



ORAL STATEMENT

Item 6: Consideration of UPR reports: Uzbekistan

UN Human Rights Council
55th session
26 February – 5 April 2024

Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes Uzbekistan's support for recommendations¹ to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, ensure that journalists, independent bloggers and civil society activists can exercise their right to freedom of expression freely and without fear, and to conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.¹ These are pressing matters in Uzbekistan, requiring timely and specific actions.

We urge Uzbekistan to act promptly on its commitment to set up a genuinely independent, impartial and effective committee to investigate human rights violations during mass protests in Karakalpakstan in July 2022 and to publish its findings.²

We are concerned that despite credible allegations of widespread unlawful use of force against peaceful protesters in Karakalpakstan, only three members of the security forces were held accountable. By contrast, following these protests, dozens of individuals, including peaceful protesters such as lawyer and editor Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov, were convicted in unfair, politically motivated trials throughout 2023. Judges dismissed his allegations of torture, as well as video footage that showed him urging the crowds not to resort to violence.

We are deeply disappointed that Uzbekistan declined to support all 15 recommendations³ on the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, failing once more to decriminalise consensual sexual relations between men and to combat discrimination of and violence against LGBTI persons. We urge Uzbekistan to reverse its position.

Finally, we encourage Uzbekistan to implement supported recommendations swiftly and in good faith. We urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards their implementation and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States. Thank you.

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Uzbekistan, UN Doc. A/HRC/55/8, 18 December 2023, recommendations 135.85 (Portugal), 135.91. (Belgium), 135.64 (Luxembourg)

² Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Uzbekistan, A/HRC/55/8, 18 December 2023, recommendations 135.80, 135.81 (Norway, Canada).

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Uzbekistan, A/HRC/55/8, 18 December 2023, recommendations 136.1 – 136.15 (Mexico, Montenegro, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Iceland x4, France, Belgium, Brazil, Canada)