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EU statement on Uzbekistan: Andijan Trial Verdicts

The EU notes the jail sentences passed on 15 defendants accused of involvement in an uprising in Andijan in May. We reserve the right to revert in greater detail on this issue at a later date.

In the meantime, we would draw Partners' attention to a statement made by EU High Representative Solana on 16 November. This expressed deep concern that, despite the close attention of the EU and others, the trial had fallen well short of the international standards necessary for a free and fair judicial process. Mr Solana noted that the Uzbek authorities had repeatedly refused the calls of the EU and others for an investigation into the events of Andijan arguing that the whole truth would be revealed in this trial. However, little attempt was made during these proceedings to directly address the substantial body of credible evidence pointing to the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by the Uzbek authorities. Sadly, Mr Solana said, we are still no closer to the truth and the need for an independent investigation remained.