

**Statement by the Press Service of
the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

ENGLISH only

The court proceedings, which took place at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on hearing the part of the criminal case, instigated on the fact of committing the terrorist acts and other heinous crimes on May 12-13, 2005, in the city of Andijan with regard to 15 persons has fully been based on the norms of national legislation. In its turn, it should be noted that the Uzbek legislation fully corresponds with the standards and requirements of international legal norms.

In this regard, the statements by "Human Rights Watch" and several other organizations on the alleged "unfairness" of the open court hearings in Tashkent can be considered unfounded and completely biased accusations, backed by aversion on the part of certain political forces of Uzbekistan's fully justified and logical attitude to any manifestations of terrorism.

It appears somewhat discouraging the words by Ms. Holly Cartner, the Director of "Human Rights Watch" on Europe and Central Asia, who apparently did not personally attend the court case, which was, in fact, open and accessible to the entire world community in the persons of diplomatic missions and international organizations, as well as the foreign mass media.

The accusations by "Human Rights Watch" concerning that the defendants frankly pleaded guilty under "torture" are groundless. The following fact can prove that most of the defendants, who had a real opportunity to become the so-called refugees, surrendered with guilt to the law-enforcement bodies. Let us note that their statements were fully proved during the preliminary and court investigations by the relevant testimonies by victims, witnesses, and a number of civilian plaintiffs. This has been exclusively confirmed by various materials of the criminal case, as well as material evidences, which include the released video footage, made by terrorists themselves during the tragic events in Andijan in May this year. One cannot ignore the audio recordings as well of the negotiations of the government members with participants of the terrorist acts, and those between the latter, which took place during the aforementioned events.

In turn, the world has vividly seen the firearms in the hands of the "peaceful demonstrators", the historical monuments of culture and cars set on fire, as well as real hostages. We have clearly heard the genuine intentions of the same "akramites", who deliberately pursue the totally non-peaceful goals.

Let us proceed further. Here is another remark, quite unique in terms of its observation – the "prosecution furnished neither materials of forensic and ballistic examination, nor factual evidence". Here, as the saying goes, there is nothing remains to add anymore. We can only say that the court took several days to scrutinize the materials of the criminal case, including the decisions by a number of commissions of experts.

As for the lawyers, whose job is unfoundedly criticized by the same "Human Rights Watch" as unqualified, but in reality, from the outset they have actively participated in the case, comprehensively upheld the interests of the defendants since

their detention and during the preliminary investigation and court proceedings. The efficiency of defense exercised by the lawyers is incontestably evidenced by the fact that the prosecution has dropped a number of charges, which in turn, considerably influenced the court ruling.

The so-called fears raised by “Human Rights Watch” in connection with the absence of the defendants’ relatives during the court proceedings are absolutely exaggerated since the majority of their kin has expeditiously left the territory of Uzbekistan and obtained the refugee status in far abroad. Moreover, neither of them has expressed the wish to attend the court hearings.

Such discrepancies in the very preconceived statement of the representative of “Human Rights Watch” could be enumerated further, but, as we think, the “professionalism” in political insinuations and distortion of facts by this organization in its favor is evident.

It remains to be underscored that other representatives of the aforesaid organization attended the court hearing and witnessed its competitiveness. Whilst the similar official distortion of the real state of affairs vividly testifies of an intentional rejection of the objective reality and pursuance of not at all the human rights objectives.

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of the Republic of Uzbekistan**