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**UZ/25 – 225**

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 3/2025 dated 12 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 Dawletmurat Tajimuratov.

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.



25 June 2025

Encl.: as stated, 19 pages

*Attn.: Special Procedures Branch*

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA

*Translated from Russian*

**Reply from the Government of Uzbekistan to the joint communication of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers of the Human Rights Council on the alleged continued arbitrary detention of D. Tajimuratov and allegations of violations of his rights**

*Ref. AL UZB 3/2025*

1. The Government of Uzbekistan takes this opportunity to convey to the special procedures the renewed assurances of its highest consideration and notes that it has carefully read the joint communication of 12 May 2025, submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 52/4, 51/8, 52/9 and 53/12, concerning the alleged continued arbitrary detention of Mr. Tajimuratov and allegations of new and ongoing violations of his rights.

2. The Government respects the mandates of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and acknowledges receipt of earlier communications sent on 2 August 2023 and 16 August 2024. The Government's responses were sent on 24 January 2024 and 12 November 2024, respectively.

3. The Government notes that it has taken into consideration the Working Group's opinion, as set out in document A/HRC/WGAD/2024/62. At the same time, the Government regrets that this opinion was formed based on one-sided information without fully considering the official legal position of Uzbekistan, which was presented during the dialogue with the special procedures, as follows.

3.1. Reply of the Government to the joint communication concerning the mass riots in the Republic of Karakalpakstan of 16 August 2024 from the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, M. Satterthwaite; the Vice-Chair on Communications of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, G. Yudkivska; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, M. Tidball-Binz; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, I. Khan; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, G. Romero; and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, M. Lawlor.

3.2.

[REDACTED]

3.3. Reply of the Government of Uzbekistan to the joint communication of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, C. Voule; Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, M. Gillett; and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, I. Khan, concerning the case of D. Tajimuratova of 2 August 2023.

3.4.

[REDACTED]

3.5. [REDACTED]

4. The Government emphasizes that Mr. Tajimuratov's fundamental rights were ensured during his criminal prosecution and trial, including the right to defence and access to a lawyer, the right to be heard in court, the right to appeal against actions and decisions and the right to a fair and public trial.

5. The judicial authorities of Uzbekistan have acted strictly in accordance with national legislation and the country's international obligations, including under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In this connection, the Government does not share the Working Group's conclusions on the arbitrariness of Mr. Tajimuratov's detention, considering them legally unfounded and not reflecting the facts of the case.

6. Uzbekistan is firmly committed to its international human rights obligations, including freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial and the prohibition of arbitrary detention. The country continues to implement judicial and legal reforms, thereby providing more opportunities for civil society and promoting respect for human rights.

7. The Government is guided by the principle of constructive engagement with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including special procedures, and reaffirms its commitment to continue cooperation based on respect for the principle of sovereignty, the rule of law and the reliability of information.

8. At the same time, the Government emphasizes that undue pressure, the dissemination of unverified information and the politicization of criminal cases considered to be in full compliance with national legislation and international human rights obligations are unacceptable.

9. In connection with the new joint communication regarding the case of Mr. Tajimuratov, the Government considers it necessary to provide the following information.

**Information on the criminal case against Mr. Tajimuratov**

10. On 1 and 2 July 2022, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, as a result of a distorted perception of proposed amendments to the draft Constitution of Uzbekistan and poor communication of the proposals to the public, a group of persons, using populist rhetoric and manipulating public trust, organized mass riots. Acting in violation of the lawful demands of the authorities, they attempted to seize the administrative buildings of local government bodies.

11. Despite repeated calls by government officials for the public order violations to be stopped, the unlawful actions of the protesters continued. As they advanced through the streets of Nukus, they caused significant damage to the city's infrastructure: shop windows were smashed, buildings were set on fire, and property was destroyed. Some groups tried to take over the buildings of the Central Department of Internal Affairs and the National Guard administration in an attempt to obtain weapons.

12. On 1 July 2022, Mr. Tajimuratov, who instigated the above-mentioned wrongful acts, was summoned by the internal affairs authorities at around 3:40 p.m to provide explanations as part of preventive legal measures provided for by national legislation, aimed at avoiding potential negative consequences resulting from his actions and those of his accomplices, which consisted in an attack on the constitutional order, public calls for unconstitutional changes in the existing State system and actions aimed at obstructing the lawful activities of State authorities in the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and violating the territorial integrity of Uzbekistan, contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of Uzbekistan.

13. [REDACTED]; his supporters went to the Nukus Dehqon Bozori Central Market intending to secure his release and began rallying other citizens to join them.

14. After the preventive interview with Mr. Tajimuratov the same day, at about 6 p.m., he was taken to the Nukus Markaziy Bozori Central Market, where about 10,000 people had gathered. In response to calls from Mr. Tajimuratov, and under the influence of his accomplices and supporters, the crowd began to riot.

15. On 4 July 2022, Mr. Tajimuratov was brought in as a suspect under article 159 of the Criminal Code and was detained under article 221 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. On 5 July 2022, Mr. Tajimuratov was charged under article 159 of the Criminal Code and, with the assistance of a lawyer, he was informed of his rights and obligations under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

16. On 5 July 2022, he was remanded in custody by a court decision as a preventive measure.

17. According to the verdict of the Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan of 31 January 2023, Mr. Tajimuratov was found guilty of crimes under the Criminal Code, article 159 (Conspiracy to seize power or overthrow the constitutional order of the Republic of Uzbekistan), article 167 (a) (Large-scale theft of property), article 243 (Money-laundering), article 244 (Organization of mass riots involving violence against a person, pogroms, arson, damage to or destruction of property, resistance to a representative of the authorities with the use or threat of use of weapons or other objects used as weapons and active participation in mass riots), and article 244<sup>1</sup> (a) (b) and (d) (Production or possession of material containing separatist ideas for the purpose of dissemination, dissemination of information and materials containing separatist ideas in any form, calls for pogroms or action aimed at creating panic among the population, committed by prior conspiracy or by a group of persons, using their official position or the mass media, telecommunications networks or the Internet), for which he was sentenced to 16 years' deprivation of liberty in a strict regime colony.

18. On 5 June 2023, the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan upheld the judgment against Mr. Tajimuratov on appeal. The judicial review body of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan also upheld the judgment.

19. To obtain an objective picture of the events that took place in the Republic of Karakalpakstan in July 2022, an independent commission to investigate the facts and events that occurred was established the same month, headed by the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis, the parliament of Uzbekistan. The Commission included deputies, senators and representatives of local and foreign human rights non-governmental organizations.

#### **I. Alleged violations between July 2022 and November 2024**

1.

[REDACTED]





[REDACTED]

**6. Allegations made in communication AL UZB 2/2023 concerning the purportedly unknown whereabouts of Mr. Tajimuratov following his arrest**

51. The allegation contained in communication AL UZB 2/2023 concerning the purportedly unknown whereabouts of Mr. Tajimuratov following his arrest on 4 July 2022 is not true. Since his arrest, he has been monitored by law enforcement authorities in accordance with the law. All investigative actions were duly recorded.

52. His procedural status, location and right to defence were fully ensured in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Criminal Procedure. His relatives and lawyer were notified of his arrest and whereabouts, as documentary evidence shows. All investigative actions were carried out with the participation of his defence lawyer, [REDACTED]. During his detention, Mr. Tajimuratov was regularly visited by representatives of the procuratorial authorities to check his conditions of detention and compliance with procedural guarantees. His health was monitored, as evidenced by the records of medical examinations conducted at regular intervals.

53. During monitoring, including individual interviews with Mr. Tajimuratov, it was established that the detainees confirmed that they had lawyers, that there were no obstacles to visits with relatives, that they received parcels and that the conditions of detention and food were satisfactory.

54. Therefore, the allegations regarding Mr Tajimuratov's "unknown whereabouts" are unfounded and based on an inaccurate or distorted interpretation of the facts.

**7. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 concerning the reported forcible shaving of Mr. Tajimuratov's head during his pretrial detention**

55. The Government considers the allegations that Mr. Tajimuratov's head was forcibly shaved while he was in detention to be unfounded. This practice is not permitted by law or internal regulations, and it was not applied in this case, as evidenced by photos and videos from the court hearings.

**8. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 concerning the harassment and intimidation of Mr. Tajimuratov by other detainees**

56. The Government submits that there have been no confirmed cases in which Mr. Tajimuratov was subjected to intimidation, pressure or harassment by other persons in detention.

57. The Government emphasizes that, during regular monitoring visits, including individual interviews with the Ombudsman, members of the Commission and representatives of community-based groups, Mr. Tajimuratov did not report any intimidation or pressure from other detainees. This information is recorded in the official reports of the observers.

**9. Allegations with reference to communication AL UZB 2/2023 concerning physical and psychological abuse by officers of the remand centre in Urgench and inhumane conditions of detention**

58. The Government categorically rejects the allegations made in communication AL UZB 2/2023 on alleged cases of physical or psychological violence against Mr. Tajimuratov by officers of the remand centre in Urgench. These allegations are not borne out by the results of investigations, medical reports and independent monitoring data.

59. Internal investigations conducted by the Office of the Procurator General, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security Service found no evidence to support these allegations. There were no complaints brought by Mr. Tajimuratov against officers of the remand centre during his detention or during subsequent investigations.

60. Mr. Tajimuratov was under constant medical supervision from the moment he arrived at the remand centre. Initial and subsequent examinations revealed no signs of bodily injury, as confirmed by the medical documents drawn up in accordance with the established rules.

61. The conditions of detention in the remand centre comply with national legislation and international standards for the treatment of prisoners. The premises are equipped with the necessary sanitary facilities, adequate access to medical care is provided, and nutrition and personal safety standards are observed.

62. During monitoring visits conducted by the Commission, led by the Ombudsman and community-based groups, no violations of the conditions of detention or evidence of physical or psychological violence were found. Visits were organized to the Nukus special holding centre (on 21 July 2022 ); the Nukus remand centre (on 18 and 30 August, 13 October 13 and 1 November 2022 ); the Urgench remand centre (on 6 September 2022 ); and the Bukhara remand centre (on 23 and 28 December 2022 ). During the visits, the conditions of detention were examined and individual interviews were conducted, including with Mr. Tajimuratov.

63. In addition, in January 2024, penal colony No. 11 (KIN-11) was visited by the Chair of the independent Ezgulik Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, A. Tashanov, who held a personal meeting with Mr. Tajimuratov and saw for himself the conditions of his detention. The visit found no violations of the detention conditions that could endanger Mr. Tajimuratov's life, health or dignity.

**10. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 on the purportedly poor quality of food at penal colony No. 11 in Navoi Oblast**

64. The Government submits that the allegations set out in Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 concerning the poor quality of food at penal colony No. 11 are untrue.

65. Meals in this facility are organized in accordance with the provisions approved by Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 143 of 16 March 2021. Convicted persons are provided with three hot meals a day, which are balanced in terms of calorie content and composition. The diet is put together by taking into account the physiological needs, medical conditions and the type of work performed by each convicted person. The menu has been developed in collaboration with the National Association of Cooks, and it covers the main food groups.

66. The quality of nutrition is constantly monitored by medical staff and health authorities. No complaints about the food were received from the convicted persons, including Mr Tajimuratov, during the inspections and monitoring.

67. The allegations of forced expressions of gratitude are untrue and are not corroborated by the findings of the investigations of the Office of the Procurator General or the penal institutions' records.

**11. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 on the purportedly poor quality of medical care at penal colony No. 11 in Navoi Oblast**

68. Convicted persons and persons in custody have the right to medical care on a 24-hour basis. All medical examinations are conducted by qualified specialists in compliance with established procedural and ethical standards and mandatory medical documentation requirements.

69. Medical and preventive care departments with outpatient and inpatient units operate in penal institutions and remand centres.

70. Medical care is provided in full, both on the basis of inmates' requests and as part of routine examinations. For the purpose of early detection of diseases, all persons entering institutions undergo an initial medical examination and preventive examinations at least once every six months.

71. If there are indications for specialized medical care, convicted persons are referred to specialized medical institutions or relevant organizations of the Ministry of Health; in emergency cases, emergency medical assistance is called in. Medical and health support,

including medicines and hygiene products, is provided from the State budget as part of the guaranteed volume of free medical care.

72. In the event of illness or the need for a prisoner to undergo drug therapy, the medical staff of the institution prescribe a course of treatment and provide the prisoner with the appropriate medical drugs, which are replenished and purchased by the medical department of the colony on a monthly basis. In addition, persons serving sentences may take various vitamin supplements (purchased by family members) provided after being checked by medical staff and inspectors.

73. On the Ombudsman's initiative, in-depth preventive examinations with the participation of specialized specialists are organized in penal institutions, including in penal colony No. 11, in cooperation with the Penalties Enforcement Department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

74. Upon arrival at penal colony No. 11, Mr. Tajimuratov underwent an initial medical examination. He was subject to regular medical check-ups owing to chronic diseases that had been identified, and throughout his stay in the institution he received the necessary medical care. His health has been under constant medical supervision, and no life-threatening incidents have been reported.

**12. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 on denial of access to information and educational materials**

75. Persons deprived of their liberty are not restricted in their access to information or educational and cultural resources. Ensuring these rights is one of the priority tasks of the penal system, in accordance with national legislation and international standards.

76. Institutions of the penal system have libraries with reading rooms. The collections include works of history, law, science, religion and spirituality. Convicted persons have free access to these reading materials in accordance with established procedures.

77. They have the right to receive and purchase writing materials and reading matter, including through commercial outlets, and to subscribe to periodicals without restriction. Purchased reading material is not included in the limit on permitted transfers and parcels.

78. Convicted persons are also ensured the right to cultural information, such as watching television programmes and films and listening to the radio. According to Act No. ZRU-817 of 16 February 2023, these resources may be used during free time, except during lights out.

79. Mr. Tajimuratov has access to television, radio, newspapers and magazines. Claims that he has been denied information are unfounded and have been refuted by inspections conducted by the Ombudsman and community-based groups.

**13. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 on the denial of contact with other convicted persons**

80. The Government submits that the allegations of denial of contact with other prisoners are unfounded. These allegations were not corroborated during the inspections conducted by the Ombudsman and members of community-based groups.

**14. Allegations with reference to the Working Group's opinion No. 62/2024 on the purported imposition of punishment for refusing to sing the national anthem of Uzbekistan**

81. The Government submits that the claim that disciplinary action was taken against the Mr. Tajimuratov for refusing to sing the national anthem of Uzbekistan has not been corroborated.

82. Uzbek law does not stipulate that convicted inmates must sing the national anthem. The singing of the anthem is not a mandatory element of the internal regulations of correctional institutions.

**15. Allegations made in communication AL UZB 3/2024 concerning the purported failure to provide clean drinking water and personal protective equipment during work at the lime factory**

83. The allegations concerning supposedly inadequate working conditions and a lack of personal protective equipment and access to clean drinking water in relation to Mr. Tajimuratov are not true.

84. The production sites are provided with a constant water supply. Convicted persons are provided with clean drinking water from a centralized city system that meets safety standards. Furthermore, water filters have been installed for water purification.

85. The work of convicted persons is organized in accordance with labour law. All convicted persons, including Mr. Tajimuratov, who are assigned to work, undergo mandatory safety training and are provided with the necessary personal protective equipment, including special clothing, respirators, gloves and other equipment in accordance with the nature of the work.

86. Convicted persons engaged in work involving exposure to harmful substances are given free rinsing and neutralizing agents in accordance with health regulations.

87. During the monitoring visit between 24 and 26 April 2025, community groups and the Ombudsman examined the working conditions in the lime production workshop where Mr. Tajimuratov works and held conversations with the convicted inmates. They did not make any complaints.

#### **16. Allegations of non-transparency of the investigation into the purported violations of Mr. Tajimuratov's rights**

88. Allegations of a lack of transparency in investigations into supposed violations are untrue. The relevant authorities – the Office of the Procurator General, the State Security Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other authorized bodies – conducted internal investigations into each of the allegations. The investigation procedures were in accordance with the applicable law and included interviews, visits and medical examinations and an assessment of human rights compliance.

#### **17. Allegations of denial of access to evidence, including closed-circuit television (CCTV) recordings**

89. According to the principles of equality of arms and adversarial proceedings established in article 22 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, accused persons have the right to access the evidence that is being used against them.

90. In the case of Mr. Tajimuratov, all case files were provided to the defence in accordance with the established procedure. In the absence of specific evidence in the case, the defence could have filed a petition to have it introduced or requested access to it through legal proceedings. There were no restrictions on the exercise of these rights.

#### **18. Allegations that any statements that may have been made by Mr. Tajimuratov to the investigating authorities or the Commission of Inquiry were obtained while he was being held in custody and may have been influenced by fear of retaliation**

91. Claims that Mr. Tajimuratov's testimony was supposedly given under pressure or out of fear of retaliation are speculative and have not been corroborated either during the investigation, during the court proceedings or during the Commission's independent review.

92. All of Mr. Tajimuratov's statements during the preliminary investigation and his interactions with the Commission were recorded in strict accordance with national law. He was granted procedural safeguards, including the right to a defence, the right to freedom from coercion to testify and the right not to testify against himself. All interrogations were conducted in the presence of a lawyer, as confirmed by the relevant records.

93. The Commission acted independently and with the participation of civil society. During confidential meetings, Mr. Tajimuratov did not report any pressure or threats, either verbally or in writing.

94. In accordance with the principles of fair trial, any statements made while a person is deprived of his or her liberty may only be used if there is no reason to believe that they were made involuntarily. The admissibility of Mr. Tajimuratov's testimony was assessed by the court, and the defence had every opportunity to challenge it, including by claiming pressure was exerted and requesting expert examinations.

95. Thus, allegations that his statements may have been made under duress or fear were not borne out by the investigation, the trial or the Commission's independent review.

## **II. Alleged violations since November 2024**

**19. Allegations of beatings of Mr. Tajimuratov in December 2024**

96. The Government has examined the information contained in communication AL UZB 3/2025 concerning the alleged beating of Mr. Tajimuratov on 4 and 16 December 2024 in penal colony No. 11.

97. According to the official data recorded in the records of the correctional institution, there were reported complaints, violations of prison rules or use of force against Mr. Tajimuratov on the dates indicated.

98. In December 2024, Mr. Majimuratov underwent several medical examinations, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] the relevant reports are available in the medical records.

99. The situation regarding the observance of Mr. Tajimuratov's rights is under constant monitoring by the Ombudsman and community groups as part of the national preventive mechanism. In 2024, penal colony No. 11 was visited about 10 times, and two monitoring visits took place in the first half of 2025.

100. Therefore, the allegations of physical abuse of Mr. Tajimuratov in December 2024 are unfounded.

**20. Allegation of possible addition of an unknown substance to Mr. Tajimuratov's food**

101. The Government has examined the allegation that an unknown substance was added to Mr. Tajimuratov's food, causing dizziness and numbness, and found it to be unfounded. However, the exact date of the incident is unknown, as indicated in the communication.

102. We would like to inform you that we have not previously received this information officially from the convicted person himself, his representatives or his relatives. Furthermore, Mr. Tajimuratov did not report any deterioration in health consistent with the above-mentioned symptoms.

103. At penal colony No. 11, meals for prisoners are organized centrally according to a set schedule under the supervision of medical staff. All meals are inspected for quality and compliance with health and safety regulations.

104. Mr. Tajimuratov's meals are provided on a general basis; individual portions are not available, which makes it impossible to deliberately add extraneous substances.

105. Medical staff regularly monitor his condition. No symptoms of food poisoning or intoxication were observed during the entire period.

106. Therefore, the allegations of an attempt to exert pressure on Mr. Tajimuratov through food are not substantiated from an organizational, medical or procedural point of view.

**21. Allegations of psychological and physical torture of Mr. Tajimuratov in March 2025 by other prisoners on instructions from penal colony officials**

107. The Government has consistently implemented a zero tolerance policy on torture and firmly rejects the allegations contained in the communication of 28 March 2025 regarding the purported psychological and physical pressure on Mr. Tajimuratov, including claims that he was beaten by other convicts on instructions from officials of penal colony No. 11.

108. These allegations were the subject of an internal investigation involving the Office of the Procurator General, medical professionals and representatives of the Ombudsman. Additionally, during the monitoring visit of the community groups between 24 and 26 April 2025, Mr. Tajimuratov was offered a private meeting, which he declined.

109. Neither during the aforementioned investigations nor as a result of independent monitoring were any signs of ill-treatment identified. Nor were any facts established regarding the involvement of the penal colony administration in unlawful actions on the part of other convicts.

110. All penal institutions, including colony No. 11, are equipped with a video surveillance system without blind spots, integrated into the Situation Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which allows for continuous monitoring of the actions of staff and convicted persons.

111. In the first quarter of 2025, the Ombudsman and community groups conducted 202 monitoring visits to places of deprivation of liberty, including 47 to correctional colonies and

31 to remand centres. There were no reports of violations against Mr Tajimuratov following these visits.

112. Therefore, the allegations made in the 28 March 2025 communication are not supported by objective data.

**22. Allegations of theft of Mr. Tajimuratov's personal belongings and possible intimidation by fellow inmates**

113. The Government rejects the allegations contained in communication AL UZB 3/2025 concerning the alleged theft of personal belongings, including the diary of Mr. Tajimuratov, and the purported intimidation by other prisoners with the acquiescence of the administration, as these are not corroborated by objective data and the results of the investigations carried out.

114. Following the claim filed by Mr. Tajimuratov with the procuratorial authorities about being beaten by internal affairs officers and the theft of his personal belongings (memo pad, notebook and some personal belongings), officers from the procurator's office checked the footage from the surveillance cameras, not only from the penal colony, but also the body cameras worn by the guards. No evidence was found to confirm that prison guards, inmates or other penal colony staff used physical force against Mr. Tajimuratov. In this regard, and given the absence of any signs of wrongdoing on the part of the internal affairs officers and the persons serving their sentences, the procurator's office declined to initiate criminal proceedings under article 83 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**23. Allegation of deliberate deprivation of food of Mr. Tajimuratov between 4 and 7 March 2025 while he was in a punishment cell**

115. The Government took seriously the information that, from 4 to 7 March 2025, Mr. Tajimuratov was allegedly denied the opportunity to break his fast during the holy month of Ramadan and was not given food while in a punishment cell.

116. Uzbek laws guarantee convicted persons the right to freedom of religion, including the ability to perform religious rites and use religious objects and religious literature, provided that the established procedure is observed.

117. Penal institutions provide three hot meals a day at set times, in accordance with an approved schedule.

118. Regarding Mr Tajimuratov, there is no evidence that he was refused food or that it was withdrawn. According to internal documentation and CCTV footage, food was served on time and at set times. No complaints were received from the convicted person himself on this matter.

119. Therefore, the allegation of deliberate deprivation of food during solitary confinement was not supported by documentary evidence or the findings of the independent investigations.

**24. Allegations that Mr. Tajimuratov was forced to work in the production of lime and coal without adequate personal protective equipment**

120. The Government rejects the allegations that Mr. Tajimuratov was forced to work in the production of lime and coal without adequate personal protective equipment.

121. There is no coal production at penal colony No. 11, and therefore the information about his work at the "coal plant" is not based on fact.

122. In accordance with article 88 of the Penalties Enforcement Code, the labour of convicted persons is organized in penal institutions and the entities operating under them in compliance with requirements relating to occupational health and safety, security and segregation.

123. Convicted persons, including Mr. Tajimuratov, are provided with protective clothing and personal protective equipment in accordance with established sanitary and industrial safety standards. This right is observed in accordance with labour law, taking into account the specific nature of the work performed.

124. Safe working conditions are monitored by the administration of the penal institution, the Procurator's Office and independent monitoring bodies.

125. No violations were revealed during regular occupational health and safety inspections at penal colony No. 11.

126. Furthermore, no complaints were received from Mr. Tajimuratov regarding this issue during the visit by the community-based groups affiliated with the Ombudsman from 24 to 26 April 2025.

**25. Allegations of the deterioration of Mr. Tajimuratov's health in 2025**

127. The Government submits that the information about the alleged deterioration of Mr. Tajimuratov's health in 2025 is not corroborated. He is under regular medical supervision in accordance with the law.

128. Preventive medical examinations are conducted at least once every six months, and free treatment is provided at the State's expense if necessary.



**26. Allegations regarding the sanitary conditions of Mr. Tajimuratov's detention**

130. The Government rejects the allegations that Mr. Tajimuratov was provided with a filthy mattress and bedding.

131. In accordance with the requirements of the Penalties Enforcement Code and sanitary and hygiene standards, all persons serving sentences in penal institutions are provided with individual bunks, bedding, standard-issue clothing and seasonal underwear and shoes. Bedding must be regularly changed and sanitized at specified intervals.

132. There have been no reports of inappropriate personal items being issued, and the Ombudsman did not receive any complaints on this matter from the convicted person or his relatives.

**27. Allegations concerning the detention of Mr. Tajimuratov in solitary confinement**

133. The Government denies reports that Mr. Tajimuratov was placed in solitary confinement three times, including allegedly for refusing to sing the national anthem.

134. Disciplinary measures against convicted persons are applied in accordance with the Penalties Enforcement Code.

135. Mr. Tajimuratov was subject to disciplinary punishment because of repeated violations of internal regulations. In March 2025, Mr. Tajimuratov was placed in a punishment cell for 10 days as a result of a conflict he provoked with another prisoner for no reason.

136. Therefore, the claims that the disciplinary measures against Mr. Tajimuratov were unlawful lack a legal basis.

**28. Claims of the supposedly unwarranted restriction on or curtailment of visits from Mr. Tajimuratov's family**

137. The Government has looked into the claims about supposedly unwarranted restrictions on Mr. Tajimuratov's visits with his family, including the postponement of a long visit from January to March 2025 and its shortening from three to two days.

138. Under article 76 of the Penalties Enforcement Code, persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty are entitled to short and extended visits. Their frequency and duration are determined by the colony regime, sanitary and living conditions of the penal institution, the convicted person's conduct and the established rotation.

139. Since 2024, Mr. Tajimuratov has had seven short and five extended family visits, and in 2025 alone he met with his lawyer five times.

140. The extended visit scheduled for January 2025 did not take place due to a disciplinary action for violating internal regulations. Mr. Tajimuratov was informed of this, and the legality of the penalty was upheld by the Procurator's Office.

141. In March 2025, he was granted an extended visit in accordance with established procedures. Shortening its duration does not constitute a violation the law. According to article 76 of the Penalties Enforcement Code, extended visits may last up to three days, the exact duration being determined by the administration based on the available opportunities, schedule and conditions of detention.

142. No complaints on this matter were received from Mr. Tajimuratov or his relatives.

**29. Claims of supposed delays or unwarranted shortening of Mr. Tajimuratov's telephone calls with his family**

143. The Government firmly rejects allegations of delays or unwarranted restrictions on telephone calls between Mr. Tajimuratov and his family, as these are not supported by documentary evidence and do not reflect the actual situation.

144. According to article 77 of the Penalties Enforcement Code, convicted persons have the right to telephone conversations with their relatives. Their frequency and duration depend on the established regime, technical conditions and behaviour. Restrictions may be imposed only on grounds provided for by law.

145. Mr. Tajimuratov was allowed to make telephone calls to his family within the limits set by the institution's regime. In some cases, delays may have occurred solely for technical reasons or due to the necessity of adhering to the order of rotation among other convicted persons. The restrictions were not systematic or discriminatory in nature.

146. No complaints have been received from the convicted person himself, his legal representatives or relatives on this matter.

147. Monitoring visits of the community-based groups confirmed that his right to make telephone calls was being exercised without violation.

**30. Claims of the supposed denial of access to correspondence and parcels to Mr. Tajimuratov without sufficient explanation**

148. The Government rejects the claims of the supposed refusals to grant Mr. Tajimuratov access to correspondence, delays in receiving letters, failure to deliver certain letters to his relatives and the return of parcels sent to him by his family without sufficient grounds.

149. Under article 78 of the Penalties Enforcement Code, convicted persons have the right to correspond and receive parcels. Correspondence may only be monitored within the limits established by law, except for letters addressed to lawyers, procurators, the Ombudsman and international bodies.

150. Correspondence and parcels must be delivered to prisoners in accordance with the established procedures. No evidence of unjustified refusal to receive or send letters and parcels in relation to Mr. Tajimuratov has been found. No complaints have been received from the convicted person, his representatives or relatives regarding these issues.

151. Individual parcels were returned exclusively for objective reasons in accordance with the established procedure and were documented with an explanation of the reasons for the return.

152. Letters and telegrams are registered, screened and delivered within the specified time limits. No evidence of unjustified delays or interference in Mr Tajimuratov's correspondence has been found.

**31. Claims of alleged threats to transfer Mr. Tajimuratov to a stricter colony regime since November 2024**

153. The Government rejects the claims that, since November 2024, Mr. Tajimuratov has allegedly been repeatedly threatened by correctional officers to be transferred to a prison with a stricter regime for serving his sentence, which are not borne out by the results of investigations, internal review records and independent monitoring data.

154. According to article 112<sup>1</sup> of the Penalties Enforcement Code and article 537 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, transfer is only possible by court order if there are systematic violations and mandatory procuratorial supervision. No such measures were taken regarding Mr. Tajimuratov.

155. No evidence of pressure or threats from the institution's administration has been found. The conditions of detention of the convicted person comply with the requirements established by law.

156. No complaints on this matter have been received by the Ombudsman from the convicted person, his representatives or relatives. No violations were found during monitoring.

**32. Allegations of obstacles to filing complaints by Mr. Tajimuratov and lack of response from the competent authorities**

157. The Government rejects the claim that the administration of the institution reportedly prevented Mr. Tajimuratov from submitting complaints to the competent authorities, including the application of 23 December 2024, as unfounded.

158. Proposals, applications and complaints addressed to the procurator or the courts, the Ombudsman or the Presidential Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights and Legitimate Interests of Business Entities are not subject to review by the administration of the institution and must be forwarded to the addressees within 24 hours.

159. The complaint brought by Mr. Tajimuratov on 23 December 2024 was registered by the administration of penal colony No. 11 and sent to the Office of the Procurator General and other competent authorities. Following its review, the Procurator General's Office reported that the facts set out in the application were not supported by the documentary evidence.

160. Therefore, the allegations that Mr. Tajimuratov was prevented from exercising his right to appeal and that the relevant authorities failed to act are not substantiated.

### **III. Information on the questions raised in the communication**

#### **33. Measures taken to investigate new allegations of ill-treatment of Mr. Tajimuratov, including beatings and the introduction of an unknown substance to his food, and his access to relevant evidence**

161. The Government submits that the allegations of new cases of ill-treatment of Mr. Tajimuratov in penal colony No. 11 are untrue and are not borne out by the results of investigations carried out by competent State bodies, including the Office of the Procurator General, or by the records of the penal institutions.

162. All arguments presented were considered in accordance with established procedures, appropriate measures were taken, and the findings were documented. Currently, there is no basis for initiating criminal proceedings or taking other procedural measures. Supervision over the observance of the rights of the convicted person continues.

#### **34. Provision of protective clothing and protective equipment to Mr. Tajimuratov for use in his work activities**

163. The convicted person's work activities are carried out in accordance with occupational safety, health and hygiene laws. At the same time, during work the latter are provided with the necessary personal protective equipment (respirators, special protective glasses, gloves and other equipment). All necessary protective equipment is provided in accordance with established procedures and is certified.

164. All convicted persons, including Mr. Tajimuratov, undergo occupational health and safety training, and initial and periodic medical examinations, before being allowed to work.

165. In penal institutions, convicted persons are not employed in coal plant work.

#### **35. Measures taken to ensure the safety and decent conditions of detention of Mr. Tajimuratov in accordance with international standards**

166. Uzbekistan is a Party to key international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee against Torture. These obligations have been incorporated into national legislation, and State authorities are consistently implementing policies to ensure human rights, including in the context of enforcing sentences. In this regard, the claims made in the document are not supported by corroborating evidence of violations of Mr. Tajimuratov's rights, as described in the communication AL UZB 3/2025.

167. From 13 June 2023 to the present time, Mr. Tajimuratov has been serving his sentence in penal colony No. 11 of the Penalties Enforcement Department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the prisoner has not been transferred to other penal institutions during this period.

168. In accordance with the Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 143 of 16 March 2021, the prisoner has been provided with the necessary food, hygiene products and seasonal clothing and headwear.

169. The convicted person has the right to personal safety and may at any time file a relevant application with the administration of the institution.

170. The conditions of detention are constantly monitored by the Procurator's Office, the Ombudsman and members of the community-based groups. In 2024 and 2025, regular visits were conducted, during which no violations were found.

171. Complaints of convicted persons must be forwarded without censorship and within the prescribed time limits, including to the Procurator's Office, the Ombudsman and other organizations in accordance with the established procedure. No complaints have been received from Mr. Tajimuratov regarding threats to his safety, mistreatment or deterioration of his health.

#### **IV. Response to the calls of the special procedures presented in communication AL UZB 3/2025**

##### **36. Call for the release of Mr. Tajimuratov, compensation and other reparation**

172. The Government considers it necessary to emphasize that the legal system in Uzbekistan is based on the principles of judicial independence, the presumption of innocence and adversarial proceedings.

173. The criminal case against Mr. Tajimuratov was considered under Uzbek law. Procedural guarantees, including the right to defence, the presumption of innocence, the right to a public trial and the right to appeal, were observed in accordance with the Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure of Uzbekistan. The verdict came into legal force after the Supreme Court considered the case on appeal. To date, there has been no documentary evidence of any procedural violations during the investigation or trial. There are currently no grounds for reviewing the sentence or declaring it unlawful. There are no grounds for releasing Mr. Tajimuratov.

174. Compensation may be granted under national law only in cases where violations of criminal law or criminal procedure have been established in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law. To date, the courts of Uzbekistan have not recognized the actions against Mr. Tajimuratov as being either unlawful or a violation of his rights, which excludes any legal grounds for granting compensation.

##### **37. Call to guarantee Mr. Tajimuratov's safety and ensure that conditions of detention are consistent with international standards**

175. The Government reaffirms that ensuring the safety of persons in custody and compliance with conditions of detention in accordance with national and international standards is an absolute priority for the country's prison system. All rights of convicted persons are respected in accordance with the Penalties Enforcement Code, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and other international standards.

176. All conditions provided for by law have been fulfilled with regard to Mr. Tajimuratov. He has been provided with accommodation in accordance with established sanitary and living standards and afforded safety, regular meals, access to medical care and the opportunity to exercise the right to file complaints, correspond, make telephone calls, receive parcels and receive visits from relatives. He also has been ensured the right to freedom of religion.

##### **38. Call to conduct a thorough and independent investigation into all alleged violations of Mr. Tajimuratov's rights and to hold those responsible accountable**

177. Official investigations were conducted into reports that Mr. Tajimuratov was subjected to physical abuse, stun guns, psychological pressure, threats of arbitrary transfer and the denial of medical care and clean water. The investigations found that Mr. Tajimuratov has been treated in accordance with the law and that no violations have been committed by officials from the investigative bodies and correctional institutions. Mr. Tajimuratov stated in his interview that his rights had been respected. There has been no objective evidence to support the allegations of torture and other violations.

##### **V. Response to the possible publication of a press release and calls for interim measures to be taken**

178. The Government reaffirms its commitment to open and constructive engagement with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and considers it necessary to note that all claims concerning alleged violations of the rights of Mr. Tajimuratov have been carefully

examined and that reasoned responses based on factual data, national legislation and the international obligations assumed by Uzbekistan have been provided in response to each of them.

179. The relevant competent authorities continue to ensure that all the rights of the convicted person are respected, including his right to decent conditions of detention, protection from ill-treatment and access to legal representation, religious practices, complaints and applications, and the right to maintain contact with his family.

180. In view of the above, the Government expects that any press release or other public statement will ensure that the position of Uzbekistan is reflected, taking into account the explanations provided and the official position set out in response to this communication.

181. Uzbekistan remains open to dialogue with international human rights mechanisms and reiterates its commitment to further constructive cooperation based on mutual respect and impartiality.

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