



Security Council

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**Letter dated 23 November 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan issued on 8 November 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adam Thomson
Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
United Kingdom Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Annex to the letter dated 23 November 2005 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

**Statement on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan
issued on 8 November 2005 by the Presidency on behalf
of the European Union**

On 3 October 2005 the Foreign Ministers of the European Union expressed alarm at reports of the detention and harassment of those, including human rights defenders, journalists and others, who have questioned the Uzbek authorities' version of events in Andijan on 12 and 13 May, and called on the Uzbek Government to discontinue such practices. On 19 and 26 October the European Union expressed further concern at the treatment of Elena Urlaeva and Sanjar Umarov.

The European Union welcomes the release of Mrs. Urlaeva from psychiatric detention on 28 October, and calls on the Uzbek authorities to confirm that treatment will be suspended pending an independent medical examination of her condition.

The European Union is alarmed at reports of the "unacceptable conditions" in which Mr. Umarov, leader of the Sunshine Coalition, is being held. The European Union urgently requests the Uzbek authorities to allow an independent assessment of Mr. Umarov's condition.

The European Union is also concerned at the circumstances of the arrest and detention of Mukhtabar Tojibaeva and Saidjahon Zainabidinov, and seeks clarification of the charges against them and of their well-being.

The European Union has previously expressed concern at the circumstances in which Dilshod Khajiev, Tavakal Khajiev, Hasan Shakirov and Mukhammad Kadirov were returned to Uzbekistan despite having been granted refugee status by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The European Union seeks clarification of the charges against them and of their whereabouts and well-being. The European Union strongly urges the Uzbek authorities to treat all those detained in accordance with international standards and for them to have full access to their lawyers, their family and others concerned about their well-being.

The European Union repeats its call on the Uzbek authorities to protect freedom of expression by bringing to an end the harassment and detention of those including human rights defenders, journalists and others who exercise this fundamental right.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be a part of the stabilization and association process.