

IHF FOCUS: human rights defenders; freedom of expression, free media and information; peaceful assembly; freedom of association; right to a fair trial and effective remedies; arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment; right to life; freedom of religion and religious tolerance; migrants, refugees.

The human rights situation worsened further in Uzbekistan in 2005. In May, hundreds of civilians who had gathered to protest repressive government policies were virtually massacred by police and security forces in the region of Andijan in the Fergana Valley. The government, however, denied all responsibility for the deaths, and instead blamed the violence on “religious extremists.”

Arbitrary mass arrests of eyewitnesses and other people with any form of knowledge of the events were carried out, and coercive measures were used to force detainees to confess involvement in the violence or incriminate others. At the end of the year, in court proceedings that lacked any semblance of due process, a first series of guilty verdicts were handed down for people accused of crimes related to the Andijan events. Dozens of other suspects were awaiting trial, some of them on charges of terrorism, one of the two crimes that remained punishable by death.¹ The Uzbek authorities also issued extradition requests for people who had sought protection in neighboring countries following the Andijan events, and in some cases such requests were complied with, although a return to Uzbekistan involved serious security risks for those affected.

The government rejected all demands for an impartial investigation into the Andijan violence, as called for by international organizations and governments, and engaged in concerted efforts to promote its own version of the events. At the same time, independent journalists, human rights defenders and others who sought to reveal the facts about what happened in the region were persecuted, and in the months following the events a large-scale

crackdown on media and civil society took place in the country.

Independent journalists, human rights activists and other opponents to the government were, *inter alia*, subject to intimidation, arrest, criminal prosecution and physical assaults. By orchestrating defamation campaigns and public shows of protest, the authorities also sought to damage the reputation of independent journalists and human rights defenders and to stir public opinion against them. Numerous NGOs and news agencies were forced to close down during the year and many journalists as well as political and civil society activists fled abroad to escape persecution.

The massive crackdown followed years of repression of opposition and civil society in Uzbekistan and could be seen in the context of recent political upheavals in Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Georgia, which have created fear on the part of the Karimov administration that a broad democratic movement will also develop in Uzbekistan. These fears were reinforced by a growing wave of anti-government pickets in the pre-Andijan period.

The Andijan violence, and the failure of the Uzbek government to allow for an independent investigation into these events, had a negative impact on the country's international relations. In an October decision welcomed by the human rights community, the European Union (EU) imposed sanctions on Uzbekistan, including an arms embargo, a visa ban for Uzbek officials held responsible for the Andijan killings and a partial suspension of the EU-Uzbek Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.² The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) adopted a new two-year strategy for Uz-

* Unless otherwise noted, this chapter is based on information provided by the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan (HRSU, an IHF cooperating committee) to the IHF.

bekistan, under which no new public sector projects and no private-sector projects with government involvement will be funded.³ US-Uzbek relations also cooled down, and in late July, the Uzbek government requested that the US withdraw its troops from the country within 180 days.

Human Rights Defenders

In the aftermath of the Andijan events, persecution of human rights defenders escalated dramatically. As documented by an IHF fact-finding mission to Uzbekistan in June 2005,⁴ human rights activists were subjected to close surveillance, and had their phones tapped, their homes and offices searched and their computer files confiscated. Human rights activists were also intimidated, physically assaulted, arrested and falsely charged with crimes. Many of the most active participants in pickets held after the violence in Andijan were placed under house arrest for periods ranging from a few days up to two weeks, during which time they were under permanent surveillance and were not allowed to go anywhere.⁵

Moreover, following the Andijan events, the authorities sought to discredit and mobilize public sentiment against human rights defenders and their families, including by orchestrating defamation campaigns and shows of alleged “spontaneous public outrage.”⁶

Members of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan (HRSU), an IHF associate, were among the most frequent targets of persecution following the Andijan violence and a number of members of the organization were forced to flee abroad.

◆ On 26 May, authorities in Djisak organized a public show of “national outrage” against Momir Azimov and Bakhtiyar Khamroev, leading members of the Djisak regional branch of HRSU who had sought to attract public attention to the violence in Andijan. Escorted by security forces, local

officials and local residents who were forced to join were taken by bus to the house of Khamroev, where they burst into his apartment and attacked him, while shouting e.g. “You are a betrayer of the people!” Another busload of “outraged representatives of the people” were taken to the house of Azimov, who, however, was not at home. The following day, the district leader, Karim Saatov, indicated to Azimov that the events of the prior day had been motivated by his activity surrounding the Andijan massacre. “Why should you care about Andijan? Live your life, raise children,” Saatov said to Azimov.⁷

◆ On 2 June, Nurmukhammad Azizov, chair of the Andijan regional branch of HRSU, and Abkar Oripov, chair of the Andijan regional branch of the opposition party Birlik, were arrested by police. The arrests were carried out after police had searched the homes of the two men and confiscated copies of a Birlik statement about the Andijan events, which in the case of Azizov reportedly was planted.⁸ Following the arrest of Azizov, the house of his family remained under surveillance and visitors were stopped in the street and questioned about the purpose of their visit – as happened to an IHF mission (see below).⁹ The two men were subsequently charged with attempting to overthrow the constitutional order, preparing and distributing materials containing a threat to public order and participating in religious extremist, separatist, fundamentalist or other banned organizations.¹⁰ On 12 January 2006, they were tried together with two other human rights activists, Dilmurod Muhiddinov and Musozhon Bobozhonov, who had been charged with similar crimes. Azizov, Oripov and Bobozhonov were all given three-year suspended prison sentences, while Muhiddinov was sentenced to five years in prison. The verdicts were reportedly handed down in a secret hearing, at which the defendants were not present.¹¹

◆ On 18 October, the Samarkand province court convicted Norboy Kholzhigitov, Cattor Irzaev and Habibyllah Akbutaev, all members of HRSU, on spurious slander and extortion charges. Nolzhitov was sentenced to ten years in prison, and the other men to six years in prison. The trial was reportedly marred by irregularities, in particular violations of the right to defense, and no human rights defenders, journalists or foreign diplomats were allowed to attend the hearing. The appeals court of the Samarkand province subsequently upheld the verdicts.¹² Kholzhigitov, himself a farmer, had actively defended farmers' rights and had participated in numerous protests against government policies.¹³ On 9 June, Kholzhigitov's son, Khayatulla Kholzhigitov was assaulted by a man who provoked a fight with him in the market place. This fight served as basis for bringing charges of "hooliganism" and "inflicting bodily injury" against Khayatulla Kholzhigitov,¹⁴ and in early December he was given a five years' prison sentence. However, at the end of the year he was reportedly released under amnesty.¹⁵

◆ On 15 June, four members of an IHF delegation visiting Andijan to document the post-May 13 crackdown were detained. As they were driving back from a meeting with the family of an imprisoned human rights defender, Nurmukhammad Azizov, they were stopped by police and taken to a police station. The police officials claimed to suspect that the car they were traveling in had been involved in a car accident earlier during the day, and confiscated registration and identification documents of the driver and photocopied the passports of the IHF representatives.¹⁶

◆ On 18 October, a Tashkent court ordered Elena Urlaeva, a prominent human rights activist, to undergo forcible psychiatric treatment. Urlaeva had been arrested in late August for attempting to distribute a

caricature of the Uzbek state symbol and possessing leaflets containing anti-constitutional text, which allegedly had been planted. Neither Urlaeva nor her lawyer were informed of the hearing or allowed to challenge the decision. A long-time activist who regularly participates in public demonstrations, Urlaeva had previously been subjected to various forms of harassment, including police surveillance, interrogation, arrest and beatings. In 2001-2002 she was forcibly held in a psychiatric institution for a total of six months.¹⁷ Urlaeva was released from hospital at the end of October 2005.¹⁸

Freedom of Expression, Free Media and Information

Following the Andijan events, the authorities engaged in systematic efforts to promote their own version of the events, while seeking to prevent the spread of independent information about the killings that had taken place. The city was sealed off from the outside for several days and journalists who were already present were forced to leave and had their notes and equipment confiscated. Local residents were warned not to speak to journalists or "outsiders."¹⁹

In the months after the events, independent media were subject to a growing crackdown and journalists reporting critically about the Andijan events and their aftermath faced *inter alia* intimidation, arrest, criminal prosecution and physical attacks (see also the section on human rights defenders, above). Local newspapers repeatedly carried articles denigrating independent journalists, e.g. by depicting them as "enemies of the state."

Numerous journalists fled the country because of harassment²⁰ and several international press agencies and news organizations were forced to close their Uzbek bureaus.

◆ On 4 June, authorities in the city of Karshi arrested and sentenced Tulkin Karayev, HRSU member and correspondent for the UK-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting, to ten days in prison on charges of hooliganism. Charges were brought against Karayev when he visited the local police station to report an attack on his person by an unknown woman in the street of downtown Karshi. Karayev had reportedly previously been subject to surveillance and threats and shortly after he was released from prison he was re-arrested and had his passport confiscated by police officers who warned him to stop his human rights and journalistic work “if he did not want to have any problems.” In July he was forced to flee the country.²¹

◆ On 9 September, the Tashkent City Court ordered Internews, a US-based media training and advocacy organization, to close its office in the country. According to the court, the organization had violated Uzbek law in a number of ways, including by “monopolizing media” and by “carrying out activities without prior permission from authorities.” The decision was upheld on appeal.²² In August, two Internews employees were found guilty of producing TV programs without a license and sentenced to six months imprisonment, which they, however, did not have to serve.²³ In 2004, Internews was ordered by court to suspend its activities in Uzbekistan for six months and its bank accounts were frozen without any official explanation.²⁴

◆ In October, BBC World Service closed its office in Tashkent because of repeated harassment of its correspondents and a smear campaign targeting the service and other foreign media. Seven BBC journalists had already fled the country due to pressure after the Andijan events.²⁵

◆ On 9 November, Aleksei Volosevich, correspondent for the Russia-based website Ferghana.ru, was attacked by five un-

known perpetrators near his apartment in Tashkent. The five men knocked him to the ground, beat him and threw paint on him and one of the assailants shouted “You won’t sell your country anymore.” As Volosevich returned home, he saw a group of teenagers running out from the building where he lived and discovered that anti-Semitic slogans had been painted on his door. Prior to the attack, Volosevich had repeatedly reported about the Andijan events, including the trial against the 15 people accused of organizing the events (see the section on the right to a fair trial and effective remedies, below).²⁶

◆ On 12 December, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry turned down an application for renewing the accreditation of the Uzbek branch of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and suspended the individual accreditation of four RFE/RL correspondents in the country. This decision followed a series of cases of intimidation and harassment targeting RFE/RL representatives in the aftermath of the Andijan events.²⁷ For example, in August, RFE/RL correspondent Nosir Zokirov was sentenced to six months in prison for insulting a member of the Uzbek security services in a hearing where no defense counsel was present and no examination of witnesses was allowed.²⁸ In July, RFE/RL correspondent Lobar Qaynarova was attacked and beaten by three people who also took away her recording equipment and tapes.²⁹

Peaceful Assembly

In a trend that continued from the previous year, a growing number of people participated in protest pickets in the country. Most pickets were, however, quashed by police and security forces, which sometimes allegedly recruited common citizens to help suppress protests. The use of force to suppress public protests culminated in the Andijan events in May, when hundreds of civilians were killed (see below).

- ◆ On 5 January, 50-60 women gathered in front of the regional administration building in Shakhrihan, in the Andijan region, to protest arbitrary actions of tax inspection authorities. On order of the head of the regional administration, militia dispersed the picket, and participants were threatened with sanctions. Some participants were also reportedly warned that they may face difficulties because of an interview they gave to foreign media in connection with the picket.
- ◆ On 1 February, over 100 farmers and their family members assembled for a protest meeting near the regional administration building in Dustliks in the Dzhizak province. The meeting had only begun, when a large group of people – among whom were karate practitioners – rushed up to the participants and started beating them ruthlessly. More than ten people, including women and children, were injured as a result of the attack, which was believed to have been ordered by authorities.
- ◆ On 1 February, representatives of opposition parties, members of NGOs, journalists and common citizens participated in a protest action in Tashkent to voice their concern about recent actions taken by local authorities in the Uzbek-Kazakh border area. Following the adoption of a border delimitation agreement between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, local authorities in the Majsk village close to the Kazakh border proceeded to establish a frontier zone of about 2 km and to resettle all residents of the area, without providing any indemnification for their property. The participants in the protest action wore orange ribbons and carried placards with slogans such as “Stop the violence” and “Full indemnification for our houses.” The protest action was forcefully dispersed by militia and some of the participants were beaten, including HRSU member Elena Urlaeva, who had to be treated by emergency medical personnel for shoulder injuries.
- ◆ On 3 May, more than 70 people from the Shahrisjab region, in the Kashkadarinsk province, staged a picket in Tashkent to express their discontent with the policies pursued by the authorities of their home region. They established a tent camp at the location where the picket was held and announced their intentions to continue their protests over the next few days. During the night of 3-4 May, some 100 militia officials equipped with truncheons stormed the tent camp and forced the participants, among them numerous children, into buses that brought them back to their home region. Some participants were badly beaten and many subsequently faced administrative penalties for their involvement in the picket.
- ◆ On 13 May, hundreds of people, many of whom were unarmed civilians, died when Uzbek police and security forces fired indiscriminately on demonstrators who had gathered for a rare mass protest in the city of Andijan to voice their grievances about repressive government policies and widespread poverty. An even higher number of people were injured. The shootings apparently formed part of a law enforcement operation to capture a group of armed people who earlier during the day had stormed government buildings, initiated a prison break-out, killed officials and taken hostages, in a series of attacks sparked by the trial of 23 businessmen charged with “religious fundamentalism.” These charges were widely perceived to be unfair and had prompted peaceful protests against government policies also in the days prior to 13 May.³⁰ The Uzbek government failed to admit any wrongdoing with respect to the events in Andijan and, at the end of the year, no effective steps had been taken to investigate these events or to hold accountable those officials who were involved in the killings of civilians. The Uzbek government also consistently rejected calls for an independent investigation into the violence, and journal-

ists and human rights defenders who sought to reveal the facts about what happened were subjected to intense harassment in the months following the events. The IHF and the HRSU expressed their dismay at the violence in Andijan, concluding that the act “can be interpreted as an act of brutal repression and aimed at further intimidating the Uzbek population in the face of democratic changes in Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Georgia.”³¹ In September, the IHF, Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights and the International League for Human Rights appealed to the OSCE participating States to invoke the Moscow mechanism with respect to the Andijan events.³²

Freedom of Association

Following the so-called democratic revolutions in Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Georgia, the authorities of Uzbekistan have stepped up their efforts to restrict the activities of NGOs and political opposition movements. In the aftermath of the Andijan events, pressure against independent organizations – both international and national – grew further and they faced an increasingly hostile climate.

NGOs experienced various difficulties in carrying out their activities, such as denial of registration and refusal to rent meeting facilities or open bank accounts. Also, their members were subjected to intimidation and harassment (see also the section on Human Rights Defenders), and a large number of NGOs were forced to cease operation.

◆ On 12 September, the Tashkent City Civil Court ordered the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), a US-based NGO that operates in more than 20 countries, to suspend its activities in Uzbekistan for six months. According to the court, IREX had violated Uzbek law in numerous ways, including by failing to inform the Uzbek Ministry of Justice of its ac-

tivities, not complying with its charter and misusing its logo. IREX had been working in Uzbekistan since 1994 under a bilateral US-Uzbekistan agreement, implementing programs, e.g. on student exchange and developing internet access.³³

Right to a Fair Trial and Effective Remedies

Serious problems remained with respect to the right to fair trial and effective remedies. Legal guarantees were not effectively enforced and trials were conducted in gross violation of international standards. Forged indictments were frequent, defendants were typically presumed to be guilty and evidence that had been planted or obtained through pressure was routinely admitted by courts.

Blatant fair trial violations characterized proceedings against people charged with crimes related to the Andijan events:

◆ On 14 November, the Uzbek Supreme Court handed down prison sentences ranging between 14 and 20 years to 15 defendants charged with crimes related to the May violence in Andijan. In this case, the court displayed a complete lack of independence and the defendants were effectively deprived of an adequate defense. The defense lawyers did not challenge any of the charges against their clients or any of the evidence presented during the trial and in several cases even begged for forgiveness for defending them. The defendants confessed to all charges and gave testimonies that closely corresponded to the official version of the events in Andijan. Human rights organizations had serious concerns that the men may have been subjected to torture to force them to confess. According to official reports, more than 100 people were charged with crimes in relation to the Andijan events and were awaiting trial as of late 2005. International observers have been blocked from monitoring these trials.³⁴

In the course of the year, numerous human rights defenders and political activists were also convicted in trials conducted in violation of international standards (see the section on human rights defenders, above).

Arbitrary Detention, Torture and Ill-treatment³⁵

The use of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials remained widespread and little progress was made in combating this practice.

Following the Andijan events, hundreds of people were arbitrarily detained, including witnesses of the events, people suspected of speaking to journalists about the events and relatives of people who fled abroad following the events. Those detained were often denied due process rights, such as the right to have prompt access to a lawyer, and were subject to various forms of ill-treatment and torture in an attempt to force them to confess crimes related to the Andijan violence or to give testimonies incriminating others. Some were reportedly held in incommunicado detention for prolonged periods of time. The International Red Cross/Crescent was not allowed to visit people detained in connection with the Andijan events.³⁶

Right to Life

According to a decree signed by President Karimov on 1 August 2005, the death penalty will be abolished in Uzbekistan as of 2008. In 2005, however, the death penalty remained in use.³⁷ In a joint statement issued together with a coalition of other NGOs, the IHF called on the Uzbek authorities to “move swiftly towards abolition by introducing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to a complete abolition in due course.”³⁸

The continued use of the death penalty gave rise to particular concern since court proceedings were frequently con-

ducted in violation of due process standards and self-incriminating statements made under torture were accepted as evidence. Among others, several of those arrested in connection with Andijan violence were charged with crimes carrying the death penalty.

Executions remained shrouded in great secrecy. Neither death row inmates nor their families were informed about the scheduled date of execution in advance, and relatives of executed prisoners were not told where their loved ones had been buried. In some cases family members of death row inmates lived in uncertainty as to whether their relatives were alive or had been executed.³⁹

No comprehensive statistics about the number of death sentences or executions were available. In late 2004, President Karimov stated that 50-60 people had been sentenced to death during the year.⁴⁰

◆ On 16 March, the Tashkent Regional Court sentenced Alisher Khamatov to death on murder charges, a sentence that was subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court. Khamatov was reportedly forced to confess under pressure; his father stated that he had heard his son cry of pain when he was beaten at the police station and that both he and his son had been warned that his wife and daughter would be raped unless Khamatov confessed. During the trial, the court ignored complaints by Khamatov’s family that he had been subjected to torture. The UN Human Rights Committee intervened in the case, asking the Uzbek authorities to stay his execution while it investigated the case. Previously Uzbek authorities have ignored similar requests by the committee on numerous occasions.⁴¹

Freedom of Religion and Religious Tolerance

Independent Muslims

The government’s longstanding campaign against independent Muslims contin-

ued. In this campaign, which has been portrayed as forming part of the international “war on terrorism,” the government has imprisoned thousands of Muslims who practice their faith outside of state-controlled institutions without making any distinction between those who advocate violent methods and those who peacefully express their convictions. The Andijan events were used to validate new repressive measures and by the end of the year Human Rights Watch had documented the conviction of more than 190 religious believers.⁴²

Other Religious Communities

As in previous years, minority religious communities faced repression such as raids, interrogation and fines and some reports indicated that the situation worsened in the aftermath of the Andijan events. Among others, Protestant and Jehovah’s Witnesses communities reported growing harassment during the second half of the year.⁴³

◆ Three Jehovah’s Witnesses were convicted under article 216 (2) of the criminal code, which establishes sanctions for violations of the Law on Religious Organizations. All three were members of small communities that did not meet the legally required membership threshold for gaining official registration and were found guilty of attending meetings of an unregis-

tered religious organization. In August, a city court in Karshi ordered Bahkrom Pulatov and Feruza Mamatova to pay fines of 705,000 and 550,000 Soms (about EUR 500 and 400) respectively, which were the highest fines ever imposed on Jehovah’s Witnesses in the country. In October, Azim Klichev was fined 90,000 Soms (about EUR 65) in the city of Navoi.⁴⁴

Migrants, Refugees

Following the Andijan events, hundreds of people fled to neighboring Kyrgyzstan, and in some cases further to Kazakhstan and Russia, because of fear of persecution. The Uzbek authorities claimed that many of the asylum seekers were “criminals” and sought to secure their return in different ways, including through extradition requests.⁴⁵ In June, four asylum seekers were returned from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan despite serious concerns for their safety and, in late 2005, eight men were forcibly returned from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan. Other asylum seekers, including human rights defenders, remained at risk of being forcibly returned to Uzbekistan from these countries.⁴⁶

The poor economic situation of Uzbekistan also remained a root cause for migration, and many – primarily men – left to look for jobs in neighboring countries.

Endnotes

- ¹ The other one was “premeditated, aggravated murder.”
- ² See *The New York Times*, “EU Orders Uzbekistan Sanctions,” 4 October 2005.
- ³ See EBRD, “EBRD Issues New Strategy for Uzbekistan,” 29 July 2005, at www.ebrd.com/new/pressrel/2005/102july29.htm:
- ⁴ See IHF, ‘*One Can’t Keep Silent*’ - *The Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan*, 15 July 2005, at www.ihf-hr.org/documents/doc_summary.php?sec_id=3&d_id=4099.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Amnesty International (AI), “Lifting the Siege on the Truth about Andizhan,” 20 September 2005, at www.amnesty.org; IHF, ‘*One Can’t Keep Silent*’ - *The Persecution of Human*

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- ⁹ IHF, *'One Can't Keep Silent' - The Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan*, 15 July 2005.
- ¹⁰ International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), "Human Rights Defenders at Risk: Harassments and Arrests are Still Ongoing," 1 July 2005, at www.fidh.org; Al, "Human Rights Defenders in Eurasia," January 2006.
- ¹¹ Al, "Human Rights Defenders in Eurasia," January 2006.
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- ¹⁵ Information from the HRSU to the IHF, March 2006.
- ¹⁶ See IHF, "Obstruction of Human Rights Investigation in Uzbekistan," 16 June 2005, at www.ihf-hr.org/viewbinary/viewhtml.php?doc_id=6404.
- ¹⁷ HRW, "Uzbekistan: Psychiatric Punishment Used to Quash Dissent, Government Deploys Stalinist-Era Tactic Against Leading Human Rights Defender," 20 October 2005, at <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/10/20/uzbeki11905.htm>. See also IHF, "Uzbek Human Rights Activist Elena Urlaeva Reportedly Arrested and Abused," 29 August 2005, at www.ihf-hr.org/documents/doc_summary.php?sec_id=3&d_id=4119.
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- ¹⁹ Chapter on Uzbekistan in HRW, *World Report 2006*; International Press Institute (IPI), "IPI Concerned about the Ongoing Media Crackdown in Uzbekistan," 6 June 2005, at www.freemedia.at.
- ²⁰ Information from HRSU; Reporters without Borders (RSF), "Opposition Online Journalist Assaulted," 14 November 2005, at www.rsf.org; Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), "CPJ Condemns Attack on Independent Journalist," 10 November 2005, at www.cpj.org.
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- ²⁷ See RFE/RL, "Harassment of RFE/RL Correspondents in Uzbekistan since May Events in Andijon – a Chronology" (updated through December 2005), at www.rferl.org.
- ²⁸ RFE/RL, "RFE/RL Uzbek Correspondent Sent to Prison," 29 August 2005.
- ²⁹ RFE/RL, "RFE/RL Deplores Attack against Reporter, Calls for End to Harassment in Uzbekistan," 5 July 2005.
- ³⁰ IHF and HRSU, "On the Violence against Civilians in Uzbekistan," 19 May 2005, at www.ihf-hr.org/documents/doc_summary.php?sec_id=3&d_id=4052; HRW, "Bullets were Falling Like Rain' – The Andijan Massacre," July 2005; AI, "Lifting the Siege about the Truth about Andizhan," 20 September 2005.
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- ³² Amnesty International, International League for Human Rights, IHF, "Joint Appeal to the OSCE Participating States to Invoke the Moscow Mechanism with respect to the Andijan Events," 30 September 2005, at www.ihf-hr.org/documents/doc_summary.php?sec_id=3&d_id=4136. The Moscow mechanism has been established by the OSCE to facilitate monitoring of the implementation of OSCE states' human dimension commitments. The mechanism can be invoked on an *ad hoc* basis by any individual OSCE state or group of states. For more information about the Moscow mechanism, see www.osce.org/odihr/13498.html.
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- ³⁹ Ibid.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid.
- ⁴¹ AI, *Imminent Execution/Torture and Ill-treatment/Impunity*, 12 December 2005.
- ⁴² See the chapter on Uzbekistan in *Human Rights Watch World Report 2006*.
- ⁴³ Forum 18, "Repression Continues in Andijan Uprising's Aftermath," 25 August 2005.
- ⁴⁴ Forum 18, "Increasing Use of Criminal Law against Jehovah's Witnesses," 10 August 2005; Forum 18, "Increased Repression of Religious Minorities Continues," 21 November 2005, at www.forum18.org.
- ⁴⁵ Information from HRSU to the IHF, January 2006; IHF, *'One Can't Keep Silent' - The Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan*, 15 July 2005; AI, *Lifting the Siege on the Truth about Andizhan*, 20 September 2005.
- ⁴⁶ Information from HRSU to the IHF, January 2006; IHF, *'One Can't Keep Silent' - The Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan*, July 2005; AI, *Lifting the Siege on the Truth about Andizhan*, 20 September 2005; AI, "Kyrgyzstan: Fear of Forcible Return/Fear of Torture," 11 January 2006; AI, "Kazakhstan: Fear of Forcible Return/Fear of Torture," 20 December 2005.