

WE EVIDENCE.

ONCE MORE ON THE BOYCOTT OF UZBEK COTTON AND THE FORCED CHILD LABOUR IN UZBEKISTAN:

OPEN LETTER

TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE US ADMINISTRATION, THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE, UNICEF, AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

To: ⇒ European Council
⇒ US Administration
⇒ International Cotton Advisory Committee
⇒ UNICEF
⇒ International Labor Organization
⇒ Companies importing cotton and textile

CC: ⇒ World Bank
⇒ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
⇒ Asian Development Bank
⇒ Gdynya Cotton Association
⇒ Bremen Cotton Exchange
⇒ International Cotton Association
⇒ The government of Uzbekistan

From civil society activists of Uzbekistan

January 17, 2007

Summary: *Uzbek civil society activists once again bring attention to the problem of forced child labor in the cotton industry of Uzbekistan and reiterate their call for the boycott of Uzbek cotton. In the current appeal they also urge the US administration and the European Council to **exclude Uzbek cotton from the GSP status** (the Generalized System of Preferences, or the import tax exemption) and **introduce the system of product certification and labeling** which would track down the origins of imported cotton. The activists call upon some international organizations, in particular the International Cotton Advisory Committee, UNICEF and the International Labor Organization to **stop aligning with the politics of misinformation**, conducted by the government of Uzbekistan on the issue of child labor.*

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are writing to you following the reaction of certain international organizations to our previous call for the boycott of Uzbek cotton (see attached text) and to media reports that raised the issue of forced child labor in Uzbekistan.

In the current statement we would like to reiterate our call to boycott Uzbek cotton and present new signatures in its support. The very fact that more people are joining our initiative says about its popularity in the civil society of Uzbekistan. The purpose of this call is not to bring damage to the Uzbek cotton industry but to encourage the government of Uzbekistan to start real reforms in this sector: first of all, abolish forced child labor and release farmers from the state dictate.

At the same time, we understand that in order to make the boycott a reality one needs first to introduce the **system of product certification and labeling** that would allow to tracing down the origins of imported cotton and textile. This system is needed to inform consumers who are concerned of ethical aspects of the cotton and textile trade whether products they buy are clean of child slavery spots.

We believe that the introduction of this certification and labeling system would be technically feasible and inexpensive. What is needed is a genuine political will and determination to eradicate all forms of child slavery still in existence today.

Questions to the European Council and the US administration

The second what is needed is to stop encouraging the Uzbek government to exploit child labor by such incentives as GSP, the **Generalized System of Preferences**, or the system of the import tax exemption that is, in principle, aimed to supporting the least developed countries. Uzbekistan, in spite of systematic violations of human rights and coercively exploiting child labour during cotton harvesting seasons, still enjoys this status both in the United States of America and the European Union. Most striking is that the European Council granted Uzbekistan with the GSP status on 27 June 2005 (Regulation No 980/2005), right after Andijan massacre when governmental troops indiscriminately shot dead hundreds of innocent civilians, among them women and children. The EC regulation included Uzbek cotton in the list of commodities subject to GSP rules. When lately the European Council was introducing sanctions against the Uzbek government for its atrocities in Andijan this GSP status still enjoyed by Uzbekistan was left untouched. This negligence demonstrates how contradictory messages being sent to Uzbekistan on the matter of human rights in this country.

We hope that the European Council and the US Administration will reconsider their previous decisions and exclude the Uzbek cotton and textile from commodities which are subject of GSP status.

Thirdly, it is important is to abandon the politics of lies and the covert support of lies on the highest official levels. In its reaction to the public concerns over the practice of forced child labor the Embassy of Uzbekistan in the United Kingdom tried to deceive the international community, claiming that the practice of forced child labor in Uzbekistan ceased 15 years ago. This misinformation has immediately sparked anger among those who know the reality in Uzbekistan very well.

We agree with the fact that Uzbekistan has indeed adopted a series of good laws, including the law on rights of a child, and signed a number of international treaties on human rights. However, the problem is that these documents remain only on paper and are not implemented in reality. The misinformation disseminated by the Uzbek officials doesn't surprise us as we know perfectly well that the state propaganda in Uzbekistan works in the same way as in the Soviet past. However, we were surprised to the fact that some international organizations, which are supposed to fight the practice of forced and child labor and promote healthy development of the cotton industry, mislead the international community concerning the respective situation in Uzbekistan.

Questions to the International Cotton Advisory Committee

We have received an official reply to our petition from Mr. Terry P. Townsend, Executive Director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) (see attached letter). While we are grateful to Mr. Townsend for his quick response, we would still like to question a number of statements in his letter.

Mr. Townsend writes that the Secretariat of ICAC is very well aware about the situation in the Uzbek cotton industry, given the fact that one of the Secretariat members has received his PhD in agriculture in Uzbekistan.

Dear Mr. Townsend, one doesn't need to have a PhD in order to establish the fact of forced child labor used on a mass scale in Uzbekistan. 127 activists who signed the current petition are all citizens of Uzbekistan and witnessed this appalling practice for years which didn't stop after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, but acquired even more horrendous features. We reiterate that the practice of forced child labor is orchestrated by the government of Uzbekistan, though the latter has been always careful not to issue written instructions on sending children to cotton fields. All orders on this matter are being given in unwritten forms. On these orders schools, colleges and universities are being shut down all over the country beginning from the beginning of September till the middle of November, and children, youth, and civil servants (with exception of the capital city and a few big cities only) are coercively taken to cotton fields and kept there for the whole harvesting season.

Parental permission for sending children to cotton fields is not sought and contracts with children and their parents are not offered and concluded. The condition of the children's work in cotton fields has deteriorated since soviet times, in terms of remuneration, health care and nutritional conditions. The situation has worsened during last few years. For instance, in the past sick children were released from cotton harvesting, but during the 2007 cotton season, sick children and students were taken to pick cotton under the threat of persecution.

Taking into consideration the following facts:

- forced child labor is taking a mass scale;
- orders to send pupils to pick cotton and closing schools are coming from local authorities;
- the state government system in Uzbekistan is ultra-centralized, whereby local authorities are not taking any serious decisions without instructions from the central government,

we conclude that forced child labor in Uzbekistan has become a deliberate state policy. This policy is aimed at acquiring extra profits from cotton export by artificially bringing down the cost of production. The government of Uzbekistan uses three ways to suppress the cost of cotton production:

- 1) The state makes planting cotton on major arable lands obligatory for farmers, like directive plans in the Soviet past. The government forces farmers to give up all harvest to the state, by threatening them with requisitioning their lands. There have been cases where regional governors physically abused farmers who failed to meet their quota (directive plans).
- 2) The state administratively (as opposed to the market mechanism of supply and demand) sets cotton prices unreasonably low. Even unemployed people refuse to work in the fields for such prices. This situation leaves the state with only those who are in its direct administrative control: school children, students and state employees. They have to work in the fields in fear of being expelled from schools and universities or fired from work.
- 3) And finally, the state, while exploiting child labor, doesn't spend even a penny to provide appropriate conditions of work. In fact, children are treated no better than cattle, being left without proper medical assistance and nutrition.

Mr. Townsend, You insist that our petition states a number of factual errors. Let's figure out what 'errors' you are talking about.

‘Error No. 1’. You stated that presently defoliants (chemical sprayed or dusted on plants to cause their leaves to fall off.) are not being used in Uzbekistan, therefore; and the health of children who work in these cotton fields is ostensibly not in danger.

However, according to information received from Uzbek agronomists, as well as according to statistics on chemicals import, Uzbekistan is massively using two kinds of defoliants:

- 1) Auguron, supplied by the Russian company ‘August’: according to statistics as of 2006, this chemical was spread on 600 thousand hectares of cotton fields;
- 2) Magnesium Chlorate is being spread on the rest of cotton fields.

Sanitary services of Uzbekistan have never conducted any research of these chemicals’ effect upon the health of cotton pickers. Even if such research was conducted its results have never been made public. We only know that Magnesium Chlorate in certain doses is toxic and harmful for human health. Following facts should be also taken into consideration:

- a) The spraying of fields with defoliants is already the latest stage of using chemicals in cotton fields. Defoliants are preceded by spraying pesticides and other chemicals.
- b) The spraying of fields with defoliants finishes in the middle of September, when children are already working in cotton fields.
- c) Without doubts, children are more then adults are exposed for the negative effect of chemicals. Something which may not harm adults may harm children.
- d) In recent years, crop rotation has been rarely used on cotton fields in Uzbekistan. In order to extract extra profits from cotton export, the government forces farmers to plant cotton in the same fields over and over again. As a result, the soil is degrading, while concentration in the soil of salt, toxins, heavy metals and other harmful substances increases. No research has been made on the effect of soil degradation on the health of cotton pickers. We only left to guess about long term consequences of such policies for the health of children (who spend the whole working day during two months breathing the dust of cotton fields) and for the environment.

‘Error No. 2’. You stated that the mere fact that children are paid for their work 12 times less, then the world cotton price is quite normal as labor constitutes ostensibly only 9 % of the overall costs. Such proportions might be valid for other countries which massively use machines to pick cotton and where government subsidizes cotton industry. This is not the case in Uzbekistan. As you must know, while during the Soviet times half of cotton was picked by machines, now most of it is picked manually. Isn’t this de-modernization of the cotton industry in Uzbekistan the result of the Uzbek government’s failed policy in this sector? Why then do children have to pay for this failure by sacrificing their health and educational opportunities?

Is it possible to achieve profitability in the cotton sector without underpaying the cotton pickers? The example set by neighboring Kazakhstan demonstrates that it is possible. It is not surprising that Uzbek rural dwellers prefer the work in Kazakh cotton fields where they are paid in times more than in their homes.

One should take also into account that income received during the harvesting season is the only income agricultural workers receive in Uzbekistan during the year, because in the rest of seasons they are not being paid at all. In order to calculate the real annual

income of these workers, one would need to divide their harvest income (let it be 100-200 USD), by the whole year. In the meantime, in Russia and Kazakhstan Uzbek labor migrants are paid monthly the same amount of money or even more. Here is the reason why in the country characterized by excessive labor force and mass unemployment adults still run away from cotton fields in Uzbekistan while the children become an object of exploitation by the corrupted state.

‘Error No. 3’. Mr. Townsend, for whatever reason you don't want to believe a well established fact that children are forced to work a full working day, seven days a week, without a single day off during the whole cotton picking season. You also doubt that half of the cotton picked in Uzbekistan is picked by children. You have asked for evidence. Apart of the fact that all signatories to this petition have witnessed and lived through this phenomenon, there are lots of media reports about exactly this state of affairs in Uzbekistan. Besides, human rights defenders and journalists have gathered new evidences in 2007, which will be published soon.

Mr. Townsend, you accuse us in discrediting a cotton industry. This is not the case. We respect those producing cotton and those buying it. However, the situation in the Uzbek cotton industry by no means could be qualified as healthy. By defending the Uzbek regime, you’re taking part of the responsibility over the situation with hyper exploitation of children in this country.

As we said, it is not surprising that the government of Uzbekistan constantly covers up the real situation in its cotton sector: they just don’t want to give up extra profits from cotton export. As to individual Uzbek officials and diplomats they have to lie under the fear to be sacked from their job.

But we wonder what does force you to be a part of the Uzbek regime’s propaganda machine? You live in a free country, where the freedom of speech is protected by law, so nobody would persecute you for telling truth. We believe that you don't pursue any personal interests when repeating propaganda cliché of the Uzbek government. Then what is the problem?

Dear Mr. Townsend, we do not call you for a confrontation with the government of Uzbekistan. You may not agree with the idea of a boycott as a method of persuasion and suggest other, diplomatic ways to tackle this problem. However, you do not have the right to turn a blind eye on the reality which is known to every citizen of Uzbekistan. You not only refuse to accept the facts, but also try to distort them and mislead the international community and members of cotton business concerning the situation in the cotton sector of Uzbekistan. We call upon you to re-consider you position and its moral aspects.

We hope also that you will not be manipulated by the Uzbek authorities, who are expected to make efforts to organizing tours to Potemkin villages and staging meetings with Potemkin NGOs (read GONGOs) which would deny the facts we bring about here. We urge you to look for independent sources of information.

Finally, questions to UNICEF and ILO

We are also expecting a reaction to our previous petition from two other international organizations, namely UNICEF and International Labor Organization (ILO). These respected international institutions are known for their determination to eradicate child labor in the world. But what is the result of these efforts for Uzbekistan? We fear it is close to zero.

We have to admit, that the ILO's Program on Eradication of Child Labor (IPEC), which is, by the way, its most expensive program, has failed even to raise this issue in respect to Uzbekistan. Moreover, there are evidences that local and regional offices of ILO and UNICEF uncritically use statistics palmed off by the Uzbek government and dismiss the data from independent sources, thus misleading the international community.

Here are some evidences. Under the UNICEF technical assistance (and often by 'technical assistance' is meant allocation of a generous grant), the government of Uzbekistan twice, in 2000 and 2006, conducted the so called Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). According to the results of this survey, the scale of child labor in Uzbekistan has ostensibly decreased from 23% to 2% (!). In reality, this data doesn't reflect the reality as had been evidently received thanks to manipulation with the survey terms and conditions: in 2000 the fieldwork survey was conducted in summer (!), while in 2006 - in March (!). It is obvious that in March the scale of child labor was less than in the summer, and in the summer it is smaller than in the autumn, when children are massively summoned to pick cotton.

One can only guess that the government of Uzbekistan just didn't allow a survey to be conducted in autumn during cotton harvesting season. Yet, the UNICEF office in Uzbekistan had accepted the survey results, without questioning its validity. UNICEF's logo had also blessed the survey report which contained false conclusion on the issue of child labor in Uzbekistan.

In its own right, IPEC has uncritically used data from MICS in calculating its index of child labor in respect to in Uzbekistan (see IPEC report 'Global Child Labor Trends: 2000 to 2004'). Thus, intentionally or not, these two respected international organizations have become accomplices of the Uzbek regime's propaganda machine which lies about the use of child labor in Uzbekistan.

We call upon UNICEF and ILO to review their work in Uzbekistan and give objective information on this issue. We urge these two organizations to follow a pattern of honest and unbiased approach demonstrated by another UN agency, the Committee on Rights of a Child (CRC), which discussed this problem twice, in 2001 and 2006, and expressed its concern about the unlawful use of child labor in Uzbekistan.

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We are happy that our petition had provoked reaction from mass media and commercial companies. A number of retailing companies in the West have already decided to stop buying Uzbek cotton. We hope that this is just the beginning of positive development and that the Western governments will not be last among those joining this movement for fair and ethical trade.

Initiators of this petition are getting media inquiries about Western companies which buy Uzbek cotton, textile and other cotton products. We have decided to give some time for importers of Uzbek cotton to reconsider their trading policy toward this country. In our next press release we will reveal the names of remaining importers of Uzbek cotton. Meanwhile, we believe that the following objectives are more urgent for the moment:

- The certification and labeling system must be introduced by importing countries and companies; and consumers must be informed about cotton origins.
- The US administration and the European Council should exclude the Uzbek cotton and textile from the lists of commodities subject of GSP status.
- International organizations, first of all ICAC, UNICEF and ILO, should stop dancing to Uzbek regime's tune and present honest and objective information to

the international community on the shameful practice of forced child labor in Uzbekistan.

We hope the government of Uzbekistan will not wait until the boycott reaches its full scale and start real reforms, as follows:

- 1) Sign the ILO conventions No 138 and 182;
- 2) Abolish the practice of forced labor;
- 3) Release farmers from the dictate of state.

Signatures:

1. **Yodgor Obid**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Austria, poet
2. **Ismail Dadadjanov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, Chair of the Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan,
3. **Shahida Yakub**, born in Uzbekistan, UK citizen, Director, Uzbekistan Initiative London, UK
4. **Nadejda Atayeva**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of France, President, Association ‘Human Rights in Central Asia’, le-Mans
5. **Suleimon Murod**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Canada, representative of the ‘Erk’ Democratic Party in Canada and the United States
6. **Talib Yakubov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, Chairman, Society of Human Rights in Uzbekistan, resident of France, Ange, France.
7. **Vasiya Inoyatova**, citizen of Uzbekistan, Chairman of «Ezgulik», human rights society, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
8. **Bakhtiyor Hamraev**, citizen of Uzbekistan, Chairman of Dzhizak regional branch of the Society for Human Rights in Uzbekistan, Dzhizak, Uzbekistan.
9. **Azam Turgunov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, Executive Director of «MAZLUM», human rights organisation, member of Central Council of the ERK Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
10. **Abdujalil Boymatov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, Society of Human Rights in Uzbekistan, resident of Ireland.
11. **Dilsora Fozilova**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the USA, member of the Democratic Youth Movement ‘Uighon Uzbekiston’ (Awaken, Uzbekistan’)
12. **Farmon Hamroyev**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the USA, member of the Democratic Youth Movement ‘Uighon Uzbekiston’ (Awaken, Uzbekistan’)
13. **Rafick Ganiyev**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, former representative of ‘Ezgulik’ Human Rights Society in Ferghana,
14. **Nuriddin Nizom**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the Netherlands, member of the Democratic Youth Movement ‘Uighon Uzbekiston’ (Awaken, Uzbekistan’)
15. **Nigara Khidoyatova**, citizen and resident of Uzbekistan, leader of the ‘Ozod Dehqonlar’ party, member of the "Sunshine Uzbekistan Coalition"
16. **Bahodiy Namazov**, citizen and resident of Uzbekistan, Chair, the Prisoners of Conscience Committee, member of the "Sunshine Uzbekistan Coalition"
17. **Nigina Malikova**, citizen of USA, representative of the Association ‘Human Rights in Central Asia’ in the USA

18. **Kudrat Babadjanov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, Freedom of Press Group of Uzbekistan, Timro,
19. **Bahodiy Isamuhamedov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, Chair of the ‘Mahalla’ Project for supporting citizens’ local self-government institutions, Stockholm
20. **Surat Ikramov**, citizen and resident of Uzbekistan, Chair of the Initiative Group of Independent Human Rights Defenders of Uzbekistan
21. **Safar Bekjan**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Switzerland, member of the International PEN, Lozano
22. **Dustnazar Hudoinazarov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, Chair, Society for protection of refugees from Uzbekistan
23. **Kamoliddin Rabbimov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Kazakhstan, political scientist
24. **Hatam Hadjimatov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Norway, author of the Project ‘Vatandosh, <http://jakob.clan.su/> ,
25. **Maksud Bekjan**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Norway, writer
26. **Alisher Taksanov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Switzerland, freelance journalist
27. **Vitaly Krasilovsky**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the USA, lawyer
28. **Ulugbek Zainobiddinov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Ukraine, human rights activist
29. **Mufaffarmirzo Iskhakov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Norway
30. **Nasrullo Saidov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Canada, former Member of Parliament (Supreme Council of Uzbekistan)
31. **Avaz Fayazov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Ukraine, representative of ‘Birlik’ party in Ukraine
32. **Oleg Marutik**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Norway, representative of the movement ‘For Democratic Reforms and Minority Rights in Uzbekistan’ in Norway
33. **Sergey Gorin**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Norway, representative of the movement ‘For Democratic Reforms and Minority Rights in Uzbekistan’ in Scandinavia
34. **Anvar Khasanov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden
35. **Ma’ruf Abdugafforov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, representative of ‘Erk’ party in Stockholm
36. **Yuldash Ochilov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, representative of ‘Erk’ party in Sweden
37. **Feruza Mirzakulova**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, member of ‘Erk’ party
38. **Mashhura Salohiddin**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, journalist
39. **Alexander Urinov**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, Asian ex-champion of weightlifting
40. **Yan Be’fer**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden,
41. **Andrey Zhidick**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden,
42. **Nabijon Akibayev**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden,
43. **Flora Gorohova**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, activist of ‘Erk’ party,
44. **Akmal Gaziyeu**, citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of France, Muslim scholar

45. **Anvar Boboev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Kads Krona, Sweden.
46. **Natalia Bushueva**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, journalist, resident of Sweden, Solefftio, Sweden.
47. **Zakirjon Ibragimov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, journalist, resident of Sweden, Kalmar, Sweden.
48. **Sukhrob Rahmatov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Gavle, Sweden.
49. **Shokhista Djuraeva**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden.
50. **Fazliddin Nurmukhrammedov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden.
51. **Maruf Abdugaffarov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
52. **Gulchekhra Pirnazarova**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
53. **Varid Gadirov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Sundsvall, Sweden
54. **Shukhrat Babajanov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Germany, artist, member of the CIS Artists Confederation
55. **Khurmat Babajanov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, journalist, resident of Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
56. **Alezander Simonenko**, Born in Uzbekistan, resident of Sweden, Vernamy, Sweden
57. **Yuldash Khalilov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
58. **Avaz Isakov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of 'Ezgulik' Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, resident of Kyrgyzstan
59. **Shaira Dzhuraeva**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Sweden, Helsingborg, Sweden
60. **Isomiddin Shamsiddin**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of the USA
61. **Shokhruh Halikulov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Egypt, Alexandria, Egypt.
62. **Rashid Atajanov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, human rights defender, resident of Canada, Toronto, Canada
63. **Bakhrom Hamraev**, Born in Uzbekistan, human rights defender, citizen of Russia, Moscow, Russia
64. **Tulkin Karaev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, human rights defender, resident of Sweden, Timro, Sweden,
65. **Tumaris Dadajanova**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of «Wake Up, Uzbekistan», youth movement, resident of Sweden, Helsingborg, Sweden
66. **Sevara Kamolova**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of «Wake Up, Uzbekistan», youth movement, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden

67. **Nigora Dadajanova**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of «Wake Up, Uzbekistan», youth movement, resident of Sweden, Helsingburg, Sweden
68. **Utkur Dzhuraev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik, resident of the USA, St Lois, Missouri, USA
69. **Anvar Karimov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of the USA, California, USA
70. **Avaz Karimov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of «Wake Up, Uzbekistan», youth movement, resident of the USA, California, USA
71. **Djamshid Bokiev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Ukraine, Kiyev, Ukraine
72. **Makhbuba Azimova**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Ukraine, Kiyev, Ukraine
73. **Bakhodir Bokiev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Ukraine, Kiyev, Ukraine
74. **Murod Rakhimov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Ukraine, Kiyev, Ukraine
75. **Turgun Shamsiev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, Uzbekistan
76. **Inom Bobokhonov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Ukraine, Kiyev, Ukraine
77. **Rafik Eshmatov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of the USA
78. **Dilmurod Isakov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Kyrgyzstan
79. **Alim Ataev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of France, former Chairman of «Uzkhlebprodukt» association, Le Mans, France
80. **Gafur Yuldoshev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, journalist, resident of Canada, Toronto, Canada
81. **Anvar Sadriev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, journalist, member of «Ozod Dekhkon» party, Kyrgyzstan
82. **Evgeni Dyakonov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, editor of www.uzbek-people.narod.ru, resident of Norway, Oslo, Norway
83. **Rafik Ganiev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of Birlik party, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
84. **Matlyuba Azamatova**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, journalist, resident of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
85. **Mukhiddin Kurbanov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of the Central Council of Birlik party, resident of Sweden, Orebro, Sweden
86. **Khabibullo Narbutaev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of the Central Council of Birlik party, resident of Sweden, Yuppiesala, Sweden
87. **Jahongir Siddikov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of the UK, London, UK
88. **Bayramli Yusupov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Denmark
89. **Bakhtiyar Kuzibaev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of Norway, Honnefos Norway.

90. **Rakhmatulla Alibaev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, human rights defender, resident of Sweden, Timro, Sweden
91. **Bakhtiyor Tuychiev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of Ukraine, Kiyev, Ukraine
92. **Kahramon Ataev**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of France
93. **Avazhon Mukhtarov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, former member of parliament, chairman of Democratic party of Uzbekistan resident of the USA
94. **Tursunboy Nazarov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of the USA.
95. **Mashrab Murodi**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, member of ERK Democratic Party, resident of the USA.
96. **Ramil Gafullin**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the USA.
97. **Anvar Akramov**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the USA.
98. **Ilkhom Erkin**, Citizen of Uzbekistan, resident of the USA.

We have another 38 signatures from Uzbekistan but decided not to disclose them for their safety reason, as the authorities of Uzbekistan may harass them.

The collection of signatures has been facilitated by following activists:

- 1) Yodgor Obid, jodgor.obid@gmx.at
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