufarov (born 1964) were given his body. There was a huge badly stitched wound behind his right ear. There was another stitch above his forehead. His body was covered in wounds; there was a lot of bruising as well as deep cuts in his heels, some of which were sewn-up. The body was already decomposing when relatives received it. Zufarov had been convicted of Articles 159, 244-1 and 244-2 by the Tashkent Regional Court and sentenced to 20 years in a high security facility with confiscation of property.

Prison colony 64/49 (Kashri, Kashkadarya region)

Excerpts from a letter by Agzam Turganov, founder of the “Mazlum” human rights centre:

“Those here are people too; they have to fight for survival and very few are able to retain their humanity. When I arrived in this colony we were gathered and the prisoners were forced to sit down and stand up 500 times. The guards pointed at me and said ‘you are all here because of this man, you suffer because of him!’ The guards said this all the time to make the other prisoners hate me because I was a rights defender. They were trying to stop them communicating with me because I could tell them about their rights. On cold days the prisoners here were forced to undress and were sprayed with cold water from a hose⁶”.

Photo-evidence of fatal torture. May, 2009.

Photos distributed by the Uzbek service of Radio Liberty
Pictured: Body of Kyrgyz citizen Nozim Mamadaliyev, born 1973. Signs of torture are clearly visible. Mamadaliyev lived in



⁶ The wife of one of the prisoners of prison camp UYA 64/49 told us that in January 2009, they poured cold water on her husband. Then he caught a serious cold and took to bed with a high fever. They then tortured him as he was late for a roll call. This led him to contract pulmonary tuberculosis which then subsequently turned into extrapulmonary tuberculosis.

the village of Bazar-Korgon in the Bazar-Korgon area of the Jalal-abad region of Kyrgyzstan. In 2007, Uzbekistan said it was seeking him on charges of crossing Uzbekistan's borders illegally and embezzlement.



He was arrested on April 13th 2009 when crossing into Uzbekistan to visit his wife who was living in Ferghana. The Ferghana prosecutors' office ordered him to be held in the Ferghana city interior ministry branch's pre-trial detention centre. He was only allowed to see a lawyer seven days after his arrest.

On April 29, 2009 at 2:30 pm, Mamadaliyev died in a Tuberculosis Centre. He was referred there by an investigator with a diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver and chronic tuberculosis. The body was only given to relatives on May 1, 2009 after they signed a document promising not to complain about the authorities.

Prisoner psychological trauma resulting from torture

Cases of psychological illness are on the rise in prisons across Uzbekistan. Victims are not treated. Information about them is held back.

Djamoliddin Karimov, born in 1977, was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment under article 159 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan. He has been serving his sentence in prison since October 25, 2001. He was in prison colony 64/29 in Navoi, and then was transferred to colony 64/71 in the settlement of Jaslyk in Karakalpakstan where he stayed until August 2004. He was sentenced there under article 221 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan, and his term of imprisonment was increased by three years. Then he was sent to the Andijan prison camp. Until May 2007 he was in colony 64/36 in Navoi. Since May 2008 he has been serving a sentence in the colony 64/71.

In 2003, when Djamoliddin Karimov spent time in colony 64/71, he was beaten by officers of the prison. They beat his whole body, including his heels. As a result, both of his arms were broken. To treat the fractures a metal pin was installed in Karimov's shoulder joint that needed to be removed after six months. They did not remove the metal pin in time; nearly a year after it was put in, it caused inflammation, then suppuration, and the metal pin partially came out. After that doctors performed an operation to remove the metal pin without using anaesthetics.

Djamoliddin Karimov went mad because of the pain. He was visited recently by two sisters but Karimov could not recognize them. He neither slept nor ate during the visit. According to his sisters he wore the same clothes they had dressed him months earlier during a previous visit. They said that Karimov had become aggressive and totally insane. During an episode of hysteria neither a guard nor a doctor dared approach him. His cellmates have taken to kicking him to calm him down because he won't let them sleep and he also sustains beatings by the guards. The most a doctor can do for him is to give him some tuberculosis pills instead of sedatives.

Findings and conclusions

Consequences of Andijan massacre 2005

On May 13, 2005, Uzbekistan's government forces opened fire on a mass of demonstrators in Andijan. Hundreds were killed or were seriously wounded. Immediately following this event, the government undertook a major campaign to eliminate the witnesses and the critics of the official version of this bloody tragedy. The Andijan shooting served as a pretext to fabricate criminal cases under Article 155 (Terrorism) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Additionally, practically all witnesses and critics were subject to torture and, as a rule, were convicted on the basis of political laws⁷. Instances of deaths under torture are often shrouded with a veil of secrecy. When dealing with this category of individuals, the courts act in concert with the government. These individuals are deprived of any opportunity for defence and a fair trial. Notwithstanding its obligations, Uzbekistan demonstratively ignores international observers who have called for the observance of the law and the provision of human rights.

This reprisal extended to famous Uzbek civil rights advocates and journalists⁸, who tried to establish the precise number of Andijan mass shooting victims, including those who are still missing, and to all those fighting for transparency.

Uzbekistani authorities are attempting to expel the international human rights organisation Human Rights Watch⁹ (HRW) from the country. HRW paid the price for their uncompromising position in defending human rights and investigation of cases of torture and murders of inmates, persecution of Muslims for their beliefs, and documenting all the possible evidence about the 2005 Andijan tragedy. Its expulsion from Uzbekistan is part of the goal of the Uzbekistani authorities to silence those who give evidence of human rights violations in Uzbekistan.

⁷ Republic of Uzbekistan Criminal Code articles: 158-3 ("Public affront or slander concerning the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including the use of the press or other mass media"), 159 ("Offences against the constitutional system of the Republic of Uzbekistan"), 216 ("Unlawful organisation of public associations or religious groups"), 216-1 ("Inclination to take part in the activity of unlawful public associations and religious groups"), 216-2 ("Violation of the laws on religious organisation"), 244-1 ("Preparation or distribution of materials that threaten public safety and public order"), and 244-2 ("Establishment, management, participation in religious, extreme, separatist, fundamentalist or other prohibited organisations");

⁸ List of imprisoned human rights activists and journalists: Salizhon Abdurahmanov, Azamat Azimov, Habibulla Akpulatov, Muhammed Bekzhanov, Ravshanbek Vafoev, Abdulaziz Dadahonov, Gaibullo Dzhililov, Murod Dzhuraev, Botyrbek Eshkuziev, Yusuf Zhuma, Bahrom Ibragimov, Sattor Irzaev, Nasim Isakov, Davron Kabilov, Mamadali Karabaev, Alisher Karamatov, Dzhamshid Karimov, Matlyuba Karimova, Dzhamol Kutliev, Ganihon Mamathanov, Mamadali Mahmudov, Gairat Mehliboev, Farhodhon Muhtarov, Maksim Popov, Yuldash Rasulev, Zafar Rahimov, Dil'murod Saiidov, Agzam Turgunov, Azam Farmonov, Isroilzhon Holdarov, Norboi Holzhigitov, Abdurasul Hudoinazarov;

⁹ <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/03/15/uzbekistan-government-shuts-down-human-rights-watch-office>

For this same reason, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions were denied entrance to Uzbekistan.

The Uzbekistan government stifles victims' attempts to appeal to the UN using special UN procedures and UN human rights executive committees in every way possible. There are known cases, whereby National Security Service officials would visit individuals appealing to the UN and would force them to end their contact with special UN representatives. As such, it is difficult to ascertain the names of torture and murder victims, as well as the locations of where their torture took place. In most cases, the inmate is transported under guard to a different penal colony or town, in order to avoid a news leak on torture. Below are the testimonies regarding the concealment of information on torture:

I don't know what to do. [Crying.] They came to my house and asked me sternly: "Who gave you the idea to write to the UN? Do you want to see where this will get you?" I must also think of the other children. My husband is already in prison, and it's up to me to raise these children... [Crying.] [AHRCA interview, October 2010, appellant Sh. E.]

In most cases, we learn about torture practices from inmates' relatives or from anonymous prisoners' letters, as their safety is at great risk. Even when we can establish the circumstances, find out the victim's personal details and get their permission to act as their principal, this doesn't always save them. We reported the case of Dzhamoliddin Karimov from the 64/71 penal colony, who lost his mind while being tortured. On May 7 2010, AHRCA released a press-release regarding his case, but Karimov remains in custody and, for the time being, cannot expect amnesty.

A witness account from a former Andijan morgue worker confirms that the government is actively and systematically interfering with an objective investigation of torture acts and extrajudicial treatment and punishment. According to this witness, from September 2005 to February 2006, the Andijan morgue received three to four dead bodies with torture marks and bullet wounds on a daily basis. These bodies arrived before the onset of rigor mortis, in other words, three to four hours after the time of death. This suggests that these people were not held very far, most likely in the Andijan region.

During those six months, this witness examined around 300 bodies with bullet and knife wounds during his regular working hours. Andijan has only 380,000 residents. It is unlikely that so many people perished from illness. There were no dangerous epidemics in the city during that time. Taking into account domestic crime, which could caused some of these deaths, it is unlikely that the number of victims would be that high. From September 2005 to February 2006, there were no combat activities in Andijan or any other part of the country. And, yet, during this time, hundreds of Andijan residents went missing. Their relatives face great danger in attempting to find out their whereabouts.

Until 2006, the street that was previously known as Parkovskaya contained many uninhabited houses, which, until May 13, 2005, were home to those who did not return from the Bobur Square. For some time, these homes were guarded by uniformed men, but I'm sure they had something to do with the National

Security Services. Then, this street was renamed, but I don't remember the new name. It's best not to go to that part of town. After the tragedy, many streets were renamed in the old part of Andijan. Part of the city was rebuilt. The Eski-Shakhar market, the "Chulpon" cinema, Chorguzar Street, #15 school all changed. [AHRCA interview, November 2010, witness K.H.]

Andijan still remains inaccessible to foreign citizens, while all of its residents remain under vigilant and total control of the special services, particularly the National Security Services. Relatives of former Andijan residents, who became political émigrés, are under special consideration and constant observation by the National Security Services. The majority of the political émigrés have been declared wanted persons, including through Interpol.

We are also aware of other instances where missing persons were found in penal colonies. They were sent there without a sentence. Their relatives were not told of their whereabouts. In 2008, the Association for Human Rights Central Asia was approached by an Andijan resident, the mother of Sherzodbek (Sherzod) Dzhalilov, born in 1984. He was at the Bobur Square on May 13, 2005. Dzhalilov was wounded and his mother took him to the hospital, where he was arrested. Several months later, she was able to locate her son at a prison camp. It turned out that during his trial, he was sentenced to fourteen years in prison. But Dzhalilov and his relatives were not present at the trial. The text of the sentence has still not been made available to the convicted or his mother. As such, the essence of the charge remains unknown¹⁰. [After 2006, imprisoned appellants often report that they have not been handed their sentence].

From the mother:

"...so I went to the Andijan prison. <...> everyone denied it, told me that there was no one there. One soldier told us not to look in other places because wounded guys were brought to this prison during the night. I went there every day <...> Finally, I was told that Sherzod Dzhalilov was taken to the Tashkent prison.

The next day, I went to the Tashkent prison. They found his name there: Sherzod Dzhalilov from Andijan, Andijan incident. There I was told that he was transferred to Karshi. I found him there fourteen months after he went missing. I told him, "Son, you're a man. Hold on, my boy, the day will come when justice will triumph. <...>

The director of the penal colony heard me out. [Crying.] He even tried to console me. [Crying.] I asked him why I wasn't called to the trial. I am his mother and I don't know why or for how long my son is in prison! What kind of government is this? The penal colony director made a phone call and then told me that my son was sentenced to fourteen years. How I cried! [Crying.] The director told me that it's not just my son who was in this situation. I told him

¹⁰ In breach of article 217 of the criminal procedure code of Uzbekistan, which states that for persons under arrest, charged and defendants in criminal trials, the law-enforcement agencies and the courts are obliged, within 24 hours, to notify someone from their family about their whereabouts, and if a relative or a close friend cannot be found, it has to be notified to their place of work or study.

that I would get to the bottom of this. If I am breaking the law, then you can put me in prison as well. That's what I told him. [Crying.] <...>

Allah, save my boy! I don't know who else I can trust! [Crying.] AHRCA video interview, April 2008.

Individuals, whom we had interviewed, said that the current government utilises the cruellest and most sophisticated physical and psychological methods of torture in order to suppress the human will. Individuals sustain various degrees of bodily injuries. Instruments of torture are systematically used. Often, victims are sexually abused. Additionally, torture often takes place with children present.

On November 5, 2009, I and several other Muslim women were arrested in Karshi. Uniformed men came to my house <...>. I didn't even have a chance to put on something warm and left with them, wearing my home clothes and with my infant in my arms. I was questioned by the Kashkadarinsk National Security Services personnel <...> Their boss was someone named Norpulat (I don't know his last name), who looked about 50. <...> Then two men came into the office, ripped off my headscarf and began to violently beat me on the head and on the neck. I cried, screamed <...>. Norpulat issued orders: "Rip off all her clothes and rape her from the front, from behind and in the mouth." <...> They ripped off all my clothes, which really scared me and I agreed to write anything they wanted me to. <...> Then he said, "You're not writing very much?" I constantly heard other women screaming and moaning from other rooms. He told me to take a dictation: "I regret that I began to practice Islam. I repent and ask for forgiveness. In the future, I will do anything that the National Security Services personnel tell me to do. I will not wear a hijab. If I decided to move elsewhere, I will immediately report this to the National Security Services.

The only reason they didn't rape me was because I wrote everything they demanded. What they did to another woman, G., is too shameful to write about. [AHRCA interview, December 2009, appellant N.B.]

Conditions for investigating torture

Despite the latest reforms to national legislation, torture in Uzbekistan is used just as systematically as before. The authorities interfere in the investigation of torture allegations and the gathering of evidence about such crimes.

Complaints about torture are usually discarded. In contradiction with Article 81 of the Criminal Procedural Code of Uzbekistan statements from suspects, defendants, victims and witnesses are not taken into consideration. Instead, only official medical documents and court medical certificates are reviewed.

But court medical certifications confirming the presence of an injury, the time of its infliction and the way in which the injury was inflicted can only be issued by order of the investigators, prosecutors or the court.

Because of the lack of expert certification courts do not take into consideration the statements of defendants who claim they incriminated themselves or others under pressure of torture conducted by the investigators.

As a rule, a review of allegations of torture is usually dropped during an inquest and those involved in torture do not face charges.

A ruling by the Presidium of the supreme court of Uzbekistan on “Court procedure for rulings in cases where torture and other cruel, inhumane or humiliating forms of treatment or punishment are used” is followed only selectively.

In accordance with the law on “Lawyer’s activity,” an attorney is allowed to gather evidence. But in practice, attorneys are not allowed to meet their clients until their injuries have healed. For this reason attorneys are not able to conduct timely medical examinations.

Complaints to the Ombudsman or the prosecutors’ office are reviewed only formally.

According to our research, hundreds of people die from being tortured every year, but the public does not know the names of their tormentors. Cases of torture are only spoken about by victims, their relatives or come from other unofficial sources of information.

The general prosecutor, ombudsman and national rapporteur to UN treaty bodies highlight the number of complaints reviewed and people convicted, but do not name these perpetrators. The government claims that in the last four years nine investigations have been launched against members of the security services for using torture, threats and other forms of pressure.

Meanwhile, just the last five years, Uzbek rights groups have received information about 830 people working in the law enforcement structures who are accused of taking part in torture. The allegations are based on the letters received from the victims of torture.

Almost everyone named in this list continues to work in the security services, in other words, they continue to use torture. Within Uzbekistan’s corrupt justice system, these members of the security services will always be able to get away with it.

Participation of medical workers in the practice of torture

During research on the practice of torture and extrajudicial killings in Uzbekistan, it became clear that medical professionals take part in this activity. They are a part of the cover up of gunshot and knifing deaths in custody. Medical workers, who collaborate both willingly or under pressure, establish false causes of death when they are given the bodies of victims of murder by the state. Often they cite old age, illness or a difficult medical operation as the cause of death in such cases. Their conclusions are then

forwarded to the government registrar's office where they are then listed on death certificates issued by that authority.

The authorities of Uzbekistan hide these facts from their citizens and the international community. Morgue workers are supposed to establish that diagnoses and treatment were carried out correctly. Autopsies should be conducted on orders from law enforcement agencies and courts in order to establish cause of death.

However, according to the witness from the Andijan hospital morgue, the morgue's regular staff examined bodies with "green cards." They examined bodies with gunshot and knife wounds or other serious injuries. But in violation of the law, their job was to hide the evidence of mass killings as well as names, the quantity and causes of death deemed secret by the authorities.

During the period described a moratorium had been placed on the death penalty ahead of its ban in 2008. But three months after the Andijan events many bodies were being received by the morgue with fresh gunshot wounds. How were these bodies disposed of? Why did the National Security Service control the operation of the morgue when it should have been operating under the authority of the ministry of health? Why were the autopsies not always carried out by qualified medical professionals? Unqualified staffs are not able to make an accurate assessment about causes of death.

The above testimony shows that the Uzbek authorities have tampered with the statistics on the number of people who were shot to death or died of violently inflicted injuries. The authorities are trying to cover up the true number of those shot to death, seriously injured and tortured as well as their involvement in these cases. As a result, we conclude that the practice of extrajudicial killings exists in Uzbekistan.

Extradition and its Consequences

By forcibly extraditing people to Uzbekistan, countries signatory of the Kishinev Convention¹¹ take part in the practice of torture and the conviction of persons for serious crimes in unjust courts.

Uzbekistan often addresses extradition requests to other CIS countries that are part of the Kishinev convention on legal mutual assistance. In 2005 Kazakhstan extradited 10 Uzbekistani citizens to Uzbekistan, who were persecuted in their home country on religious grounds. One of them had already been granted refugee status by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The other cases were still under investigation by the UNHCR. Once in Uzbekistan they were all sentenced to imprisonment for 8 to 17 years. In 2006, Ukraine extradited 11 Uzbekistani citizens to Uzbekistan. All of them were given prison sentences ranging from 3 to 13 years. As a result of duress and torture, they gave statements that led to manhunts being declared against tens of other Muslims. 29 of the wanted are under arrest in Almaty, Kazakhstan, since June 2010. Four have already been extradited. And the governments that have

¹¹ http://www.usynovite.ru/documents/international/konvencia_kish/

ratified the Kishinev Convention keep Uzbekistani citizens under guard and deliver them to Uzbekistan, even though it is well-known, that this country tortures people.

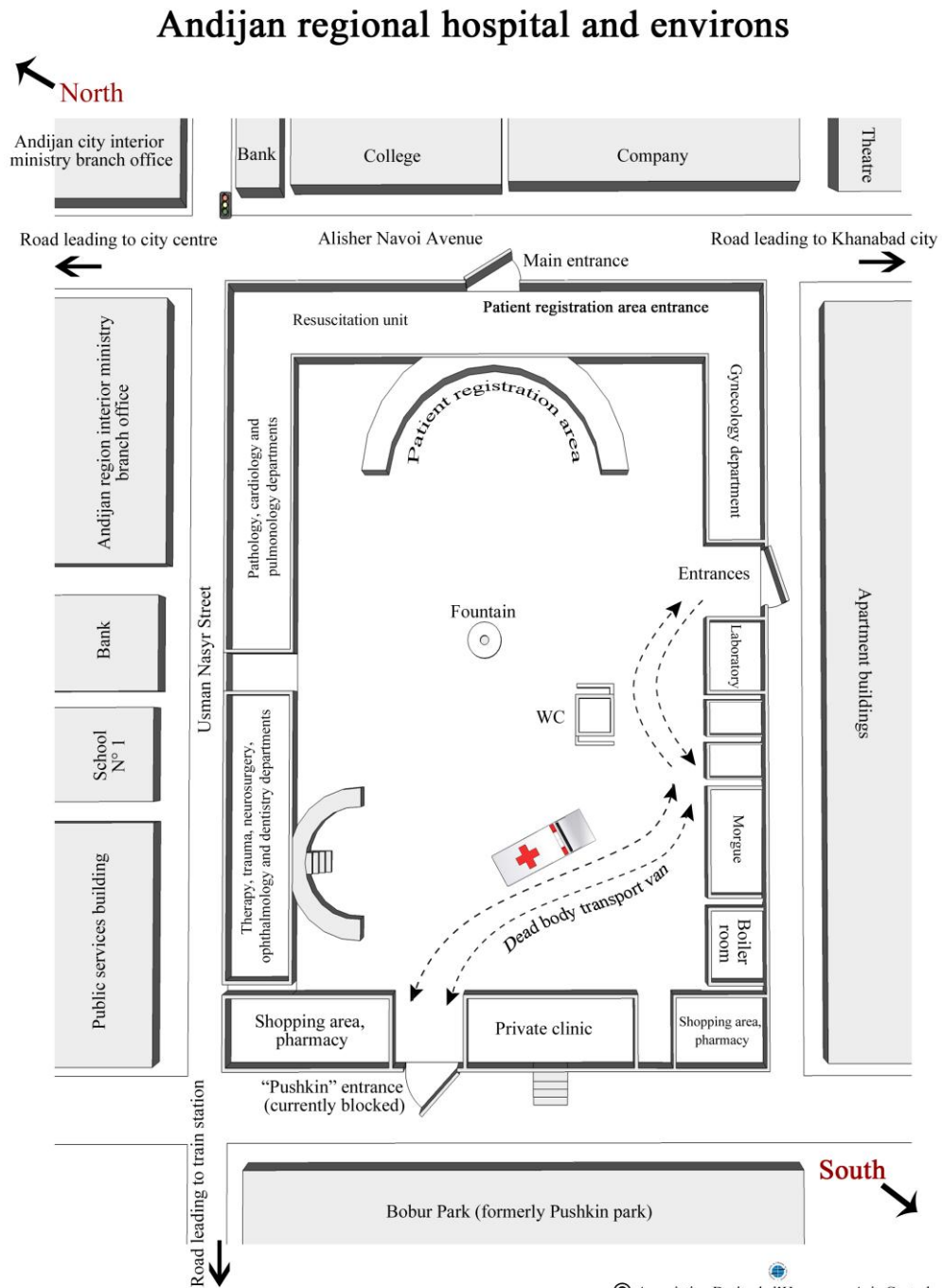
The United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on torture, the UN Committee against Torture, the European Court of Human Rights and many other international human rights organisations have all found evidence for the large-scale practice of torture in Uzbekistan. By forcibly extraditing people to Uzbekistan, countries signatory of the Kishinev Convention take part in the practice of torture and the conviction of persons for serious crimes in unjust courts.

The position of the European Union and the United States

In recent years, the EU and the U.S. have weakened their criticism of Uzbekistan as a country that systematically violates human rights and uses torture to intimidate its citizens. The priority for success in Afghanistan has overshadowed the human rights agenda. In this case, to justify this strategic course, the foreign policies of the EU and the U.S. make the case for alleged progress on human rights in Uzbekistan, in particular the abolition of the death penalty. However, the abolition of the death penalty is viewed in isolation from the overall human rights situation in the country, in particular when considering the widespread practice of extrajudicial executions and torture which often leads to death. We urge the EU and the U.S. take a more principled stance towards Uzbekistan. The human rights situation in the country undermines the foundations of genuine stability in the region, with the growing ranks of those who have lost faith not only in Uzbekistan's regime, but also in those world powers which are increasingly becoming associated with the regime. We believe that human rights should become an integral part of the strategy for regional security.

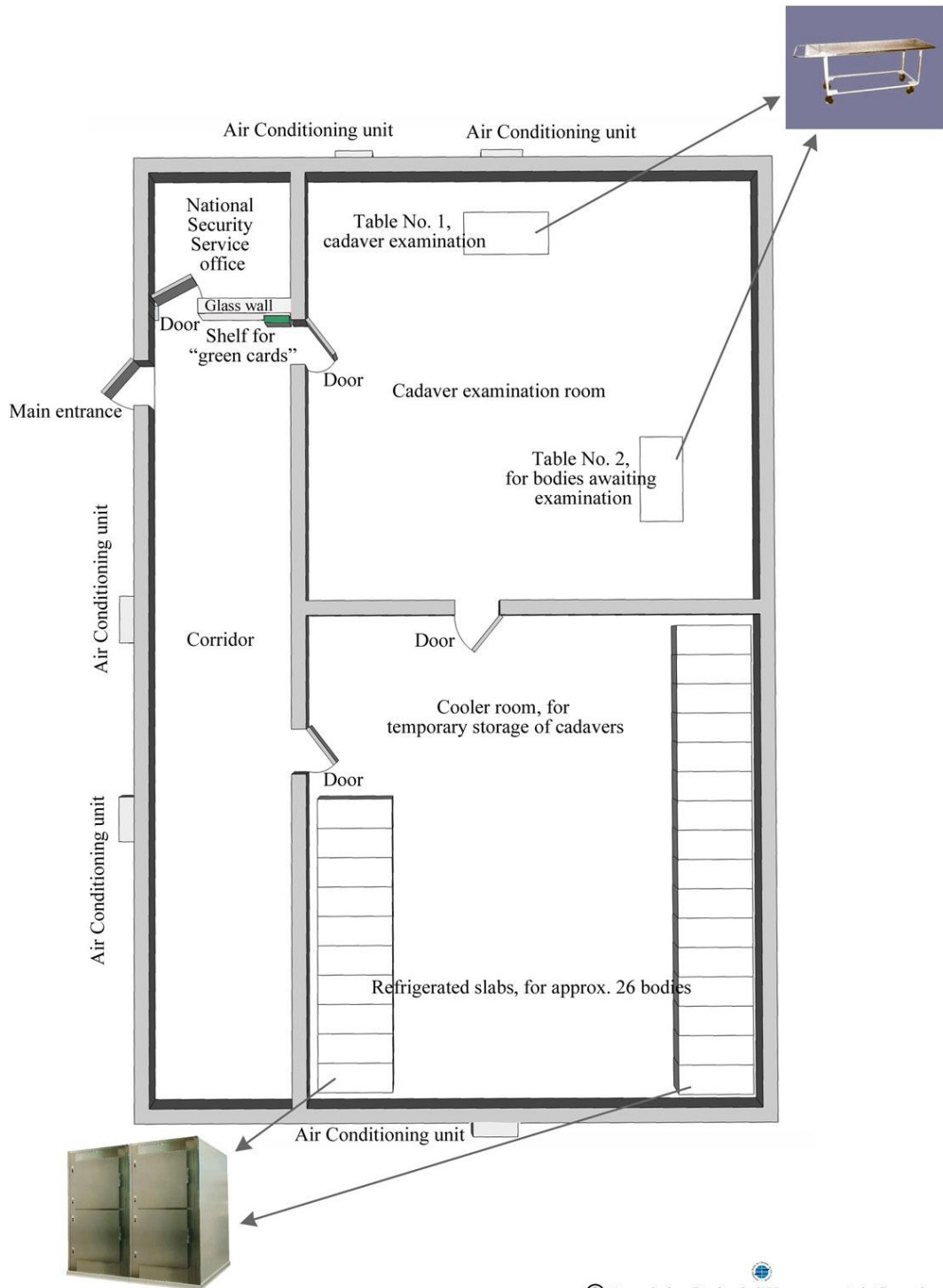
Attachments

Floor plan of Andijan Hospital



Floor plan of Andijan morgue

Andijan regional hospital morgue



‘Green Card’ appearance

Page one

Date	Height	Weight	Sex	Approximate age	Ethnicity
Number attached to the ring on the big toe	Description of the body's general state				
Time of arrival					
Shift number					
Person who received	General description of autopsy				
Person who performed an autopsy					
Assistant					
Date and time of autopsy	Description of organs				
For testing Blood _____ Urine _____ Remains of food _____ Saliva _____					
Tests result Blood _____ Urine _____ Remains of food _____ Saliva _____					
Are there separate parts of body? If “yes”, what parts?					
Last name, First name, Patronymic of the person who received and signature Last name, First name, Patronymic of physiologist-anatomist and signature Last name, First name, Patronymic of Assistant and signature		Time of departure		№ of hospital № of division Last name, First name, Patronymic of doctor in charge of division and signature Stamp of division	

Date			
	«Are there any gunshot wounds	Yes	No
	«Are there any perforating wounds	Yes	No
	«Are there any knife wounds	Yes	No
	«Was autopsy performed before the department of morbid anatomy	Yes	No
	Description of autopsy before the department of morbid anatomy (the morgue)		
	Description of gunshot wounds (regions of ...) (indicate, show region)		
	Description of perforating wounds (regions of ...)		
	Description of knife wounds (regions of...)		
№ of hospital	Copy of a form for completion from memory		
№ of division			
Last name, First name, Patronymic of the doctor in charge of the division and signature			
Stamp of division			

Full text letter form Andijan prison

Excerpt from letter of a prisoner of the Andijan prison, written in late November 2005 and received by the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia in February 2010. Translation from Uzbek into Russian and comments were prepared by the Association.

“...the Andijan prison¹² is divided into three parts.

- 1. Makhallya – production compound, where cheap labour is used.*
- 2. Bombei – compound for prisoners where investigations are conducted or reviews of cases continues.*
- 3. Samara – compound for women and underage prisoners¹³. In this compound there are also persons who committed grave crimes – repeat offenders, real murderers who are used by officers of the colony... in provocations against prisoners.*

The list of officers:

- 1. Rakhimov Odil¹⁴ – chief officer of the prison;*
- 2. Sultonov Madamin – deputy chief officer of the prison;*
- 3. Ismoilov Bakhtiyor – deputy chief officer of political department;*
- 4. Abdullaev Ergash – deputy chief officer of general affairs department;*
- 5. Yuldashev Abdufattok¹⁵ – chief officer of operative department;*
- 6. Soliev Dolim – operative department’s senior officer;*
- 7. Hakimov Zuhridin –operative department senior officer of the “Mahallya”;*
- 8. Hasanboev Shokir – chief security officer;*
- 9. Raimov Kamollidin – operative department officer of the “Mahallya” compound;*
- 10. Arziboev Fozil – chief of the “Samara” compound;*
- 11. Saidullo – officer on point duty¹⁶;*

¹² Roofed prison, “krytka” as people call it in Russian. There is a strict isolation of the prisoners and the imprisonment regime is particularly tough.

¹³ According to information gathered by the Association, in 2005 there were women and minor children in detention in part of the “Samara” buildings, on the second floor opposite the men’s division.

¹⁴ The Association “Human Rights in Central Asia” received the confirmation from other independent sources that Odil Rakhimov was the chief officer of the prison at the time.

¹⁵ The Association “Human Rights in Central Asia” received the confirmation from other independent sources that in 2005 Abdufattok Yuldashev worked as a chief officer of operative department of the Andijan prison, and Dolim Soliev as the operative department senior officer.

¹⁶ Officer on point duty leads prisoners to investigator. (unsure about titles here, they sound strange in English)

12. *Muidinov Temirmalik – operative department’s officer of the women’s division;*
13. *DPNK (Dejurnie pomoshniki nachalnika kolonii- assistants-on-duty of the colony’s chief officer): Avaz, Toyir, Samikh, Sanjar;*
14. *Officers of the compounds¹⁷ – Umid, Shukhrat, Mumin, Dadakhon;*
15. *Mirzaboev Abdurasul – chief officer of the (illegible) department;*
16. *Yakubov Shokir – operative department officer of the “Mahallya” compound;*
17. *Mullajonov Dilmurod – chief officer of medical service;*
18. *Asilboev Mamur – chief officer of special department;*
19. *Abdurazzokov Erkin – operative department officer;*
20. *Tukhtarov Kakhramon - operative department officer;*
21. *Karimov Jamoliddin – censor;*
22. *Burkhon – chief officer of the department for searching¹⁸ (“shmonshik¹⁹” – searcher);*
23. *Sodikov Khalim – searcher;*
24. *Kodir – “balander²⁰”.*

The abovementioned persons were the chief executors of Karimov’s secret orders in the course of the Andijan massacre. After the tragedy of May 13th some of them were brought to responsibility on criminal cases and already had become victims of politics²¹, and many of them had to leave their posts. Some sycophants and agents of the administration²² became even more assiduous. By trying to show their zeal to administration they turned even angrier and started humiliating prisoners even more.

Every newly arriving prisoner should learn elementary concepts. For instance, seeing oneself turn into a dirty and stinky prisoner and get robbed during general search and body search while being humiliated both morally and physically. It is not at all easy to undergo such humiliation.

¹⁷ They keep order in the buildings.

¹⁸ The position is stated by the author; the exact title for the position was not established.

¹⁹ One who searches prisoners and cells.

²⁰ From the Russian word “balanda”- “skilly” – distributor of food. This man is one of those prisoners who are close to the administration.

²¹ Meaning the politically motivated criminal persecution.

²² There are agents among prisoners who inform the prosecutor’s office on cellmates, Main Department for Punishment Implementation (GUIN), departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Security Service (SNB). Prisoners call them “kozel” (it is in Russian, literally – goat, figuratively – informer) in their conversations.

It is “Andijan-Central”²³ here; one has always to keep this in mind. Here one has only one right – to obey unquestioningly. The decision is final and cannot be appealed. A slightest disobedience – and one is forced to clean a stinking toilet, which is always clogged up, or forced to stay in a humid cell in wet clothes while trying to dry them diligently for 2-3 days. It is unbearably disgusting to be among informants, those moral freaks, who are ready to do anything in order to show loyalty to the administration. They can turn every word of the prisoner against him. There are more and more persons with AIDS and tuberculosis. If an operative department officer²⁴ gets angry at you, they can put one of those sick persons in your cell.

Inmates are given food cooked with raw cooking oil²⁵. The cells are damp²⁶, heating does not work. Only informants and sycophants are allowed to use electric stoves, others are not. If they find electric stove during inspection, then the prisoners are brutally tortured. They take away all the money found with inmates. One such inspection during the daytime or in the evening is sufficient to be under stress all day long.

This arbitrariness cannot be stopped. Try to make an appointment to see the supervising prosecutor! It is easier to see the Chinese emperor. Inmates endure unimaginable hardships to draw an attention to this injustice. Many cut their stomachs; some go on a hunger strike for 10-15 days. Hunger strikes are too commonplace to account for. There are cases when prisoners swallow a spoon or something [else] made of metal, cut their veins, [as a protest] refuse to talk for several months. But even such protests do not achieve positive results. And often it gets even worse.

Operative officers abuse prisoners. At the medical unit they provide aid only to sycophants²⁷ and informants. Dietary food is prescribed not by doctors, but by operative officers. Medical care is provided not by doctors, but by operative department officers. Rooms at the medical center have already become resorts for traitors and informers, and the real patients are left in conditions designed to speed up death.

After May 13 [2005] the administration had been changed in the Andijan prison, but the administrations’ treatment of the prisoners did not. These chief officers call “terrorism” the behavior of prisoners who claim their rights, or provoke

²³ People call Central those places of confinement where the State treats the convicts as incorrigible offenders and its treatment to them is very cruel.

²⁴ There are operative departments in every institution of confinement. The operative department’s officers collect information about each prisoner. The operative department is responsible for revealing planned and committed crimes through a network of agents and representatives and to prevent crimes. It is also meant to reveal instigators of protest actions and violations of the prison regime. Besides, the operative department is obliged to reveal those who terrorize other prisoners. Testimonial of operative department is essential for amnesty.

²⁵ Prisoners cook with cottonseed oil which should be treated before use, otherwise it can lead to food poisoning.

²⁶ Later they demonstrated reconditioned cells to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross visiting Andijan.

²⁷ Prisoners call sycophants “bastards” in their conversations.

fight among them [prisoners], and then they initiate new criminal cases against such prisoners.

On the eve of the tragic events on May 13th, I wrote down some phrases of these executioners, which reveal their essence.

Sultonov Madamin, deputy chief officer: "We have legitimate and illegitimate cases."

Abdullaev Ergash, deputy chief officer of general affairs department: "Here things will happen the way I say! And don't forget who I am."

Ismailov Bakhtiyor, deputy chief officer of political department: "Prisoner, remember that Kyrgyzstan's president Akayev had to flee, though he had done nothing wrong to his people, and if Karimov runs away, do you know what will happen to you? You will all be shot just to be on the safe side."

Yuldoshev Abdufattok, chief officer of operative department: "If I say my subordinates: "bus"²⁸," they will show you what is what. I tolerate you enough, and you think it will last forever?" This is now that we do not touch you. When the time comes we will put you in your proper place."

Soliev Dolim, operative department senior officer: "For you I am the Red Cross. If you have a complaint – see me (derisory tone hinting at torture)."

Khasanboev Shokir, chief security officer. When he worked in the Papskaya prison he had an incident there with the prisoner Holmurodov Akrom. In the Andijan prison they met again. When the chief Hasanboev saw Holmurodov, he said that either his dead body would be taken away or his human dignity would be ruined²⁹. The endless harassment and humiliations have not become an escape for him even after attempts to hang himself. He even tried to write complaints to the prosecutor against Hasanboev. Where have they disappeared? Only God and Shokir know. When Holmurodov Akrom hanged himself his cellmates noticed it and managed to save him. Then as a sign of solidarity the prisoners went on hunger strike for 15 days.

Arziboev Fozil, chief of the "Samara" and Saidullo beat up the under age boy for the performance of namaz, until he lost consciousness. He was beaten and warned that it will get only worse if he cries.

Khakimov Zukhriddin (ethnic Arab) likes to repeat: "Even if Karimov drinks your blood, he will still rule over Uzbekistan, because our country has made friends with the USA." He intimidates all the prisoners with these three letters, telling them that he (Hakimov Zuhridin) and the people of president are not afraid of anyone. Neither of the Red Cross nor human rights organizations. Also he said that soon when "vory v zakone" (criminal leaders) come from Russia the

²⁸ Bus – meaning "Attack!"

²⁹ «Opustit'» — abuse, rape. In prisoners' slang means to commit rape upon a man.

“brothers” would put things in order! They know how to establish order in the prison, and he will put the prisoners in their hands. He says that he will arrange with the criminal lords and they will quickly punish Zakir. Zakir - physically and mentally strong man, he was convicted under Article 159 [of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan³⁰]. Most of the prisoners respect him.

Muidinov Temirmalik, operative department officer of the women’s division. He gives women to those who can pay for this service. This is how female prisoners get raped.

Abdurazzokov Erkin, operative department officer. He controlled the persons convicted under Article 159. By the way, he was removed from office. People will remember him for a long time. He had tortured one prisoner so terribly! Those who heard this cry will never forget it. He forced the prisoner to crawl on all fours with his hands tied behind. There is a method of torture when they lift up a prisoner high above the floor and then with all might throw on the floor. And the rest of “wolfhounds” (officers) surround him and at some point everyone would all kick the victim (prisoner).

Such cruelty is prevalent and it can come from any of the above listed officers of the Andijan prison. The most common torture in the Andijan prison is raping with a club and a metal stick, in winter they throw cold water on a prisoner and leave in the cold without clothes, in cold weather the prisoners are forced to wear working clothes next to the skin, they are not allowed to wear warm clothing.

Kodir (“balander”). There is a separate story about him. When he distributes food to prisoners he steals it by putting less than the supposed portion. He also can reduce the time of stroll. His height is almost two meters, but during the shooting on May 13 he lay as if dead on the ground all night. Now he coerces all the “akromists³¹” into obedience.

Yuldashev Abdufattok. He is a furious servant of the regime. He ruins human dignity³² of the prisoners and is proud of serving to Karimov.

Yusupov Bakhodir. He changes names frequently. He was a personal barber of the chief officer of the colony in Karaul-bazar. He is from Margilan and is a servant of the chief officer of the Andijan prison; he’s got a nickname “hofiz” (singer). He often says: “I am an enemy of Islam and Hizb ut-Takhrir. Even if I

³⁰ According to information gathered by the Association “Human Rights in Central Asia”, at that time Zakir indeed was serving his sentence in the Andijan prison, earlier he had been in the colony “Jaslyk”. He was convicted after (If not, then add “the” before “bombings”) bombings in Tashkent in 1999.

³¹ Authorities call Akromists the members of the informal religious community which was founded by Akrom Yuldashev. Yuldashev – a religious leader, author of the book “Put’ istiny” which had influence on private entrepreneurs in Andijan. Several months after the bombings in Tashkent on February 16th 1999, he was sentenced to 17 years of imprisonment. He is currently serving his sentence in one of the colonies of Uzbekistan.

³² He gives orders to rape men.

do perform namaz³³ for Karimov I will fight with religious persons to death. I swore on this.” He believes that no one can equal him in organization of intrigues for which he uses slander and betrayal. He is proud of the fact that he forced even Muidinov Temirmalik (chief of the women’s division), who organized for him a night with a woman, to pay a fine of 5 thousand sums. He is also extremely proud that he uncovered a very big political case because he knows all the subtleties of the prison. He controls all the news transferred between buildings of the “Makhallya” and “Samara”, as well as the communication between them and the medical unit of the prison. He does not hide the fact that he knows who does what in the prison. He can pull the leg of any member of the SNB (National Security Agency), UVD³⁴ (Department of Internal Affairs), GUIN (Main Department for Punishment Implementation) and make a laughingstock of them.

After the Andijan events a person with a fictitious name appeared on television. He introduced himself as a witness of the events and portrayed things as they were favourable to the authorities. After these false statements on television 14 innocent persons were sent to the “Makhallya”, 13 persons were sent to the “Samara” and 2 men to Tashtyur’ma (Tash-prison). Several more persons were moved from the “Makhallya” to the “Samara”.

From 16.04.2005 in the buildings of the “Makhallya” they began inspection of all inmates and on 19.04.2005 they inspected all over the Andijan prison. From 21st to 25th of April inspections were conducted by GUIN. As a result of these searches they took out letters and any texts in Arabic, including the Koran, khadiths³⁵, etc., and even personal belongings of prisoners. Inspections took place twice a day. Operative officers made some provocative suggestions. For example, they said that the regime was becoming tough because of “brodarlar.” Prisoners were told that if they help officers to break down their resistance and restore the system of criminal lords then they will get a dominant position in the prison.

Some prisoners became nervous. Everyone knew for what purpose they made such suggestions, however they controlled themselves. In those days, before the sentencing of the 23 businessmen from Andijan, who were supporters of Akrom Yuldashev, things were put on hold. Therefore, one could guess that there was something behind that.

On the night of 12/13 May [2005] at 00:40, suddenly we heard gunshots. Within a short time, four policemen were killed and all the prison doors opened wide. Behaviour and conversation of “liberators³⁶” and their skill in handling firearms revealed that they had to do with Special Forces. They stormed into the prison and immediately declared: “Freedom! Come out to the mayor’s office.”

³³ Namaz – in Islam it is a mandatory daily prayer performed 5 times a day, here it is meant that he will pray for Karimov, and not for God.

³⁴ UVD – Department of Internal Affairs of some settlement, unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

³⁵ Hadiths - collection of the Prophet Muhammad's statements and actions.

³⁶ By putting word “liberators” in quotes, the author states that those people did not look like prisoners and that the seizure of the prison was organized by the authorities.

When they opened the door they asked: “Who are “brodarlar”³⁷ among you?” “Liberators” were with guns and killed four policemen in the prison. At the same time they were not forcing prisoners to leave the prison.

Sudden and temporary freedom allowed about 540 prisoners out of 700 to get out of the prison. 160 people did not even go outside, 60 of them were the “brodarlar”. Only three of the “brodarlar” went outside to tell others what was going on inside the prison, and then they went back to their places. The fact that they stayed inside didn’t mean they do not like freedom, they knew that this event was a criminal political game. Those who had escaped did that because of a desire to have at least a breath of fresh air. Some had left the prison and took part in the demonstration against their will and suffered along with others.

Events of May 13 did not change the life in the prison; only the number of prisoners grew because the mass arrests began, and there were more terrible methods of humiliation of detainees, which didn’t happen at such a scale before. They arrested everyone and no one tried to listen to the prisoners. Some of those who cooperated with officers of the prison and were ready for betrayal were given a chance to survive. With their help the authorities began to fabricate information they needed, basically these were false statements obtained under torture or by deception. Four persons were killed; criminal cases were initiated against five persons, 5-10 people were fired from their jobs.

No one except them knew where and how administration and the prison officers disappeared on the night of 12/13 May and where they hid. But after all that, they behaved as if nothing had happened, and continued their dirty deeds. The new chief officer Pulatov I. and his deputy Usarov Shakhobiddin were appointed at the Andijan prison, the latter (the deputy) [began] with the threats and humiliation of prisoners’ human dignity. Thus he [Usarov] demonstrated his power.

One prisoner had given 50 grams of tea to another prisoner. Usarov ordered to beat the prisoner [who gave the tea] within an inch of his life and hauled him throughout the prison, showing everyone as an example of his method of reprisal. He threatened that he would shove a stick into ass of anyone who gives anything to anybody.

And he threw in isolation ward those who called to prayer.

Karimov Jamoliddin - the new chief officer of the prison, and he calls terrorists and extremists all the women and children who participated at the meeting on May 13, 2005. And he adds that if he has a chance he will shoot us all including women and children.

Karimov controls the letters of prisoners, especially of those who write letters with religious content. They treat those who wrote such letters as terrorists and

³⁷ Brodarlar – a common form of addressing among Muslims which means “Muslim Brothers”.

wahhabists etc. Once, during a search such a conversation occurred between an operative officer and a prisoner.

Jamoliddin Karimov. You live like animals.

Religious person. Of course, when you turn everything upside down two or three times a day ... And what you're looking for?

Jamoliddin Karimov. You give religious lessons, we are looking for books.

Religious person. What you are looking for is in our heads.

Jamoliddin Karimov. That's why we should screw your heads off...

... On 16.04.2005 there was a trial of Mukhammadiev Otabek, Omonturaev Abbos, Oripov Siddikjon, and Khaidarov Muzaffar. They were charged with conspiracy with criminal intent and sentenced from 12 to 16.5 years of imprisonment. Initially they were sentenced from 2 to 3.5 years. While in the court, the defendant Mukhammadiev Otabek's health deteriorated. He died on August 23, 2005. During and after the operation in Andijan he was not provided the necessary medical care by order of the SNB - their (SNB's) people mess in everywhere. 3 out of 4 defendants are in Tashkentskaya prison. They fabricated this case as if they captured the Andijan prison in organized conspiracy. It is impossible to imagine that the inmates could do such things themselves!

... Mother, pass this letter... Do not pray for me. Please! I am tired of living like this. I do not believe that I will be released. I ask God to take me, but you pray for me so much that God is not taking me...

Association for Human Rights in Central Asia is a Non-Governmental Organisation registered under No. 0723012215 in Le Mans, France on November 8, 2006 and was listed in France's official register of NGOs as No. 1458 on December 2, 2006.

(<http://www.journalofficiel.gouv.fr/association/index.php>)

The association protects the rights of its applicants through mechanisms available in national and international legislation. It also monitors the compliance of the governments of Central Asia to international agreements on human rights.



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