

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AND BLOGGER DETAINED

Uzbekistani blogger and human rights defender Nafosat Olloshkurova was violently detained on 23 September while monitoring and filming police handling of a peaceful protest. She was sentenced to 10 days in administrative detention and on 26 September she was placed in psychiatric detention. There are serious concerns for her wellbeing.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan

Amir Timur Avenue, 14

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Email: presidents_office@press-service.uz

Twitter: @president_uz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mirziyoyev/>

Instagram: [mirziyoyev_sh_eng](https://www.instagram.com/mirziyoyev_sh_eng)

On-line form in Russian: <https://pm.gov.uz/ru/cabinet/login>

Dear President,

I am deeply concerned about the wellbeing of blogger and human rights defender **Nafosat Olloshkurova**, and I urge you to immediately raise her case with the Prosecutor General.

Nafosat Olloshkurova was one of 14 people detained when police broke up a peaceful protest march from Khorezm to Tashkent on 23 September. Nafosat Olloshkurova had been monitoring the march and covering developments on Facebook under her pen name Shabnam Olloshkurova. She was filming the police's intervention when they detained and beat her.

Nafosat Olloshkurova was sentenced to 10 days' administrative detention in contravention of Article 29.2 of the Administrative Code of Uzbekistan that stipulates that administrative arrest cannot be applied to mothers of children younger than three years old and to single mothers of children up to 14 years old. On 26 September Nafosat Olloshkurova was forcibly placed in a psychiatric hospital in Urgench after a "suicide attempt", according to police records. On 30 September the administrative court of Urgench approved the request by the Prosecutor General's office to transfer her to a psychiatric hospital for two months. Nafosat Olloshkurova has not been given access to a lawyer and her family have not been able to conduct private visits with her; her brother has been allowed to see her briefly on the ward, but always in the presence of police officers, medical staff or government officials.

I urge you to Call on the Prosecutor's General's office to:

- Release Nafosat Olloshkurova immediately;
- Ensure that Nafosat Olloshkurova is not subjected to any forced treatment while in detention, and that she has access to adequate and necessary health care while in detention, based on her informed consent.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nafosat Olloshkurova is a blogger and human rights defender who has been raising awareness of violations of women's rights through her Facebook page, under the pen name of Shabnam Olloshkurova. She joined the peaceful march from Khorezm to Tashkent on 22 September and was detained the following day. She had been covering the march on Facebook, posting interviews with the participants, police and local government officials who tried to stop the march. Nafosat Olloshkurova is a single mother and her two young children are currently staying with her parents. Nafosat Olloshkurova's family is gravely concerned about her physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

The Uzbekistani authorities have in the past imposed forcible confinement in a psychiatric hospital on human rights defenders and journalists. Human rights defender Elena Urlaeva has been repeatedly detained over the last two decades by forced transfer to a psychiatric hospital to prevent her from conducting her monitoring activities.

In January 2019 Nafosat Olloshkurova was detained by police while filming a peaceful protest by five women outside the Senate building in Tashkent. The women called for a meeting with President Mirziyoyev. She was charged with hooliganism and sentenced to five days' administrative detention.

Article 29.2 of the Administrative Code of Uzbekistan stipulates that administrative arrest cannot be applied to mothers of children younger than three years old and to single mothers of children up to 14 years old. However, courts often disregard this Article.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Russian, Uzbek.
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 5 December 2019

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Nafosat Olloshkurova (she/her)