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Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the examination of the third periodic report of Uzbekistan at the Committee's 98th session, held in March 2010.

At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 28 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 8, 11, 14, and 24 of the concluding observations (CCPR/C/UZB/CO/3).

Follow-up information on the referred paragraphs was received on 30 January 2012, and was analysed at the 106th session of the Committee.

While taking note of the collaboration of the State party, the Committee considered that the follow-up report **did not provide any new information on the actions taken for the investigation and prosecution of the Andijon events, and on the decisions adopted against 39 internal affairs officials and members of the military.** Additionally, the Committee noted that **no information was provided on the measures taken to revise the regulations governing the use of firearms by the authorities,** in order to ensure their full compliance with the provisions of the Covenant and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. The Committee therefore reiterates its request of information on these issues (paragraph 8).

Her Excellency Ms. Goulmara Karimova
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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With regard to paragraph 11, subparagraphs (a) and (b), the Committee considered that additional measures remain necessary. According to the information provided, cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are "verified" by special units for maintaining internal security (special staff of inspection units), which report to the head of the law enforcement agency. The authorities in charge of the investigation therefore depend on the Ministry of Interior and **do not guarantee the independence of the authority in charge of the investigation.** The Committee considered the **trainings described as a positive measure, but insufficient to ensure the practical application and respect of the principles contained in the courses and to avoid impunity** in all cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

On paragraph 11, subparagraph (c), the Committee decided to request **additional information on the proportion of cases in which victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment have received compensation, and on the nature and amount of the reparation received, as well as on the psychosocial attention that they receive.**

Regarding paragraph 11, subparagraph (d), the Committee considered that additional information remains necessary on the **practical implementation of the principles of the Criminal Procedure law with regard to the audio-visual recording of interrogations in all police stations and places of detention:** proportion of investigative units, temporary detention cells, remand centres, police cells and prisons that are equipped for the audio-visual recording of interrogations; and proportion of cases in which such recording is carried out.

As related to paragraph 11, subparagraph (e), the Committee considered that the recommendation has not been implemented, in so far as the information provided **does not guarantee that the specialized medical-psychological examination of alleged cases of ill-treatment is carried out in line with the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol).**

With regard to paragraph 11, subparagraph (f), the Committee decided to request **additional information on the actual implementation of the legal prohibition of forced confessions and of the use of torture and ill-treatment, and on the decisions adopted in such cases.**

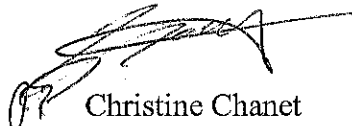
On paragraph 14, the Committee considered that the recommendation has not been implemented, and that **actions remain necessary to amend domestic legislation and guarantee its compliance with the provisions of article 9 of the Covenant, and to ensure that the legislation governing judicial control of detention (habeas corpus) is fully applied throughout the country.**

Regarding paragraph 24, the Committee noted that **no information was provided on the protective measures adopted to prevent assaults, threats, and intimidations against journalists and human rights defenders due to their professional activities.** The Committee also noted that the State party did not provide any information on the review of the provisions on defamation and insult (arts. 139 and 140 of the Criminal Code) and on the measures taken to ensure that they are not used to harass, intimidate, or convict journalists or human rights defenders. The recommendation has therefore not been implemented and additional information and actions remain necessary on that issue.

Therefore, I write to request that the above-mentioned additional information be submitted to the Committee by 15 March 2013. The reply should be sent in a **Word electronic version** to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Kate Fox (kfox@ohchr.org) and Albane Prophette-Pallasco (aprophette@ohchr.org)).

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Covenant.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Christine Chanet
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations
Human Rights Committee