

government replied to the urgent appeal, stating that the trial had been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Shariah and the law; all are equal before the Shariah, the Constitution and the law; and there had been no discrimination on the grounds of belief of nationality.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 534)

The report notes that an urgent appeal was sent to the government on behalf of a Lebanese Christian who was arrested for having married a Muslim woman. The individual was reportedly beaten and flogged while in police custody. The report states that a Shariah court ruled the man's marriage was null and void and that "because the marriage was immoral, he should receive 39 lashes and a one-year prison sentence."

**Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV)

In the section on trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the report refers to women from Uganda who are lured to Dubai where they are forced to work as prostitutes to pay back the debt accrued from their migration. The report notes that in some cases traffickers withhold all money.

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## UZBEKISTAN

**Date of admission to UN:** 2 March 1992.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

**Land and People:** Uzbekistan has not provided a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**  
Acceded: 28 September 1995.

Uzbekistan's initial report was due on 6 June 1997.

**Civil and Political Rights**

Acceded: 28 September 1995.

Uzbekistan's initial report was due on 27 December 1996.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 28 September 1995.

**Racial Discrimination**

Acceded: 28 September 1995.

Uzbekistan's initial report was due on 28 October 1996.

**Discrimination against Women**

Acceded: 19 July 1995.

Uzbekistan's initial report was due on 18 August 1996.

**Torture**

Acceded: 28 September 1995.

Uzbekistan's initial report was due on 27 October 1996.

**Rights of the Child**

Acceded: 29 June 1994.

Uzbekistan's initial report was due on 28 August 1996.

### COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The situation in Uzbekistan was considered by the Commission at its 1997 session under the confidential 1503 procedure. The Commission decided at that session to discontinue consideration of Uzbekistan and did not take any action

officially to move discussions into public meetings under another agenda item.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

**Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary:** (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 366-368)

The Working Group (WG) did not receive reports of any new cases of disappearance in Uzbekistan but did retransmit two cases to the government on the basis of new information. The cases involved an Islamic religious leader and his assistant who were reportedly detained in August 1995 by the National Security Service in Tashkent as they were waiting to board an international flight. A third case recently brought to the WG's attention was referred to the government and involved the leader of the Islamic Renaissance Party, an unregistered political party, who was allegedly arrested in 1992 by men believed to be government agents. The government's replies to these three cases indicated that the investigations and a search for the three missing persons were continuing.

**Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 15, 18, 28; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, para. 554)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) sent an urgent appeal to the government, together with the SRs on the question of torture and the independence of judges and lawyers, on behalf of a defendant found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. The appeal was based on information that had been received, indicating that the defendant had confessed under duress and that there were numerous violations of the right to a fair trial.

**Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/32, paras. 15, 17, 20, 21, 184-185)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) requested an invitation from the government to visit Uzbekistan.

The report indicates that one urgent appeal was transmitted to the government involving reported harassment by state security organs of an attorney and board member of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan. The harassment included a house search, confiscation of newspapers that reportedly were published outside Uzbekistan, and interrogation about the newspapers as well as her participation in a human rights conference in 1995 in Kazakhstan. A second interrogation was conducted by security agents, again on the subject of contacts with human rights activists and organizations abroad. No official charges were brought. The government responded to the SR's communication and indicated that the search of the attorney's house had been authorized in connection with the investigation of an ordinary crime. The authorities asserted that they had found literature there that distorted the situation in Uzbekistan and had invited the attorney to the National Security Service (SNB) for an interview. The government indicated that she had expressed her regret about the incident and had left the literature in the office of the SNB. According to the government, the criminal investigation of the ordinary crime was continuing.

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:** (A/52/477, paras. 25, 28, 30, 33, 36, 38)