



**Consejo Económico  
y Social**

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2003/G/54  
31 de marzo de 2003

ESPAÑOL  
Original: INGLÉS

---

COMISIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
59º período de sesiones  
Tema 11 a) del programa

**LOS DERECHOS CIVILES Y POLÍTICOS, EN PARTICULAR LAS  
CUESTIONES RELACIONADAS CON: LA TORTURA Y LA DETENCIÓN**

**Nota verbal de fecha 20 de marzo de 2003 dirigida a la Oficina de Nueva York  
del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por  
la Misión Permanente de Uzbekistán ante las Naciones Unidas**

La Misión Permanente de la República de Uzbekistán ante las Naciones Unidas saluda atentamente a la Oficina de Nueva York del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitir adjunto un comunicado de prensa sobre la reunión de información del Sr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, asesor estatal del Presidente de la República de Uzbekistán, con los periodistas extranjeros acreditados en Uzbekistán acerca del proyecto de informe del Sr. Theo van Boven, Relator Especial sobre la cuestión de la tortura, que tuvo lugar el 19 de marzo de 2003 en Tashkent (véase documento adjunto).

La Misión Permanente de la República de Uzbekistán ante las Naciones Unidas agradecería a la Oficina de Nueva York del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos que tuviera a bien hacer distribuir el comunicado de prensa adjunto\* como documento de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos en Ginebra.

---

\* El anexo se reproduce como se presentó, en el idioma original solamente.

# UZBEKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## PRESS RELEASE

### Briefing by State adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. A. Kamilov for foreign journalists, accredited in Uzbekistan

On March 19, 2003 the briefing for foreign journalists, accredited in Uzbekistan, was held in the Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The State adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. A. Kamilov spoke on the draft report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and made the following statement:

“We consider the visit to Uzbekistan by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Mr. Theo van Boven, which was initiated by the Uzbek side and took place November 24 - December 7, 2002, as a logical continuation of our country's efforts towards promoting democratic reforms.

Moreover, considerable attention should be given to the fact that Uzbekistan was one of the first states on the post-Soviet area which invited the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. Prior to his visit, we took into consideration all his wishes and created necessary conditions which were most favourable and conducive for the productive work. He was provided by all possible assistance towards successful fulfilment of his mission; the meetings had been arranged with top officials at various ministries and institutions; visits to the penitentiaries were held.

Uzbekistan attaches the great importance to the work that has been accomplished by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Mr. Theo van Boven.

Evaluating his visit to Uzbekistan, we find it pertinent to make the following observations:

**First.** We consider aforesaid UN mission to Uzbekistan as the beginning of a long-term co-operation with this UN Institution on issues of human rights in penitentiaries.

**Second.** Despite the efforts of the Government of Uzbekistan, there are certain facts of serious violation of human rights in the detention places. We are not trying to conceal it. The mass media of our country has already reported

about 4 law-enforcement officers who were convicted for unlawful acts, including violent actions against two citizens of Uzbekistan.

**Third.** Strongly condemning this kind of incidents, I would like to emphasise that these cases are not of systemic character. The State will use all the resources and capabilities in its possession to continue the relentless struggle with any violation of human rights and, especially, the torture of people.

**Fourth.** The Uzbek side gave a special attention to the conclusions and recommendations contained in the draft report.

Therefore currently:

- the Action Plan on implementing the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture is under consideration;
- a number of human rights organisations has been granted an access to the women's prisons and juvenile settlements. It is envisaged in the future to expand an access to detainees at male prisons;
- special educational programmes are being designed for the administration and staff at the detention places;
- in the framework of parliamentary reforms, a draft of new edition of the Law on Ombudsman has been prepared and forwarded for elaboration. The draft Law envisages expansion of Ombudsman's authority.

**Fifth.** We highly appreciate the co-operation that we have started with Mr. Theo van Boven. His draft report is being thoroughly studied by the relevant ministries and institutions of our country with a view to apply it for the improvement of the penitentiaries in Uzbekistan. At the same time our experts made a note of certain points in the report as erroneous and incorrect.

In this regard, the Uzbek side has directed to Mr. Theo van Boven its proposals and remarks and remains hopeful that they will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the final version of the report.

**In conclusion,** I would like to stress that the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is determined to conduct in-depth democratic reforms in the field of human rights. Uzbekistan is interested in and is ready for an open co-operation in this sphere with various international organisations, such as the UN, OSCE, EC and others, including the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture."

-----