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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, in response to the letter AL UZB 2/2025 dated 5 May 2025, has the honour to convey enclosed herewith response of the Government of Uzbekistan to the Joint Communication from the Special Procedures concerning Mr Mukhammadkadir Pulatov.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the OHCHR the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name of the representative of the Permanent Mission.



3 July 2025

Encl.: as stated, 6 pages

Attn.: Special Procedures Branch

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

Reply from the Government of Uzbekistan to the joint communication of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment concerning the case of Mukhammadkadir Pulatov (AL UZB 2/2025)

1. The Government of Uzbekistan has considered the joint communication of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of 5 May 2025 (AL UZB 2/2025) concerning the case of Mukhammadkadir Pulatov.

2. The Government of Uzbekistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of openness, mutual respect and constructive engagement with the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. Uzbekistan is ready for comprehensive and substantive dialogue on all issues related to the implementation of international human rights obligations and expresses its interest in further deepening its cooperation with the relevant special procedures.

3. Uzbekistan has steadfastly and consistently cooperated with the Charter-based and treaty-based human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, regularly providing information and giving due consideration to the recommendations and conclusions of the relevant international bodies to further improve its national system for the protection of human rights and freedoms.

4. In order to ensure objective, comprehensive and transparent consideration of the communication, we present a timeline of events and the circumstances established during the official investigation into the criminal case against Mukhammadkadir Erkinzhonovich Pulatov.

I. Factual background

5. Mukhammadkadir Pulatov, born in 2004, is a citizen of Uzbekistan, with a secondary education, with a previous conviction – he was sentenced by the Fergana City Court on 27 September 2023 under the second paragraph of article 277 (Hooliganism) of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan to 2 months' imprisonment – and resided before his arrest at [REDACTED]. At the time of his arrest, he was unmarried and fit for work.

6. The investigation and trial established that, on 18 August 2024, at approximately 9.30 p.m., Mr. Pulatov, by prior conspiracy with [REDACTED] while intoxicated in a public place, a grocery store located at [REDACTED] without any objective cause entered into a conflict with [REDACTED] who was a store customer. During the incident, Mr. Pulatov and [REDACTED] assaulted [REDACTED] repeatedly striking various parts of his body with their hands and feet. Moreover, the latter's wife, [REDACTED], was injured when she tried to stop their wrongdoing. In addition, as a result of these actions, Mr. Pulatov and [REDACTED] caused material damage for the store owner, [REDACTED] amounting to 40,000,000 sum.

7. All circumstances of the case were thoroughly and objectively examined during the official investigation. Their reliability is confirmed by the testimonies of witnesses, the findings of a forensic medical examination and other material in the criminal case file. In the light of all the evidence collected, on 11 November 2024, the Fergana City Criminal Court found Mr. Pulatov guilty – under article 277, third paragraph, subparagraphs (a) and (d), of the Criminal Code – of hooliganism, committed by a group of persons by prior conspiracy,

with the use of violence and causing significant property loss. The court sentenced Mr. Pulatov to 3 years' imprisonment to be served in a strict-regime correctional facility.

8. After the sentence entered into legal force, Mr. Pulatov was transferred from remand centre No. 10 to correctional colony No. 14, located in Almalyk, where he arrived on 7 December 2024.

9. Upon admission to the facility, Mr. Pulatov was provided with a separate bunk, clothing, including a set of underwear, and personal hygiene items, in full compliance with the national standards for the treatment of persons serving sentences.

II. M. Pulatov's application to the medical staff of correctional colony No. 14 and the medical assistance provided

10. According to the available data and official entries in the logs of applications for medical assistance, on 14 February 2025, Mr. Pulatov repeatedly complained to the medical staff of the correctional colony about his state of health. Each of his complaints was duly recorded in accordance with the established procedure, and the necessary diagnoses and treatment were provided in a timely and thorough manner.

11. On 14 February 2025, Mr. Pulatov informed an employee of the correctional facility's industrial zone that he was feeling unwell, complaining of headaches, weakness and nausea. He was immediately taken to the prison hospital, where the medical staff provided first aid, including injections of Analgin (2 ml, 50%) and Dimedrol (1 ml, 1%), and the drug Kupen was recommended.

12. Subsequently, due to the convicted person's deteriorating condition in the evening, it was decided that he needed to be hospitalized in order to receive qualified medical care at a civil medical facility. All the above actions were documented in the logs of examinations, procedures and appointments and were carried out in strict compliance with national medical standards and the international obligations assumed by Uzbekistan, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular rule 27, which requires that persons be transferred to specialized institutions when clinically indicated.

13. Due to the deterioration of the convicted person's condition, including a sharp drop in blood pressure, vomiting and signs of intoxication, the medical staff decided to hospitalize him immediately. According to the medical records, the accompanying symptoms required urgent clinical and laboratory diagnosis, which was not available in the penal institution. The decision to transfer him was made in accordance with rule 27 of the Nelson Mandela Rules. On 14 February 2025, at about 11.30 p.m., Mr. Pulatov was urgently taken to the Central City Hospital of Almalyk by ambulance on the recommendation of the medical staff of the correctional colony. The hospitalization was carried out in accordance with the necessary safety measures and under medical supervision.

14. According to the hospital record, No. 1460, at 11.40 p.m. of the same day, Mr. Pulatov was admitted to the emergency department of the Almalyk City Medical Association and placed in the intensive care unit. Despite the prompt actions of medical personnel and a series of resuscitation measures aimed at stabilizing his condition, Mr. Pulatov died on 15 February 2025 at 1 a.m.

15. According to forensic medical report No. 50 of 7 March 2025 by the Almalyk Department of Forensic Medical Examination for Tashkent Oblast, the cause of death of Mr. Pulatov was acute ischaemic heart disease, which developed against a background of severe chronic and comorbid conditions, including severe hypertrophy of the heart muscle, haemorrhages, vascular sclerosis, myocarditis, pleurisy, bronchopneumonia, gastritis and pancreatitis. There were no signs of bodily injury or violent death.

16. All of the above circumstances were duly recorded in accordance with established procedure – in registration logs, medical records and official records of the institution – and confirmed by written statements from the attending physicians.

17. The emergency hospitalization, transport of the convicted person and provision of medical care both on the territory of the correctional facility and in the city medical facility

were organized in a timely and thorough manner, in accordance with the applicable national regulations and laws on healthcare for persons in custody.

18. The State consistently implements its obligations to ensure the right of everyone, including persons deprived of their liberty, to receive qualified, accessible and continuous medical care, regardless of their legal status, in full compliance with the Constitution, the Healthcare Act and international standards, including the provisions of the Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 24 to 27, and article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

III. Investigation into the circumstances of Mr. Pulatov's death

19. On the day of the death of the convicted person, Mr. Pulatov, the prosecution authorities, health authorities and close relatives of the deceased were immediately notified.

20. An internal investigation was launched at the facility to assess the actions of the administration, sanitation staff and medical personnel at the Almalyk City Hospital. The inspection was conducted with the participation of representatives of the procurator's office and a medical board from the Ministry of Health.

21. The competent authorities immediately initiated the necessary actions in accordance with national legislation and international standards, including the Model Protocol for a Legal Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (Minnesota Protocol). An investigative team arrived at the scene, conducted an inspection, seized medical and administrative documents and ordered a forensic medical examination to establish the exact cause of death and the circumstances of the case. At the same time, an internal investigation was conducted into the actions of the medical staff and the administration of the facility, which found that all procedures and emergency measures had been carried out in a timely and thorough manner, in strict accordance with the rules for the provision of medical care.

22. As part of the preliminary inquiry, which began on 18 February 2025, convicted persons who were in close proximity to Pulatov were questioned, including: K. V.; S. K.; F. A.; S. R.; S. M.; K. B.; Z. I.; A. A.; and S. M.; and correctional colony officers N. N.; N. J.; B. A.; R. B.; I. P.; I. K.; S. D.; and Z. K. The convicted person's medical records, reports on the provision of assistance, logs of complaints and surveillance videos and the actions of the administration and medical staff on the day of the incident were examined.

23. The preliminary diagnosis recorded in medical record No. 1460 upon admission to Almalyk City Hospital ("unexplained acute poisoning", "acute pancreatitis", "comatose state") was tentative, based on the clinical picture at the time of hospitalization and was not confirmed during the examination.

24. In addition, video recordings from internal surveillance cameras installed in the industrial zone and medical unit of the facility were examined as part of the investigation. These records objectively confirm that Mr. Pulatov independently and repeatedly sought medical assistance, and the medical and duty personnel promptly, consistently and fully performed their duties, including a timely decision on his emergency hospitalization.

25. The additional forensic medical examinations and expert panel reviews concluded that report No. 50 of 7 March 2025 of the Almalyk Department of Forensic Medical Examination for Tashkent Oblast was issued in accordance with the law, and that prompt and thorough medical care had been provided to Mr. Pulatov by the medical staff of the colony and the doctors of the Almalyk City Hospital. However, despite the assistance provided, the biological death of the convicted person was recorded.

26. Based on the findings of the official inspection, it was established that the actions of the medical staff both in the correctional facility and in the civil hospital were in accordance with the approved national medical standards and the international obligations assumed by Uzbekistan. All procedures were documented, and the appropriate level of medical care was provided. No grounds for disciplinary action or other penalties were found.

27. The conclusion of the forensic medical examination and other materials were presented to the relatives of the deceased for review. In accordance with the provisions of the Healthcare Act, the information contained in a patient's medical records is confidential and may not be disclosed to third parties. Information subject to patient confidentiality may be

disclosed without the consent of the patient or the patient's legal representative upon the request of bodies conducting preliminary inquiries, preliminary investigations and investigations, the prosecutor's office and the court in connection with pretrial proceedings or court proceedings. Persons who have been duly provided with information subject to patient confidentiality are held liable for disclosing such information according to the law, on an equal footing with medical and pharmaceutical workers.

IV. Cases of deaths in custody

28. In connection with reports of two additional deaths in places of deprivation of liberty, the Government of Uzbekistan reaffirms its commitment to the principles of transparency and sincere cooperation, expressing its readiness to provide the competent international mechanisms with comprehensive information on the substance of each specific case, provided that accurate and verifiable data are available.

29. Uzbekistan has a mandatory and uniform procedure for all institutions to investigate every death in custody, involving relevant specialists, forensic medical examinations and a comprehensive analysis of all the circumstances of the incident. All investigations are carried out in strict accordance with national laws and international standards, including the requirements for an effective, independent and transparent determination of the causes and circumstances of death. In the event of violations or unlawful actions on the part of personnel, the persons responsible are subject to the penalties provided for by law. All actions are carried out in accordance with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules (rules 71, 74 and 83), the Minnesota Protocol and the recommendations of the Committee against Torture.

30. The Government of Uzbekistan reaffirms that the fulfilment of the right of everyone, including persons in detention, to life, healthcare, humane treatment and protection from arbitrary death, is regularly monitored by both State institutions and international organizations. All reports containing specific and verifiable information about potential violations are taken seriously and addressed in accordance with the country's international obligations.

V. Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture, the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Minnesota Protocol

31. During his detention, Mr. Pulatov was treated in accordance with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right to life. From the moment he first sought medical assistance, the convicted person received qualified medical care in accordance with national standards. When his health deteriorated, Pulatov was urgently hospitalized, which meets the requirements of rules 24, 27 and 31 of the Nelson Mandela Rules, requiring the State to provide prisoners with healthcare equivalent to that available in civil medical facilities.

32. In accordance with article 7 of the Covenant and the provisions of the Convention against Torture, an independent, objective and comprehensive investigation was initiated following the death of Mr. Pulatov. It was conducted in compliance with the basic requirements of the Minnesota Protocol, including:

- Inspection of the scene of the incident
- Forensic analysis
- Taking of statements
- Examination of video footage
- Legal analysis of the actions of officials

The inspection involved the prosecutor's office, representatives of the medical board and the investigative team.

33. The right to health, guaranteed by article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, was implemented through the provision of regular medical supervision, proper recording of complaints and treatment and preventive care. When his health condition deteriorated, the convicted person was immediately referred to a specialized civil hospital.

34. The Government of Uzbekistan is consistently implementing the recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/UZB/CO/5), in particular those relating to conditions of detention. Medical care in penal institutions is provided on the basis of the principles of non-discrimination, timeliness and equal access. The colonies' medical units are staffed with qualified specialists, and the procedure for providing assistance is approved by Ministry of Internal Affairs order No. 67 of 23 March 2019 and agreed upon with the Ministry of Health.

35. The medical care system in places of detention is integrated with the national health care system. This includes the provision of medicine, prevention, health inspection and regular monitoring by health authorities. An electronic system for monitoring medical prescriptions and referrals is also being introduced to improve accountability and transparency.

36. Uzbekistan has an independent mechanism for looking into complaints about cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Complaints from convicted persons are examined by the Oliy Majlis Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) and the procuratorial authorities. The mechanism operates on the principles of independence, impartiality and confidentiality, including through regular unannounced visits to places of detention.

37. In the event of death in custody, relatives of the deceased have the right to review the findings of the forensic medical examination, to file complaints and to initiate an independent examination. This ensures transparency, builds confidence and implements the provisions of article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with regard to effective remedies.

38. The 2030 National Human Rights Strategy, developed by the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan, provides for measures to improve the qualifications of law enforcement officers to investigate deaths in custody, in full compliance with the Minnesota Protocol.

39. The strategy includes the official translation of the Minnesota Protocol into Uzbek and the integration of its provisions into the training courses of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Office of the Procurator General, the penal system and other relevant authorities. This will allow for a uniform approach to documenting, investigating and reporting on deaths in custody.

40. The Government of Uzbekistan reaffirms its commitment to its international obligations and will continue to strengthen national mechanisms to prevent violations of the right to life and prohibit ill-treatment. Particular attention will be paid to enhancing the capacities of officials and ensuring that prisoners have effective access to protection and justice mechanisms, including through the introduction of the Minnesota Protocol as a practical investigative tool.