

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Amnesty International visits Uzbekistan after fourteen-year hiatus

An Amnesty International delegation is travelling to Uzbekistan at short notice from 22-25 May. This is the first official visit by Amnesty International since 2004. The delegation, which consists of Marie Struthers, Director of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECA) and Denis Krivosheev, EECA Deputy Director, will meet with government officials and civil society representatives.

“We welcome the readiness of the Uzbekistani authorities to renew dialogue with the international human rights community,” said Marie Struthers. “We look forward to discussing in person our current and past human rights concerns.”

“While some positive steps taken by the authorities over the last eighteen months are encouraging, especially the prohibition of the use of torture to force confessions, much remains to be done to fully address the grave human rights violations of the past. We have prepared a list of recommendations and hope that officials in Tashkent will take them into consideration. They include mechanisms for the rehabilitation of all those prosecuted on politically-motivated charges, and impartial and effective investigations of previous human rights abuses.”

Amnesty International delegates last visited Uzbekistan in 2004 to attend an international conference on the abolition of the death penalty jointly organised by Amnesty International and the Uzbekistani NGO ‘Mothers Against the Death Penalty’.

In July 2017, Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov announced that international human rights organizations were welcome to visit Uzbekistan.

Public Document

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