

# Annex on cases of concern

## Cases of torture and other ill-treatment in the period under review

1. Brothers **Rahim and Ilhom Ibodov**, Bukhara businessmen, were tortured in a SNB pre-trial detention centre in September 2015, resulting in Ilhom's death. On 23 April 2018, the Supreme Military Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan opened a closed trial in the case of a group of people who previously had official powers in the Bukhara regional department of the National Security Service, now the SGB. This criminal case was instigated by the investigation team of the Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan upon orders from President Mirziyoyev. On 22 June 2018, a guilty verdict for torture under Article 235.3 (torture leading to serious harm to health though criminal conspiracy with a group of persons) was handed to six former law enforcement officials who were given terms of between 14 and 18 years in prison, and in addition four civilians (lochmachei) who had committed torture in a criminal conspiracy were also charged with torture. Two other law enforcement officers were found guilty of "exceeding official authority (Article 301 of the criminal code). The court recognized the Ibodov brothers as the victims. Based on this verdict Rakhim Ibodov was rehabilitated. All participants in the trial signed a non-disclosure agreement, including the victims, even in relation to information about torture.
2. **Aramais Avakian** and four friends were convicted in February 2016. Two of them explicitly said in the courtroom that they had been tortured. The judge did not order an investigation into the allegations. See: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur62/3474/2016/en/>. Aramais Avakian was released from detention on 1 February 2020.
3. **Bobomurod Abdullayev** is an independent journalist and sports commentator. He is also a political analyst, writing under a pseudonym. He has contributed articles for international media organizations. Abdullayev was detained by State Security Service (SGB) officers in Tashkent on 27 September 2017 for allegedly attempting to overthrow the constitutional order of the Republic of Uzbekistan. SGB officers accused him of writing seditious articles under a pseudonym. He was held for several months without being able to see a defence lawyer. Following an eventful trial, which was under an almost unprecedented international spotlight, Abdullayev was sentenced to 1.5 years of community service in May 2018, and released. In an open statement Bobomurod Abdullayev described how he was tortured and made to denounce other prominent activists.
4. Associate professor **Andrey Kubatin**, a young orientalist, was sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment for treason in December 2017. He is serving his sentence in prison in Zangiata. He was tortured to force him to "confess". He was released in September 2019 at the appeal hearing.
5. Former Prosecutor General of Uzbekistan **Rashitjon Kadirov** was taken into custody on 21 February 2018. He was charged under 12 articles of the Criminal Code including bribery, fraud, embezzlement. We have received credible reports that Kadirov was subjected to physical violence, death threats, sleep deprivation and threats of reprisals against his family, in order to coerce him to give evidence against himself and others.<sup>5</sup> There is also evidence of the use of torture against witnesses who refused to testify against Rashitjon Kadirov and his son. During the investigation, Kadirov was put under pressure to refuse representation by the family appointed lawyer Alisher Magyarov, and for over five months he was without legal assistance. The UN Special Rapporteurs on torture and justice were informed about this. On 5 January 2019, the closed trial of Rashitjon Kadirov and 12 co-defendants began in Yunusabad District Criminal Court. At this point, Kadyrov

had managed to skim read only 50 of the 141 volumes of material in the criminal case against him. On 8 April 2019, after evidence of torture of defendants during the investigation was heard in court, Amnesty International issued a public Urgent Action with a call for a forensic medical examination.<sup>1</sup> On 26 June 2019, Tashkent City Criminal Court found all defendants guilty in a verdict which ran to over 100 pages. Kadirov was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of 500 minimum wages (12 thousand USD), in relation to economic crimes. The relatives of those found guilty report that the authorities continue to use threats to prevent them from appealing against the sentences. For further information, refer to the joint NGO statement in the footnote.<sup>2</sup>

6. On 3 December 2018, 67-year-old **Kadyr Yusupov**, a former Uzbekistani deputy ambassador to the United Kingdom, was hospitalized after sustaining severe brain trauma and other serious injuries resulting from a suicide attempt, when he was found on rail tracks at the Pushkin underground station in Tashkent. Yusupov is suffering from a psychiatric disorder for which he takes regular medication. Shortly after the suicide attempt, while Yusupov was in an extremely confused state, he reportedly cried out that he was a spy.

Later in December Yusupov was taken into custody in a pre-trial detention facility of the SNB, charged with treason (Article 157 of the Criminal Code). The charge dates back to 2015, although he last worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009 and has been in retirement for the past ten years. He was not allowed a lawyer of his own choosing from 10 December 2018 until 24 April 2019, access to essential medication was restricted, and there are credible allegations of torture and threats of sexual violence against him and female members of his family, as well as threats of arrest of his two sons.

Kadyr Yusupov's youngest son **Temur Yusupov** was subjected to intimidation and surveillance, and restrictions of his freedom of movement are believed to be in retaliation for his proactive role in defending his father. On 13 December 2018, Temur Yusupov tried to travel to a neighbouring country but was refused permission to leave Uzbekistan by SGB officials who did not explain the reason for this decision. They asked him to sign a written undertaking not to travel abroad, after warning him that "things might get worse". SGB surveillance of Temur reportedly continued throughout December 2018. The surveillance resumed again on 26 September 2019 after Human Rights Watch published a video report about Kadyr Yusupov which was widely circulated on social media.

Closed court proceedings against Kadyr Yusupov began on 24 June 2019 at the Military Court in the Yunusabad district in Tashkent. The pressure on Temur Yusupov intensified during the court hearing and Temur received a warning from plain clothed SGB officials, who visited his relatives on 4 October after 9:00 p.m and warned them: "Get Temur to calm down or we'll put him in prison. Let us finish the trial; make sure no one is invited to the next hearing". The alleged SGB threats were in response to the fact that Temur had earlier informed a journalist from EurasiaNet and representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent about the hearing on 4 October, who then attempted to observe the trial, although they were denied access to the courtroom.

The decision of Yunusabad Military Court was made public in a Supreme Court statement dated 9 January 2020. The court found Kadyr Yusupov guilty of treason and sentenced him to more than five and a half years' imprisonment. The statement also claimed that Yusupov posed a danger to society. Details of the accusations have not been made public. Yusupov's relatives have said they will appeal.

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1 <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-former-prosecutor-general-risks-torture-uzbekistan-ua-44-19/>

2 <https://www.iphronline.org/uzbekistan-concern-over-reports-of-torture-of-rashitjon-kadirov-and-co-defendants.html>

## Cases related to return to torture in Uzbekistan

1. In July 2018 information emerged that Afghanistani citizen **Muhammad Hasan ogli Abdulhamid** has been imprisoned on vague extremism charges for 13 years without being able to challenge his detention and subjected to ill-treatment. He had been detained in Pakistan in 2005 at the request of Uzbekistani security services and sent to Uzbekistan. At the time of his arrest, Abdulhamid asked to be allowed to meet with Afghan consular officials but was refused, reliable sources said. According the sources, he was subjected to ill-treatment, accused of ties with an Uzbek opposition figure, and sentenced to 15 years in prison on vague charges of extremism. He has been held despite significant violations of due process, including of the right to appeal his sentence. Following international pressure Abdulhamid was released and returned to Afghanistan. He had to sign a non-disclosure agreement stating that he would never contact human rights organizations about his situation.
2. Uzbekistani film producer **Mirsobir Khamidkariev** was abducted by officers of the Russian Federal Security Service in Moscow in June 2014 and secretly transferred to Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan he was tortured by SGB officers for two months to force him to confess. He was sentenced to eight years in prison on “anti-state” charges following a grossly unfair trial. He has always denied all the charges. The Russian authorities accepted the official version provided by their Uzbekistani counterparts that he had travelled voluntarily to Uzbekistan in June 2014 to visit his mother, who was ill, but that he had not wanted to tell anyone because of the criminal charges outstanding against him in Uzbekistan. That this version was based on a confession obtained after Khamidkariev’s return to Tashkent did not appear to give cause for concern to the Russian authorities, nor did the fact that his abduction had been officially registered with police in Moscow and that they had subsequently launched an official investigation into his kidnapping, based on CCTV footage from the scene of his abduction. Following its examination of Mirsobir Khamidkariev’s application the European Court of Human Rights held in its judgment of 26 January 2017 that there had been violations of Article 3 of the Convention in its substantive and its procedural aspects.”
3. **Bakhtiyor Khudayberdiev** is an ethnic Uzbek who was born in Osh in Southern Kyrgyzstan. He obtained Russian citizenship in 2009 after moving to Russia from Kyrgyzstan for work. On 8 January 2016, Bakhtiyor Khudayberdiev left Seoul in South Korea, where he had been seeking work, to travel to Osh to see his mother. On 9 January, he arrived at Tashkent airport intending to take a taxi from there to Osh. He was detained on charges of producing and distributing extremist materials after airport security officials allegedly found recordings of prayers from the Koran on his mobile phone as well as news items about the 2010 ethnic unrest in Osh downloaded from the internet. He was charged under Article 244-2 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan (Production and distribution of materials containing threat to public security and public order) and sentenced to eight years’ imprisonment. Khudayberdiev denies the charges and maintains that he exercises his faith in a peaceful way. For over three weeks after his arrest, Bakhtiyor’s relatives were not informed of his detention or his whereabouts. Finally, on 1 February 2016, Bakhtiyor Khudayberdiev’s mother was able to locate him in the National Security Services’ (SNB) Yunusabad temporary detention facility in Tashkent. Bakhtiyor’s mother told AHRCA that her son looked frightened, emaciated and exhausted during their meeting, at which an SNB investigator was present. On 17 March 2016, a representative of the Interpol bureau in Russia, who was accompanied by another man who introduced himself as a representative of the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Russia visited Bakhtiyor Khudoyberdiev’s father at his home in Vladivostok, Russia by visited at his home in Vladivostok, Russia and informed him that an Interpol warrant allegedly had been issued against his son at the request of Uzbekistan. Bakhtiyor Khudayberdiev is not known to have been wanted for any crimes by any country prior to his arrest and he has no criminal record. AHRCA and IPHR are concerned that it appears that

Bakhtiyor Khudoyberdiev's name was included on the Interpol wanted list only after he was arrested in Uzbekistan. Bakhtiyor Khudoyberdiev was reportedly released from detention in 2019 and has subsequently moved abroad.

## Redress: Select cases of persons in need of redress after serving long prison terms following confessions obtained through torture

1. **Erkin Musaev**, former Uzbekistani Ministry of Defence official, was sentenced to 20 years in jail in 2007 after a series of unfair trials. He was arrested on 31 January 2006 while working for a UN agency, tortured and charged with spying and misusing UN funds, which he has flatly denied. In March 2008 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention examined Musaev's case and issued recommendations to the Uzbekistani government, but they have not yet been implemented.<sup>2</sup> Musaev was eventually released in February 2017. Despite numerous complaints from his lawyer, the authorities still have not investigated the serious allegations that he was tortured in jail. Erkin Musaev has no right to leave the country and has no access to court case materials, which would allow him to effectively challenge his past conviction.
2. **Murad Dzhuraev**, a former Member of Parliament of Uzbekistan, was convicted for "calling for a violent overthrow of the constitutional system of Uzbekistan" and sentenced to 12 years in prison in 1995. His sentence was arbitrarily extended three times for allegedly violating prison rules (including peeling carrots "the wrong way" and wearing the "wrong" sleepers). He was released in November 2015 after completing his extended sentence. He died in December 2017. His family have suffered discrimination - his son lost his job as he was accused of being the son of an "enemy of the people". Family have not been able to access his court case materials and thus start the process of clearing his name.
3. **Agzam Turgunov**, human rights defender, was arrested in 2009 on charges of fraud and forgery, and sentenced to 10 years in prison in October 2008. He was released in October 2017. He was tortured while in detention including by having boiling water poured on his back. Although Agzam Turgunov is allowed to travel he under intense surveillance and is usually stopped and extensively questioned on leaving and coming back to Uzbekistan.

## Pressure on human rights defenders pushing for rehabilitation and redress

**Agzam Turgunov**, **Azam Farmonov** and **Dilmurod Saidov** attempted to register the new human rights NGO "Restoration of Justice" for over a year. The organization was aimed at obtaining redress for persons formerly imprisoned on politically motivated charges including cases involving confessions extracted under torture. Since October 2018 the three human rights defenders have reported regular state surveillance; their telephones, both landline and mobile, have been tapped, police and State Security officers have monitored their movements and their homes, and they have verbally and physically intimidated them and their families. On 20 October 2018 IPHR representatives visited Tashkent and witnessed how unknown individuals dressed in plain-clothes walked in front of Agzam Turgunov's home.<sup>3</sup> The same day Turgunov told IPHR that he had seen unknown people standing under his window

3 <https://www.iphronline.org/a-call-for-swift-implementation-of-reforms-in-uzbekistan-as-iphr-witnesses-surveillance-of-local-defenders-during-visit.html>; <https://www.iphronline.org/uzbekistan-stop-harassing-human-rights-defenders.html>

intimidating him, had been followed by cars as he moved around the city on public transport; and that he had been warned by representatives of the local Mahalla (neighbourhood) committee that law enforcement officials were asking questions about him. On 28 October 2018, as Turgunov travelled to Paris to attend the World Summit of Human Rights Defenders he was questioned by the authorities at the airport as he left and returned to the country. Late in 2018, Dilmurod Saidov was warned that he would be subjected to enforced psychiatric treatment if he refuses to cease his human rights work and on 25 March 2019, an SGB officer who was watching Turgunov's home told him he should be careful in case he is knocked down by a car. The same month both Turgunov and Saidov reported being prevented on several occasions from leaving their homes during the day by law enforcement officials. On 11 September 2019, Turgunov was summoned by police and questioned for several hours - particularly as to whether he is in contact with the exiled leader of the banned Erk opposition party, and what he thought of them. In September 2019, during the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, several human rights defenders reported that NSS surveillance had increased, and several reported being asked what they would discuss with the Special Rapporteur.

## **Prison conditions / Death in custody**

On 13 April 2016, Bobomurod (not his real name) was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for breaking customs regulations. He died on 30 June 2016. Bobomurod was initially held in SIZO No. 1 in Tashkent, before being transferred to prison No. 47 in Navoi region. According to medical documents, he was healthy when admitted to the Tashkent SIZO and healthy when transferred to Navoi.

He had gone to the Navoi prison medical unit on 10 June 2016 but medical records were only filled out on 18 June when his health deteriorated. He was not examined until 22 June when he was taken to the hospital emergency department of the Kyzyltepa district. On 24 June he was taken, unconscious, to Navoi regional Centre for Emergency Medicine where he died on 30 June without regaining consciousness. Medical files reportedly reveal that health workers tried to conceal evidence of numerous bodily injuries, fractures of the ribs and cervical vertebrae indicating that Bobomurod had been beaten. An investigation into the death was carried out by the prosecutor's office of the Navoi region. Forensic examinations concluded that the cause of death was sepsis. (blood poisoning). The Prosecutor General's Office lodged a complaint against the decision by Kyzyltepa Criminal Court and sent the case to Navoi Court which ordered a second forensic examination. On 29 March 2018, forensic experts concluded that the initial examination had been correct and indicated sepsis as the cause of death. This expert opinion was considered again on 5 September 2018 in a new criminal case heard by a court in Tashkent. In December 2018 a new (third) forensic examination was carried out on the exhumed body of the deceased. On 22 January 2019 this examination concluded that Bobomurod's death had been caused by acute multiple organ failure caused by numerous bodily injuries sustained by the deceased during his lifetime, including fractured cervical vertebrae and broken ribs. An investigation into the cause of death has reportedly been reopened by the Prosecutor General's office.

## **Ataev family denied of possibility to appeal verdict handed down in closed in absentia trial**

The case against exiled human rights defender Nadejda Atayeva, her father and her brother, who fled Uzbekistan and were recognized as refugees in France in August 2002, was heard in a closed in absentia trial in Uzbekistan, in 2013. Until February 2020, the Ataevs were unable to access the case file, which details the accusations against them and the verdict. On 3 February 2020, a lawyer acting on Nadejda

Atayeva's behalf gained access to the case materials and copied them at the cost of state fee 17 696 000 soms (the equivalent of approx. 1700 EUR). Since the case investigation was initiated in 2000, Atayeva's legal representatives in Uzbekistan have repeatedly been refused access to the case materials on the grounds that they were labelled as "secret", although in 2015 the late Polina Braunerg, a lawyer acting on Atayeva's behalf, was able to briefly see the charges, but was allowed no more than one hour to review the documents. The lack of swift access to the case materials deprived the Ataevs of the possibility to appeal against the verdict.

The case file consists of over 89 volumes and relates to about 30 representatives in the bakery industry who were prosecuted in March 2000, accused of participating in a criminal conspiracy allegedly led by Atayeva's father, Alim Ataev, who headed the state owned bakery corporation "Uzkhlebprodukt" in Uzbekistan from April 1997 to March 2000. It reveals a long list of circumstances that indicate that the conduct of the closed in absentia trial violated international fair trial standards. For example, the Ataevs were represented by state-appointed lawyers who never attempted to communicate with the Ataevs, and, who had not requested time to fully review the case documents despite being nominally present as defence at the trial; the lawyers lodged no objections on behalf of the defendants and did not even put the case for the defence to the court; none of the witnesses were present to give evidence; the prosecutor failed to attend three of the five court hearings of the case, and there was a lack of expert input on the amount of damages allegedly caused.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Alim Ataev was persecuted for criticizing former President Karimov's National Grain Independence Programme, which set ambitious grain production targets. Senior officials tried to demonstrate that the country was self sufficient, and thus falsified national wheat yields. Alim Ataev informed former President Karimov about food hygiene standards being undermined by the use of low quality wheat in bread destined for human consumption, these same officials took steps to open a criminal case against him, his children and leading industry specialists. On 24 July 2013, shortly before the expiry of the statute of limitations in the criminal case, Tashkent City Court sentenced Nadejda Atayeva to six years' imprisonment, Alim Ataev to nine years' and Kahramon Ataev to seven years behind bars. This happened shortly after Nadejda Atayeva had spoken out about Gulnara Karimova, daughter of former President Karimov, and her links with the MTS telephone company. Atayeva's relatives and former colleagues in Uzbekistan were also subjected to threats and intimidation by security services at this time. The Ataevs left Uzbekistan in 2000 and were placed on the Interpol wanted lists, and only removed in July 2015 after it was found that Uzbekistan had abused the Interpol system.



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### **Uzbekistan: torture and slavery of convicts**

The practice of torture and cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment of prisoners in Prison Colony No. 64/4<sup>13</sup> in the city of Kyzyl-Tepa in Navoi region requires the urgent intervention by the international community.

The Association for Human Rights in Central Asia (AHRCA) has recently received credible reports that 10 prisoners are being held in the punitive isolation unit of Prison colony 64/4.<sup>4</sup> They have reportedly been held there since 29 September 2019. According to our sources, they were punished for asking the Prison colony staff to provide them with new gloves and shoes for loading and unloading hot bricks from firing kilns (in the brick factory where they are required to work. The person in charge of discipline in the penal colony, V.Y. Rustamov, and the governor of the penal colony, K.S. Karimov, reportedly reacted harshly to their request and Rustamov began hitting them hard with a baton on the heels and various parts of their bodies, after which they were sent to the isolation cells. On 10 October 2019, five of them started a hunger strike to draw attention to their plight.

The brick factory in colony No. 64/4 operates around the clock in three eight-hour shifts. Three firing kilns produce 400,000 bricks per day. Every 10-15 minutes, cars loaded with red-hot bricks, which need to be loaded into the approaching trucks, come out of the stoves. Usually, only prisoners who have to pay damages to the injured party after a court order for moral damages are obliged to work, but our information indicates that even prisoners who are not ordered to pay damages are involved in this work in colony No.64/4. The work of prisoners at this facility should be considered forced labour, which is contrary to Uzbekistan's international human rights obligations and comparable to the exploitation of prisoners in the Stalinist Gulag. Moreover, unloading and loading of red-hot bricks is difficult and dangerous. Six people have to load hot bricks into a large truck in 15-20 minutes. Their salary is 80 thousand soums (\$ 10) per month. Having said that, neither the administration of the penal colony nor the management of the brick factory ensure safety measures to alleviate the harsh conditions of labour and reduce the risks to the health of prisoners. The gloves and shoes given to prisoners are not fireproof, and quickly literally burn out.

Under the Labour Code, an employer is obliged to provide workers with adequate special clothing and ensure that working conditions are safe. These requirements apply to penitentiary institutions too. However, in this prison colony, convicts are forced to work wearing ordinary shoes, which quickly deteriorate (the rubber soles melt on the red-hot bricks), and gloves made of ordinary cloth which break after ten minutes' work.

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<sup>4</sup> Oydin Akhmedov, Jurabek Pulatov, Izzatilla Abdurakhmonov, Abdurasul Sotiboldiyev, Bahrom Tojiboev, Rustam Munavvarov, Bakhtiyor Nasipov, Akzhol Fayzullaev, Islom Khoshimov, Bobur Olimov.

Rather than considering the prisoners' complaint under a procedure set out by law, the person in charge of discipline in the penal colony, beat them and for the last two weeks has reportedly personally beat them on the heels with a truncheon each morning. Unable to withstand this treatment, one of the prisoners tried to hang himself, but saved by prison officers. After that, V.Y. Rustamov called a roll call and began to beat these 10 prisoners with all his strength in front of everyone. At the same time, he reportedly announced: "The President allowed you two years of "skachukha".<sup>5</sup> Now this time is over, everything will be as before. You can appeal to anyone you like. Nobody will help you". According to prisoners, these illegal actions are taking place with the approval of the governor of the penal colony, K.S. Karimov.

The Association for Human Rights in Central Asia (AHRCA) believes that the irresponsible attitude of K.S. Karimov, governor of the colony No. 64/4 and the illegal actions of V.Y. Rustamov, the official responsible for maintaining discipline in the penal colony, merit the attention of the Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan, as prisoners of this institution are being subjected to torture, extrajudicial reprisals and they are being subjected to forced labour in dangerous conditions which threaten their health and safety.

## **COLONY NO. 64/4:**

Prison colony No. 64/4 (formerly 64/47), is a "high security prison", and contains prisoners convicted for especially serious crimes. The following is a description of the rules prevailing in this penal colony, according to information received from confidential credible sources:

- **Suicide**

The inhuman conditions in the colony have reportedly driven prisoners to suicide. There are many cases when prisoners in colony No. 64/47 could no longer stand the humiliation, bullying, slave labour, prolonged fatigue, torture, threats, serious illnesses and as a result committed suicide. The same applies to those who serve long sentences or those whose sentences were extended after they were convicted under Article 221 of the Criminal Code ("Disobedience of the lawful requests of the administration of the penal institution"). There are cases when such prisoners jumped into the hot furnace at the brick factory. .

- **Quarantine**

All prisoners who arrive newly in the penal colony undergo a quarantine procedure. During this 15-day period, newcomers are held in separate barracks, where they learn the rules of the prison colony, the officers' names, and the national anthem. They are reportedly forced to do squats, squat with the "goose" step, and march endlessly. Due to poor nutrition and great physical exertion, prisoners often lose up to 15 kg of weight. The conditions for prisoners convicted of crimes related to religious or political crimes reportedly suffer the worst treatment. (The abbreviation used in the Uzbek language for this group of prisoners is DEOM, which translates as "convicted for belonging to a religious-extremist movement.)

Those who oversee the day to day running of the penal colony are often referred to as "lokhmachei" – prisoners who torture other prisoners, on instructions of the administration and operative officers of the Special Services.

## **Recollections of a former political prisoner of the prison colony No. 64/47:**

A migrant worker named Umar, who had recently returned from Russia, was convicted of crimes of religious extremism after a neighbour reported him for having copies of the sermons of a religious leader, Khairullo Khamidov. Law enforcement officials found these during a search of his accommodation. The police investigator considered Khamidov's sermons illegal. Umar was a pious man, who came from a

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<sup>5</sup> Skachukha – a prison slang word for leniency



poor family. He had travelled to Russia to earn money for his wedding. In quarantine, Umar, who had problems with his kidneys, was humiliated by a fellow cellmate, a “lokhmach” who refused to let Umar to go to the toilet for over a day. Umar ended up soiling himself. The lokhmach noticed this and threatened to kill Umar unless he ate his own excrement. When another cellmate tried to intervene and defend Umar, a representative of the prison staff sent the other cellmate to solitary confinement for 10 days. The the “lokhmach” continued bullying Umar.

- **The practice of extending the term of imprisonment**

In the past practice of extending the sentence of convicts altering the sentence used to be carried out under Article 221 (“Disobedience of the lawful requests of the administration of the penal institution”). Currently, reports indicate that this practice has been replaced in some prison colonies by prison doctors issuing false diagnoses of serious illnesses including AIDS, hepatitis B, C, tuberculosis.

The practice of depriving a person of his liberty for medical reasons is illegal and inhumane. Employees of medical institutions are reportedly participating in this illegal practice alongside officers of the Main Directorate of Execution of Punishment (GUIN). The prisoners themselves do not always know that the diagnosis is false. This practice is reportedly aimed at those whom they do not want to release at the end of their sentences.

- **Medical care**

#### **Recollections of a former political prisoner of the prison colony No. 64/47:**

In December 2018, a young man was admitted to the medical unit of colony No. 64/47, he was ill and debilitated. He felt nauseous and a couple of days later he felt very ill. A few days later he fell out of bed and lost consciousness. A patient in the bed next to him helped him up, but the young man then started vomiting. A duty officer came by and informed the doctor about the prisoner’s health but the doctor failed to act. Half an hour later, the patient fell out of bed again and lost consciousness. He was lying with his eyes half open, helpless. Only then did the doctor come and take his blood pressure. An ambulance was called. Four prisoners carried him on a stretcher to the gates of the penal colony, where he was taken by an ambulance. They later learned that he was diagnosed with leukaemia.

- **Sanitary and living conditions**

There number of toilets is insufficient. All living quarters of the colony are cleaned by prisoners themselves, including toilets.

#### **Recollections of a former political prisoner of the prison colony 64/47**

When Mashrab Dadajonov was cleaning the sewer he had no special equipment but only tools that he made himself, he lost consciousness due to the accumulated gas and fell into the cess pit. This happened in a place where there were a lot of people. Another prisoner, Ulugbek Kurolov, rushed to help him, but could not grab him and fell into the pit too. A few more people tried to help them and lost consciousness. They did not have gas masks, so had to wet the sheets, cover their noses, mouths and pull out the bodies of the two guys. Ulugbek t had had a short meeting with his relatives that day and he was supposed to have a longer meeting the next morning.