Review of the first month of the 2013 Cotton Harvest in Uzbekistan

The cotton harvest in Uzbekistan began in early September this year. So far, Uzbekistan’s state-order system of cotton production continues to be underpinned by forced labour on a large scale. The government continues to require farmers to produce cotton and to mobilize Uzbek children and adults in one of the largest state-sponsored systems of forced labour in the world. This review of the first month of the harvest presents reports by Uzbek human rights monitors (Annex 1), media (Annex 2), and Uzbek citizens who have emailed their observations (Annex 3).

One of the most notable developments of the 2013 cotton production cycle thus far is the extent to which the Uzbek government has tried to create the impression of voluntary work in the cotton fields. In January, authorities added a clause stating consent to help with agricultural work to public-sector employment contracts, making participation in the cotton harvest a condition for employment (see reports No.s 42 and 114 in the annexes). Leading up to and during the first month of the harvest, administrators of public institutions required their staff to sign an additional statement of consent prior to sending them to pick cotton (30, 39).

As a pre-condition for school enrolment, high-school administrators required parents to sign contracts committing their children to pick cotton and required students to sign statements of their “voluntary” participation in the cotton harvest (9, 15, 77, 102). In both instances, the students and adults affected could only avoid this “voluntary” service to the country by paying costly fees to government officials (8, 14, 18, 21, 24, 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 45, 52, 99, 105, 112, 116, 126).

Authorities throughout the country instructed citizens, through schools and neighbourhood committees, to respond to any foreigners that, “I collect cotton voluntarily and want to help improve the economy of the country” (61, 89, 90, 98, 101, 125).
In Tashkent, the governor ordered a registry of all people sent to pick cotton, which would include their signed statement of voluntary participation (62). In Jizzak region, authorities sent first-year high-school students home from the cotton fields, reportedly in advance of the expected visit of foreign monitors (56, 57).

The Uzbek government has taken these unprecedented measures to obscure the use of forced labour in the cotton sector, most likely due to the presence of ILO monitors during this year’s harvest. These measures are in stark contrast to the overwhelming evidence of forcible mobilization of child and adult labour to produce cotton, and penalization of citizens who refuse, which has been documented thus far and is summarized below.

**Forced Child Labour**

For the most part, the Uzbek government has continued its practices from 2012, avoiding mass mobilisation of younger children but forcibly mobilising older children, primarily of high-school students ages 15-18. In Karakalpakstan, school administrators sent children as young as 14 to pick cotton (74). Mass mobilization of children began on September 10 and varied according to how district and regional government officials implemented orders (12, 103). In Syrdarya and Samarkand, all high-school students were sent to pick cotton (1, 7, 8, 11). The Tashkent region also saw high levels of mobilization among high schools (4, 4, 16, 92, 116). Jizzak initially kept its first-year students back, but then sent all high-school students to the fields (6, 13, 57, 75).
Students reported that a daily cotton quota of 50-70 kilograms must be fulfilled to receive any payment and that authorities were deducting from the amount owed to the students, purportedly to pay for food and accommodations (75, 95). In some cases, they complained that school officials were under-recording the weight of cotton delivered (75, 95). School administrators and teachers offered students the alternative of purchasing an exemption from the cotton harvest for 150,000 - 800,000 soums ($71 - $378)\(^n\) (8, 14, 75).

Working conditions were widely cited as problematic. Some students paid out-of-pocket to stay with local residents and escape unhygienic food and poor living conditions at the accommodations arranged by the authorities (95). Administrators expelled students who refused to pick cotton, even those with medical issues, such as Barhayot Turaev, a 16-year old Karshi student expelled on September 20 (5, 75, 93, 104).

**Forced Adult Labour**

Forced labour of adults – including farmers, public-sector workers, private-sector workers and unemployed citizens - has been further embedded into the Uzbek economy (20, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 27, 33, 37, 40, 41, 42, 42, 49, 49, 53, 53, 81, 82, 101, 101, 109, 112, 113, 120, 123). In August and September, public-sector administrators organized staff into shifts to pick cotton and docked the salaries of those not selected for field work, purportedly to hire additional workers to pick cotton (30, 30, 33, 37, 39, 40, 41, 107, 110, 111, 112). Mass mobilization of adults began September 10 (32, 103). In some regions, such as Syrdarya, one-third of all public-sector workers were sent to pick cotton (29).

Both university students and public-sector workers have been denied medical exemptions from cotton work (31, 34, 93, 97). Fees for an exemption from the cotton harvest ranged from 300,000 up to 700,000 soums ($142-$330) for public-sector workers and were 100,000 soums ($47) for university students (18, 21, 24, 30, 31, 34, 36, 38, 103, 116). Many public-sector workers had to pay for their own transportation, food and accommodations (22, 25, 96, 111). In Angren, nearly all municipal transportation was dedicated to the mobilization of citizens to the cotton fields during the period September 16-18 (27). Pensioners, mothers and other citizens have been forced to pick cotton under threat of losing the social security support on which they depend (54, 55, 124).
The Uzbek government has forced the private sector to support the cotton harvest with both labour and financing (37, 40, 53, 98, 103, 103, 106, 105, 108, 108, 109, 123). Tashkent banks were forced to pay for and provide the labour to prepare accommodations for cotton pickers (46, 53). Tashkent café owners were ordered to send their staff to pick cotton, and all vendors of the capital’s parks were sent to pick cotton (48, 52, 52, 81). Authorities ordered Tashkent’s business owners to transfer money to the Mega Food Store, purportedly to support the purchase of food for the cotton pickers (99). One-fifth of the staff of Trastbank and shifts of 800 workers of the Shurtanneftgaz gas exploration company were sent to the cotton fields (47, 47).

In cities, markets and small businesses were ordered to close and contribute to the cotton harvest (49, 52, 81, 99). Tashkent market vendors were charged 1.5 million soums ($550) to avoid picking cotton and threatened with a costlier fine if they refused (48, 52). Other businesses’ workers were charged 400,000-1 million soums ($189-$470) to be exempted from the field work; for example, the higher fee was charged to workers of the Tashkent printing company Rotex (44, 52, 99, 105). Tax officials charged businesses 300,000-800,000 soums ($142-$378 USD) to cover the costs of the cotton harvest mobilization (44, 98, 123). Businesses complied with the orders under threat of additional tax inspections (44, 98, 123).
**Fatalities and State Intimidation**

Tragically, five Uzbek citizens - Zulajkho Jergasheva, Malika Embergenova, Muhlisa Rajabova, Amirbek Rakhmatov and a student of the History faculty of Karshi State University - have died as a result of the forced labour system (69, 70, 70, 73, 79, 83, 85, 94). In addition to the fatalities, citizens were forced to pick cotton in hazardous conditions (72). In Jizzak, citizens manually applied defoliant without personal protection equipment (72). People forced to pick cotton around the country, of all ages, reported a lack of potable water and unhygienic conditions at their accommodations near the fields (11, 69).

Authorities have also continued to intimidate and detain Uzbek citizens documenting and reporting on government-orchestrated forced labour. Independent journalist Sergei Naumov was arrested and detained without access to his lawyer, family or friends for 12 days (60, 80). Bobomurad Razzakov, a farmer and human rights activist who has frequently represented fellow farmers’ interests before the prosecutor’s office, was sentenced to four years imprisonment, on trumped up charges of ‘human trafficking’ (59). Human rights activist Uktam Pardaev was placed under house arrest and taken into police custody following his meeting with a visiting delegation from South Korea; he was also detained incommunicado during the 2012 cotton harvest (58, 86, 119).

**Conclusion**

The Government’s on-going, forcible mobilisation of children and adults to work in the cotton fields represents a continuing violation of national law, III ILO Conventions No. 105 (Abolition of Forced Labour), IV and in the case of children, ILO Convention No. 182 (Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour). V ILO Convention 105 specifically prohibits the systematic use of forced labour as a “method of mobilising and using labour for purposes of economic development”.

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*Photo: Accommodations for children and adults sent to pick cotton in Syrdarya region, September 2013*

*Photo: Police office to oversee the cotton harvest, Syrdarya region, September 2013*
It is clear, however, that Uzbek citizens are forcibly mobilized to harvest cotton for economic ends. The Uzbek government receives more than $1 billion annually from cotton sales and has structured the entire industry to maximize returns to the state, and the government not only controls the land and enforces cotton production quotas, but also controls input markets, prices and cotton sales. However, as the beneficiary and manager of the cotton sector, the Uzbek government has the capacity to eliminate systematic forced labour in cotton production and should work with the ILO to prepare and implement a plan to eliminate the violations of the fundamental labour conventions identified in this report.vi

**Map of abuses in the 2013 Uzbek cotton harvest**

The map below depicts each confirmed incident documented in reports from human rights monitors, articles in the press, and from observations e-mailed directly by Uzbek citizens. For an interactive version with descriptions of each incident that will be updated throughout the rest of the harvest, visit:  
[https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zDroh0p5_oqk.kt6TkKo14O_A](https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zDroh0p5_oqk.kt6TkKo14O_A)
Annex 1: Reports by Uzbek Human Rights Monitors

Forced Child Labour

1. 15 October, Samarkand region, high-school students from all grade levels were working in the cotton fields.
2. 7 October, Andijan region, high schools sent a large number of third-year students (ages 17 and 18) to the cotton fields.
3. 24 September, Tashkent region, a number of high-school\(^1\) students who were mobilized to pick cotton in this village have already run away home because of the poor living conditions. Most are sleeping on mattresses laid directly on the floor in the local school gymnasium, and there have been many complaints about the small amounts and bad quality of the food, which has made a number of students ill. To escape these conditions, some students who have the resources are paying local residents 500-1000 soums ($0.23 - $0.47) per night to sleep in their houses.
4. 16-17 September, Angren, Tashkent region, mobilization of high-school students (ages 15-18):

5. September 20, Karshi, Director of academic lyceum No. 2 expelled the 16-year old student Barhayot Turaev for refusing to pick cotton. Photograph depicts the teacher giving the expulsion note to the student.

6. September 15, Bakhmalski district, Jizzak region, all high-school students were sent to pick cotton.
7. 15 September, Syrdarya, all high-school students sent to pick cotton, including from Jizzak, Pakhtakor, Zafarabad, Arnasay, Dustlik, Mirzachul, Zarbdor and Zaaminsky.
8. 15 September, Syrdarya region, the Construction College mobilized its students. Of the 2,000 high-school students, 350 went to pick cotton, and rest paid 150,000-200,000 soums ($71-$94 USD) for an exemption.
9. 8-15 September, high-school administrations convened meetings to remind students and their parents that absence from school duties would result in problems for the students and parents and to collect statements from each student indicating their “voluntary” participation in the cotton harvest. Administrators also required parents to sign a statement about their children’s “voluntary” participation in the harvest as a requirement for school admission. In Samarkand, the students’ letters stated their commitment to “fulfill their duties to the motherland.”
10. 13 September, 16-year old student at the Bustonskogo Teachers College was sent to weed the cotton fields for one day.
11. 12 September, Syrdarya region, all high-school students began picking cotton. A student’s mother reported that her daughter picked cotton in the Bayavut district, where they were required to pick 50 kilograms of cotton per day, for which they rise at 6:00 AM and return to their accommodations at 19:00 and 20:00, despite the high temperatures and insufficient drinking water.
12. 10 September, authorities began the nationwide mobilization of high-school students to the cotton fields.
13. September 19, the Jizzak Politechnical Institute sent its adult university students to join the children, students of Jizzak’s high schools, to pick cotton at farm No. 11 in the Dustlik district.

\(^1\) In the education system of Uzbekistan, schools called “colleges” and “lyceums” are the equivalent of high schools and specialized high schools in European and American education systems. The students are children typically ages 15-18.
14. August – September, students and parents were quoted between 300,000 – 800,000 soums ($142 - $378) as the fee for a student to avoid picking cotton.

15. In August, high-school administrators required parents to sign contracts committing their children to pick cotton as a requirement for school registration.

16. In August, high-school parents and students in Almalyk, Tashkent region, were told that the regional governor ordered 1st-year, 15-year-old students to be ‘saved for a special occasion’. In contrast, parents and students in Angren, Tashkent region heard nothing about the apparent order from the governor.

17. In August, high-school administrators organized groups of students to lobby their peers on the importance of their participation in the nationwide, “voluntary” Khashar campaign to harvest cotton.

Forced labour of public-sector workers and university students:

18. 9 October, Syrdarya region, a high-school geography teacher described her situation. She is a single mother of four children, since her husband died in a car accident, and receives a monthly salary of 350,000 soums ($165 USD). During the harvest, she has to complete a shift of 15 days picking cotton. She has no one to look after her children while away, yet she cannot afford the payment of 150,000 soums ($71) to her administrator to avoid picking cotton. As an alternative, she hired a local construction worker to replace her in the cotton fields for a lower fee. Nevertheless, her administrator scolds and insults her in front of her colleagues.

19. 9 October, Andijan region, most public-sector institutions mobilized sent a shift of employees to the cotton fields. Each institution is keeping the minimum number of staff necessary to remain open. Public transportation and minibuses were ordered to transport the public-sector workers to the cotton fields.

20. October, Andijan, the regional governor harshly scolded a public-sector administrator for management of the mobilization for the cotton harvest, and the administrator died after the meeting, reportedly of a heart attack. At the next meeting, ambulances were kept outside.

21. 5 October, Syrdarya region, a teacher reported that she paid her school administrator 300,000 soums ($142 USD) at the start of the cotton harvest in order to avoid picking cotton. The teacher had saved the money specifically for this purpose and noted, “I don’t care if he uses the money to hire someone for the harvest or keeps it. My concern was to avoid the cotton harvest and continue working in the school.”

22. September, Usmat village, Bakhmalski district, Jizzak region, all kindergartens were closed and their employees sent to pick cotton in Mirzachulski area, along with employees of other government entities and local businesses. As opposed to previous years, when local authorities organized transportation, this year each local organization was told to arrange transportation to the cotton fields for its own employees. The cost for renting minibuses, into which 6-7 people are being squeezed along with their clothes and bedding, was passed along to the people being sent to do the picking. As no lodging has been arranged in Mirzachulski region, once they arrived, residents of Usmat had to go door-to-door trying to make arrangements with the locals; again, at their own cost.

23. 24 September, Tashkent region, in at least one village, farmers are not being allowed to participate in the harvesting of cotton on their own fields. They have no way of knowing how much cotton is being harvested by the high school students who have been mobilized for that purpose. Thus they do not know how much money the government should be paying them for their crop or if the soums of money periodically being deposited into their bank accounts are correct. Farmers continue to work as employees of the state, with no ownership of the land, decision-making authority over its use, or control over their sales.

24. As of 24 September, in Tashkent province, the government has been extorting money from teachers who are away from their schools attending training courses, since this prevents them from joining their colleagues in harvesting cotton. The amount demanded varies, but seems
generally to be in the range of 300,000 to 500,000 soums ($142 - $235). In some locations, teachers who have paid to avoid mobilization during the school week are still being required to pick cotton on the weekends.

25. 20 September, the Tashkent Hospital of Infectious Diseases and Ministry of Forestry, Agriculture and Farming began sending their staff to pick cotton and pay for their transportation and accommodation costs. Many paid to hire day labourers to pick their quotas of cotton, to avoid the poor living conditions.

26. 19 September, university students of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation, including PhD students, were sent to pick cotton in Syrdarya region.

27. 16-18 September, Angren, Tashkent region, nearly all municipal transportation was dedicated to transporting citizens to the cotton fields. Police stopped drivers and threatened them with fines if they did not take people to the fields.

28. 15 September, Syrdarya, half of the 4,500 students of the State University of Syrdarya were sent to pick cotton.

29. 15 September, Syrdarya, all government organizations sent 1/3 of their staff to pick cotton. Authorities demanded 150,000-400,000 soums ($71 - $189) per day for an exemption to picking cotton. Syrdarya teachers were sent in shifts for periods of 10 days, and administrators denied a request for an exemption for older staff, from a 60-year old teacher.

30. 15 September, Tashkent region, authorities collected statements indicating that their participation in the cotton harvest is voluntary from public-sector teachers, health-care professionals, postal workers and mahalla (neighborhood committees) prior to sending them to pick cotton. Authorities stated that the first shift of picking cotton would be 25-30 days (compared to 20-day shifts last year). The rate for buying an exemption from cotton picking varied throughout the region 300,000 - 800,000 soums ($142-$378 USD), and the rate for hiring a day labourer varied from 400,000 - 500,000 soums ($189-$236 USD).

31. 14 September, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation students left to pick cotton in the Syrdarya region. A third-year university student reported that he had picked cotton for 9 consecutive harvests, had begun experiencing eye problems, and obtained a medical exemption, but the deputy rector of the university ordered him to pay 100,000 soums ($47 USD) to the cotton headquarters (“hokimiyat”) to avoid picking cotton this year.

32. 10 September, authorities began the nationwide mobilization of university students, teachers, doctors, and other public-sector workers to the cotton fields.

33. 9 September, Kashkadarya region, the first shifts of medical professionals were sent to pick cotton for 20 days, after which a new group from their respective hospitals and clinics would be sent to replace them.

34. September, Tashkent region, authorities ordered doctors to not give medical exemptions for most cases. September, in Angren, the city prosecutor checked medical records of hospital patients for “false” claims of illness. A nurse reported that she was ordered to pick cotton despite her doctor’s instructions to avoid physical labour. She could not afford the fee to avoid picking cotton, 300,000 soums ($142), more than one month’s salary.

35. September, Kashkadarya region, authorities instructed high-school students and public-sector workers to leave for the cotton fields on September 15 and September 10, respectively.

36. September, school teachers throughout the country were ordered to recruit people to pick cotton in their place or pay a fine. In Tashkent region, administrators ordered teachers to pick cotton or pay 400,000 soums ($189 USD), the equivalent of one month’s salary.

37. September, the Namangan regional administration press service stated that over 180,000 “volunteers” will work in cotton harvest this year. The statement continued to say that a majority of the “volunteer” cotton pickers are university students and employees of private enterprises and public organizations from the region.
38. August-September, Tashkent region, medical professionals reported fees of 300,000 – 500,000 soums ($142-$236 USD) to avoid picking cotton. Teachers reported fees of 400,000 – 700,000 soums ($189-$330).

39. August, across the country, administrators of public-sector institutions organized teams of staff to pick cotton in shifts and informed staff not selected for field work that their salary would be docked to contribute to the cotton harvest. Workers were required to sign forms stating their “voluntary” participation as a condition to keep their job.

40. August, Surkhandarya region, authorities ordered public-sector institutions and private companies to pay for furnishing accommodations for cotton pickers.

41. Starting May 27, in Yangiyul district, Tashkent region, doctors, nurses and other staff of the central hospital were forced to weed the cotton fields. The hospital transported the medical professionals by bus each day to the cotton fields, where they worked a full day and paid for their own alimentation. New staff of the hospital had to sign contracts that included a clause that they “voluntarily” help with agricultural work.

42. January, the Uzbek government revised contracts for public-sector workers by adding a clause consenting to “voluntarily” help with agricultural work, making consent to pick cotton and conduct other field work a condition for employment.

Forced labour of private-sector workers and extraction of resources from businesses:

43. 16-18 September, Angren, authorities ordered all transportation vehicles to support the cotton harvest.

44. 15 September, Akhangaran, tax officials charged businesses 300,000 – 800,000 soums ($142 - $378) for the cotton harvest, under threat of future tax inspections.

45. September, Tashkent, employees of the printing company Rotex were ordered to pay 1 million soums ($472 USD) to avoid picking cotton.

46. 13 September, one-fifth of the staff of Trastbank in Tashkent were sent to Jizzak region to pick cotton.

47. 10 September, Kashkadarya, 800 employees of Shurtanneftgaz were sent to pick cotton for 15 days, after which they would be replaced by another group of 800 workers. The gas exploration company is located in Guzar district and employs 4,000 people. Its workers were sent to pick cotton in Kasbi and Mirishkor districts and were threatened with dismissal or pay deductions for refusal to pick cotton.

48. 5 September, Tashkent city, city park directors delivered an order from the city mayor (hokim) to all street vendors that they would have to pick cotton in Syrdarya for 40 days during the harvest or pay a fine of 1.6 million soums ($755 USD). Vendors were told that any of them who refused to work or pay the fine would be charged with causing economic damages to the state.

49. September, in Jizzak, authorities closed all businesses and ordered the owners to pick cotton. All businesses, including the Kukbozor market kept the doors locked, although some vendors at the market and other business owners continued to run their businesses.

50. September, Andijon, local authorities ordered salesmen and the unemployed to pick cotton.

51. September, Tashkent city, officials ordered private café owners to send their employees to pick cotton and to pay 300,000 soums ($120) for food for the cotton pickers.

52. August-September, employees of private businesses reported fees of 400,000 – 800,000 soums ($189 - $378) to avoid picking cotton. Authorities required the vendors at the Eski Juva market, which, with 7,000 vendors is the largest market in Tashkent city, to pay 1.5 million soums ($550 USD) per month to avoid picking cotton.

53. August-September, Tashkent region, bank employees were sent to work on accommodations for people sent to pick cotton during the upcoming harvest. In Syrdarya, authorities ordered private companies to pay for furnishing accommodations for cotton pickers.
Forced labour of unemployed citizens

54. September, in Tashkent, Chirchik Akkurgan, Buka, Bekabad Toytepa, and Akhangaran neighborhood (mahalla) committees in have coercively mobilized their residents with threats of cutting social services.

55. September, Tashkent suburbs, Mahalla committees visited the homes of the community residents and asked them to give 89,000 soums ($42) to the cotton harvest. The mahalla committee representatives informed the residents that they would have problems with their electricity if they refused to pay. One pensioner reported that he already refused to pay and lost power; he then paid, and the power returned.

Government fettering in monitoring

56. 14 October, Bahmal district, Jizzak region, first-year students of the Buston high school reported that they were picking cotton and then returned to their school in advance of a visit by ILO monitors to the district and school.

57. September 25-26, Bakhmalski district, Jizzak region, authorities sent first-year high-school students home from the cotton fields. Locals reported the reason was that the authorities expected foreign observers to visit the area soon. The students were unable to study; however, as a large portion of school staff remained in the fields.

58. 25 September, Jizzak region, authorities placed human rights activist Uktam Pardaev under house arrest and allowed visitors from South Korea to meet him in his home. Mr. Pardaev was held incommunicado detention in 2012 for his reporting of forced labour in the cotton sector.

59. 24 September, authorities sentenced Bobomurad Razzakov, chairman of the Bukhara region branch of the Society for Human Rights in Uzbekistan “Ezgulik”, to four years imprisonment.

60. 21 September, authorities arrested Sergei Naumov, an independent Uzbek journalist who has reported on forced labour in the cotton sector, and detained him for 12 days.

61. September, public institutions ordered people involved in the cotton harvest to respond to any journalist or foreigner who asks with the statement, “I collect cotton voluntarily and want to help to improve the economy in the country.”

62. Tashkent region, governor ordered a registry of all people sent to pick cotton. Authorities were to collect from each person sent to pick cotton: a signed statement of “voluntary” participation in the cotton harvest, profile photo, passport and residence permit photocopy, and phone number. Each person was told that they would receive an identification badge to carry while working in the cotton fields.

63. September, authorities assembled “teams” comprised of high-school students, university students and public-sector workers to work on specific farms. In Akkurgan and Yangiyul districts of Tashkent region, authorities produced photos of the teams, pictured here: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.643615655682459.1073741833.475357399174953&type=1&l=be982cc00a.

64. 15 September, in Tashkent region, police officers reported that they received orders to accompany people sent to the cotton fields.

65. August, in Fergana region, authorities ordered residents to refrain from taking children to pick cotton in fields near the main highways of the region.

66. August, in Fergana, authorities ordered residents to refrain from any weddings and all other entertainment events and ceremonies during the cotton harvest season.

Tragic deaths and health and safety risks

67. 22 September, Samarkand, Zulajkho Jergasheva, a 30-year old teacher of School No. 55 in Samarkand, died in a car accident. She had been picking cotton for five days, obtained permission to visit her two young children, and was in the fatal crash en route to her home.
68. 22 September, Karakalpakstan, Malika Embergenova, a second-year student in the medical high school, hanged herself.
69. 17 September, Jizzak, Zafarobot village, citizens forced to pick cotton and stay nearby the fields reported that they are sleeping in a college gym without water for drinking or washing.
70. September 16, a second-year student of Karshi State University, History Faculty stabbed four other students of the same faculty in a cotton field on 16 September. One of the stabbing victims died on the spot.
71. September 15, six-year old Amirbek Rakhmatov suffocated to death under a pile of cotton in Narchok village of Vobkent district of Bukhara region. The child accompanied his mother to pick cotton, climbed into a trailer for transporting cotton, and fell asleep. No one noticed, and when cotton was loaded into the trailer at the end of the day, the child was suffocated under the weight of the cotton.
72. 13 September, Jizzak region, Beaubourg district, people manually sprayed defoliant on the cotton fields, using manual applicators that carry 15 liters.
73. September 2, Muhlisa Rajabova, born in 1996 and beginning her second year at Hilol Agriculture College of Karshi, died of electrocution while picking cotton harvest on the Khilol farm in Qashqadaryo province.
Annex 2: Media Reports

74.  12 October 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25135028.html: In the Turtkol and Konlikol districts of Karakalpakstan, schoolchildren were taken to pick cotton. In the Ordurdiev village, school #9 took 8th and 9th grade students (ages 14-15) to pick cotton on Saturday after classes. In the Konlikol district, most schools took 7th – 9th grade students to pick cotton for 3-4 days, instead of classes.

75.  10 October 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25104210.html: Students of Dustlik district, Jizzak region reported that the daily quota of 70 kilograms of cotton must be met to receive any payment, and deductions are taken for food and accommodations. Additionally, teachers subtract a few kilograms from each picker, in order to record that amount of cotton under the names of the students who paid a fee to avoid picking cotton. Another student reported that the threat of expulsion from school was keeping students working.

76.  8 October 2013, UzNews, “Uzbek doctors are in the cotton fields. Who is Ministry of Health fooling?” http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=top&cid=30&nid=23985: Even though doctors, nurses and other health-care workers are picking cotton across the country, the Director General of the Republican Scientific Center for Emergency Care claimed that all hospitals and clinics are working at normal capacity.

77.  7 October 2013, UzNews, “Uzbek authorities conceal the true scope of forced labor, including that of children,”
http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=hot&cid=30&nid=23979: The government authorities are attempting to deceive the ILO monitors: requiring high-school students to signing statements of their volition to work in the cotton harvest, returning high-school students from the fields to their homes prior to the arrival of ILO monitors, and instructing students under age 18 to claim to be older. The mission has halted the use of school children (under age 15), but high-school children and adults are still forced to pick cotton.

78.  5 October 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25127584.html: At the Koylik market in Tashkent, police rounded up day labourers from Syrdarya region and forcibly took them to pick cotton, citing their lack of residence permits to be in Tashkent.

79.  4 October 2013, UzNews, “Another cotton-related death – teacher dies in car crash,”
http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=hot&cid=4&nid=23966: Zulajkho Jergasheva, a 30-year old teacher at school no. 55 in Samarkand region, died in a car accident while returning home from picking cotton. Ms. Jergasheva had stayed near the cotton fields for five days and was driving home to visit her two small children. Her death is the fifth related to the cotton harvest, for which the government forces people to work.

80.  4 October 2013, UzNews, “Sergey Naumov freed from detention”
http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=hot&cid=3&nid=23965: Independent journalist Sergey Naumov was freed in Urgench on October 12, after serving a 12-day sentence during which he was denied access to his lawyer, family and friends. Authorities detained Mr. Naumov on fabricated charges in a center with poor conditions and in solitary confinement for the first five days. When released, he could not obtain his passport, because the responsible officer had been sent to the cotton harvest.

82. 4 October 2013, *UzNews*, “Trouble ahead - Karimov pledges support for small business,” [http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=hot&cid=30&nid=23955](http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=hot&cid=30&nid=23955): During his visit Kashkadarya region on September 27, President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov replaced the regional governor with the former Minister of Water and Agriculture Zafar Ruziev and spoke of the need to protect small businesses. After a similar speech in 2002, cotton subsidies were decreased, and the government extended its control from cotton to seeds, seed oil, seed hulls, and thereby deprived farmers of sources of supplemental income. Farmers are no longer afraid, because they have nothing left to lose. One farmer recounted that Deputy Prime Minister Uktam Tursunov visited his farm and beat him for explaining his lack of cash to purchase a tractor part, and the farmer simply continued on with his day when the smaller Mr. Tursunov left.


84. 1 October 2013, *BBC*, “Is teacher more useful at school or in a cotton field?” [http://www.bbc.co.uk/uzbek/uzbekistan/2013/10/131001_cy_uzbek_teacher_day.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/uzbek/uzbekistan/2013/10/131001_cy_uzbek_teacher_day.shtml): On Uzbekistan’s Teachers’ Day, a national holiday, President Islam Karimov did not mention the participation of teachers in the cotton harvest. Teachers shared their experiences of picking cotton, managing double workload while colleagues pick cotton, and being fired for reporting on the mobilization for the cotton harvest.

85. 30 September, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik.”: 17-year old Malika Embergenova, a second year high-school student, reportedly hanged herself on September 23 in the house of local resident where she was staying during the harvest.


88. 25 September 2013, *Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty “Ozodlik”*, “Бемор талабани шифокор қабул қилмади,” [http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25117335.html](http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25117335.html): Emergency rooms at the Boyovut and Gulistan hospitals refused to treat a high-school student with a kidney infection, for which he was taken away from the cotton fields. The hospitals sent him to the regional hospital, because his condition was not sufficiently extreme.
23 September 2013, UzNews, “Самарканд - ты записался в хлопкоробы? Все на хлопок!”, http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=ru&sub=top&cid=2&nid=23829: A report on the mobilization campaign in Samarkand states that because younger children are not being mobilized this year the burden is again falling more heavily on adults, as a result of which, many people who in the past only had to pick cotton on the weekends are now being sent out every day. The article quotes the mother of one student as saying that her daughter and her classmates were coached to tell ILO monitors that they were picking cotton voluntarily.

23 September 2013, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty “Ozodlik”, “В Узбекистане пытаются обмануть международных инспекторов,” http://rus.azattyq.org/content/uzbekistan-cotton-ilо-inspection-on-child-labour/25113351.html: A report quoting several sources to the effect that officials have coached them or their relatives on what to say if asked by ILO inspectors.

22 September 2013, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty “Ozodlik”, “Ж.Ортиков: Пахтага карши чиқдим, машинами олиб кетишди,” http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25114088.html: Yakkaqob district of Tashkent region, Jamoliddin Ortiqov reported that police took away his car on September 19, and he attributed their action to his refusal to allow his niece, Mehriniso Ziyodullayeva, a first-year high-school student, go to pick cotton.

21 September 2013, Fergana News, “Узбекистан: Ученики колледжей переведены на «казарменное положение», на хлопок отправляют даже нарушителей ПДД”, http://www.fergananews.com/news/21226: A report by Tashkent-based activists on their observation of schools in Tashkent province, according to which students from ages 16-18 are being mobilized to pick cotton and assigned daily quotas of 50-60 kilos. The article includes pictures of children in a bus being taken to the harvest and of a place in the town of Buka where students from one high school from another area are being housed while they pick cotton. The article quotes a source in the Tashkent DMV as saying that they have receive oral instructions that people guilty of traffic violations should be sent to pick cotton “for a week or two.”

21 September 2013, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Қаршида пахтага чиқмаган қасал талаба ўқишдан ҳайдалди,” http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25113332.html: Students of academic Lyceum # 2 in Karshi city who didn’t go to pick cotton are being expelled. Barhayot Turaev, a third-year student at the high school, has a skin disorder, was refused a medical exemption, and was expelled for refusing to work in the cotton fields. The school dean confirmed the policy and stated that the education director had ordered school administrators to follow it.

20 September 2013, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Young Boy Dies During Uzbek Cotton Harvest,” http://www.rferl.org/content/uzbekistan-boy-dies-cotton/25112082.html: Six-year old Amirbek Rakhmatov suffocated to death under a pile of cotton in Narchok village of Vobkent district of Bukhara region on September 15. The child accompanied his mother to pick cotton, climbed into a trailer for transporting cotton, and fell asleep. No one noticed, and when cotton was loaded into the trailer at the end of the day, the child was suffocated under the weight of the cotton. This was one of three fatalities in the first two weeks of the cotton harvest. Muhlisa Rajabova, born in 1996 and beginning her second year at Hilol Agriculture College of Karshi, died of electrocution while picking cotton harvest on the Khilol farm in Qashqadaryo province on September 2. A second-year student of Karshi
State University, History Faculty stabbed four other students of the same faculty in a cotton field on 16 September, and one of the stabbing victims died on the spot.

http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25104210.html and
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25111213.html: A Radio Liberty reader posted a blog stating that students diagnosed with health issues were forced to pick cotton. A listener reported abysmal conditions of accommodations for cotton pickers in Samarkand, including no gas, electricity or appropriate washing facilities; therefore, some pay 35,000 soums ($17 USD) for rent and 3,000 soums ($1.42) per shower in other facilities, expenditures far exceeding any pay for the cotton picked. Another listener asked what children are doing in schools emptied of the teachers, who are forced to pick cotton.

96. 18 September 2013, UzNews, “Зааминцев заставляют собирать хлопок бесплатно”
http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=ru&sub=top&cid=2&nid=23785: Residents of villages in the Zaaminski district of Dzhizak province were gathered together by local authorities and told they must all pick cotton, for which they will receive no payment, not even the token amounts received in past years. There are to be no exceptions; if anyone is too old or sick to participate they must hire a replacement with their own money. The authorities threatened to cut off electricity and/or hold up child support or pension payments to those who refuse to participate.

97. 17 September 2013, BBC, “Пахта: Ўқитувчиларга талабаларни топишдек изқуварлар вазифаси берилган,”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/uzbek/uzbekistan/2013/09/130917_cotton_teacher.shtml: The BBC interviewed a high-school teacher, who reported school had been closed for 1.5 months; they were ordered to pick cotton despite poor health; and they were ordered to coerce 30 students into picking cotton under their oversight. The teachers were instructed to report uncooperative students to police, who would record a list of their names. The target students were the 10-15% who register but work instead of attending school. The teacher also reported visiting a healthcare clinic, where staff instructed everyone the no medical exemptions would be granted, except by the mayor’s office. Another teacher reported receiving the orders to recruit and oversee students in the cotton fields. A third citizen reported that individuals are paying an estimated 1 million soums for food, drink and cotton purchases to meet their individual cotton-picking quotas.

98. 16 September 2013, BBC, “Пахта мавсуми сабаб Тошкентда мардикорларнинг нархи кескин кўтарилган’,”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/uzbek/uzbekistan/2013/09/130916_cotton_season_mardikors.shtml: BBC interviewed Sur’at Ikromov, leader of the Action Group of Independent Human Rights Defenders of Uzbekistan. Mr. Ikromov reported that everyone – public sector and private sector – is required to contribute to the cotton harvest. Government tax inspectors threaten private business owners with extraordinary tax investigations to ensure their contribution. Businessmen avoid the field work by hiring day labourers, which transfers the labour cost from the government to the businesses. Government officials have instructed citizens to report to foreigners that they contribute to the harvest for the love of the motherland.
99. 16 September, UzMetronom, “Ушли на грядки,”
http://www.uzmetronom.com/2013/09/16/ushli_na_grjadki.html: In Tashkent, authorities required business owners to send their workers to pick cotton and to sign an agreement to buy food for the cotton pickers from Mega Food Store, a company directed by O.Z. Ortikov, yet the actual use of the money is unknown. Example of the agreement is posted on the link. At the Sergeli automotive market in Tashkent, shop owners were compelled to pick cotton for three days in Jizzak region, hire someone to go in their place, or pay 40,000 soums ($19) per day to the district administration, under threat of losing their shops.

100. 13 September 2013, EurasiaNet, “Uzbekistan: Tashkent to Allow Cotton Harvest Monitoring”,
http://eurasianet.org/node/67503

http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25105254.html: The Namangan regional governor issued a statement to the local media that the students of the three regional universities and all workers of companies and public-sector institutions would work in the cotton harvest. After these groups were mobilized, local authorities assigned neighborhood “mahalla” committees to mobilize residents. Secondly, a private-sector worker in Tashkent region reported that he learned of the ILO mission from Radio Liberty and noted that he and his colleagues were instructed to respond to their questions by saying that they picked cotton ‘voluntarily, to raise the economy of the country and work hard for our motherland.’

102. 12 September 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Коллеж талабалари "пахтага бораман" деган тилдага ёзишга мажбурланмоқда,”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25103653.html: Throughout the country, students were required to sign letters stating their agreement to pick cotton, ‘to fulfill my duty to my country, my nation and my family,’ and acknowledgement to accept punishment if they fail to fulfill this “duty.” A high-school staff person confirmed the use of these letters and stated that punishment for not fulfilling the order is necessary to ensure the students pick cotton, as they have each year.

103. 9 September 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Тошкент мактаблари пахта теримига "команда" олди,”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25100550.html: Starting September 9, school staff were sent to pick cotton or required to pay a fine of 400,000 soums ($189). Public sector workers in Tashkent received orders to begin picking cotton on September 10. In Buka district, Tashkent region, local authorities mobilized five people from each neighborhood. Starting September 6, Navoi city, Kashkadarya region, nurses were sent to pick cotton and stay overnight in the cotton fields of Kiziltepa district. The nurses reported picking cotton in shifts for 10-15 days. September 6, Surkhandarya district, workers of several private companies and public institutions were sent to pick cotton.

104. 7 September 2013, BBC, “Қашқадарёда 9 сентябрдан оммавий пахта терими бошланади,”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/uzbek/uzbekistan/2013/09/130907_cy_uzbek_cotton.shtml: Kashkadarya region, leading up to September 10, university students, public-sector and private sector workers and members of neighborhood “mahalla” committees received orders to pick cotton or pay the value of their daily cotton quota. Authorities also informed residents that transportation and food expenses would be the responsibility of the citizens, and that penalties for disobeying the orders included dismissal from work, docked salary, and expulsion from school.
105. 5 September 2013, Uzmetronom.com: Private businessmen whose firms work on the territory of Tashkent’s parks were called together and told that according to the local administration they will all voluntarily spend 40 days picking cotton in Syrdarya. Those who don’t wish to volunteer or wish to volunteer for a shorter period should pay 40,000 soums ($18-19) per day or 1.6 million soums ($755) for the full 40 day period (apparently no discounts given). According to the article: “Those who refused were threatened with administrative intervention (additional checks of their financial-economic activities leading to the opening of criminal cases in instances of causing harm to the national economy).” The article notes that teachers, doctors, clerks, industrial workers, etc. are getting the same message.

106. 5 September 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Жанубий вилоятларда пахта теримига “старт” берилди,” http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25096739.html: September 5, in southern regions, under orders from the authorities, public-sector institutions and private companies began sending their send their employees to the cotton fields.

107. 4 September 2013, UzNews, “Jizzakh students being prepared for the cotton season,” http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=top&cid=2&nid=23647: Jizzakh, public institutions received orders to dedicate transportation services to the cotton harvest. Education officials informed students that if there are not enough buses available, the students would be charged 600 soums ($0.28) each for transportation.

108. 3 September 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Кейинги ҳафтадан пахта теримига сафарбарлик кутилмоқда,” http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25094184.html: A listener wrote to Radio Liberty that private companies employing 10 or more persons were ordered to send 2-5 employees to pick cotton. Another listener reported that all organizations in Surkhandarya region were ordered to send staff to pick cotton.

109. 28 August 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Ҳашарчилар таъминоти ташилотларга юкланди,” http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25089497.html: Surkhandarya region, authorities convened a meeting with heads of public-sector institutions and private companies and ordered them to pay the cost of furnishing accommodations for people sent to pick cotton. The “Djarkorgonneft” society was responsible for refurbishing a field house with toilets and showers.

110. 23 August 2013, UzNews, “Uzbek teachers enlisted in preparation for child labour during the cotton harvest,” http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=hot&cid=3&nid=23565: Angren, Tashkent region, high-school administrators required teachers to travel to cotton farms and prepare accommodations for students who would be sent to pick cotton and informed teachers that they would also be required to pick cotton.

111. 23 August 2013, Fergana News, “Uzbek Government to mobilize state employees for the cotton harvest,” http://enews.fergananews.com/news.php?id=2699&mode=snews: Tashkent, administrations of public-sector institutions informed staff that they would be required to pick cotton and pay for their travel, alimentation and lodging during the cotton harvest. The daily cotton picking quota told to city residents was 40-60 kilograms.

112. 18 August 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Шифокорлар бу йил ҳам мажбуран пахтага олиб чиқилади,” http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25079622.html: Around the country, hospitals and other health care institution administrations instructed the
doctors, nurses and other staff that they would have to pick cotton or contribute approximately half of their salary to cotton collection during the harvest season, or they would be dismissed.

http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/25073049.html: Fergana regional authorities issued orders for the upcoming cotton harvest: no weddings during the harvest; no taking children to pick cotton near the main highways; and public-sector workers will contribute to the harvest.

114. 27 May 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Янгийўллик тибиёти ходимлари пахта яганасига мажбурланди;”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/24998716.html: Yangiyul, Tashkent region central hospital doctors, nurses and other staff were sent to weed cotton fields. A paramedic and head doctor stated that the contracts for the hospital staff included a statement that they would “voluntarily” help with agricultural work.

115. 23 May 2013, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty “Ozodlik,” “Чироқчида ўқувчилар чопиққа мажбурланмоқда;”
http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/24994813.html: Chiroqchi district, Kashkadarya region, classes for grades 5-6 at School No. 170 and No. 35 were suspended, and the children ages 10-12 were sent to weed and plough cotton fields.

116. 16 May 2013, UzNews, “In Angren all residents mobilized to weed cotton fields;”
http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=usual&cid=2&nid=22737: Angren, Tashkent region, high-school students, teachers, and workers of the power plant were sent to work in the cotton fields. Power plant workers who refused were asked to resign, and some sent their children to the cotton fields in their place. Teachers could pay 20,000 soums ($9 USD) to avoid the field work. Students reported teachers promised good grades for good field work.

http://www.ozodlik.org/content/article/24987039.html: Amudarya district, Karalkalpakstan, schoolchildren were sent to weed and plough cotton fields. Jizzak region, teachers and other public-sector workers were forced to work in the cotton fields on the weekends.

118. 12 February 2013, UzNews, “Human rights body calls for release of Salijon Abdurahmanov;”

119. 12 February 2013, UzNews, “Jizzak-based activist under round-the-clock watch;”
http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&sub=usual&cid=2&nid=22026: Jizzak region, Uktam Pardaev, a human rights activist, reported that his home was under 24-hour surveillance by police or security personnel. He had been detained during the 2012 cotton.

120. 7 February 2013, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, “‘Volunteering’ Gone Made in Uzbekistan;”
http://iwpr.net/report-news/volunteering-gone-mad-uzbekistan: Teachers and other public-sector professionals in Uzbekistan have always been forced to take part in the cotton harvest and some public works, e.g. landscaping, but the extraordinary assignments have been increasing. The workers report that it’s better to pick cotton, plant trees, help construction projects, etc. than refuse, which can cost them their salary.
Annex 3: Emailed observations from Uzbek citizens

121. 19 September 2013, English summary: In Namangan, we were also told that international organizations will be carrying out monitoring. We were instructed as to how to respond to their questions. We are supposed to say that we went out to harvest cotton voluntarily, on our own initiative, in order to help our country improve its economy. Your opinions about forced labour in Uzbekistan are absolutely correct; all the articles I have read about this are the truth.

122. 17 September 2013, English summary: On 17 September 2013, at 6:00 AM at South Station, the Tashkent city mayor sent “volunteers” to the cotton harvest, somewhere in Jizzak region. The people would stay in a college gymnasium.

123. 17 September 2013, English Summary: A self-described small businessman in Tashkent reported that he wrote that late last week he received a call from the local administration in the district of Tashkent where his business is registered inviting him to a meeting the next day. When he showed up, he was taken in to see a Deputy Administrator who was accompanied by two men who identified themselves as working for the Prosecutor’s Office and the Tax Inspectorate. He was told he needed to contribute two people to the cotton harvest. He explained he only employed four and could not spare two of them for the harvest. He was then told that in that case he should hire two unemployed people to do the harvesting. He again refused and was threatened with stepped up inspections of his business by a variety of government agencies. According to the author of the email, just during the time he was at the local administration office something like 40 other private businessmen were there, having been called in just as he was.

124. 17 September 2013, English summary: Mahalla committee in Tashkent suburbs visited the homes of the community residents and asked them to give 89,000 soums ($42) to the cotton harvest. The mahalla committee representatives informed the residents that they would have problems with their electricity if they refused to pay. One pensioner reported that he already refused to pay and lost power; he then paid, and the power returned.

125. 13 September 2013, English summary: We are aware of our rights but cannot do anything to exercise them. Our state itself sends people to pick cotton and acts as a mafia. Today before we were sent to the cotton fields the authorities told us that representatives of international organisations might come and ask us questions, and that we must answer that we came to the cotton harvest to help out the state. In these circumstances, no one will tell the truth in the presence of government officials.

126. 10 September 2013, English summary: Mother of four reported that she requested an exemption for her children from picking cotton and was denied. The mother has four children, tends to an ill mother. The student’s school director Kudaibergenov Otkir informed the mother that exemptions were only granted to children with disabilities and that she could pay 300,000 soums ($142) plus travel expenses to keep her child from picking cotton. The mother could not afford the amount requested.

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1 In the education system of Uzbekistan, schools called “colleges” and “lyceums” are the equivalent of high schools and specialized high schools in European and American education systems. The students are children typically ages 15-18.

2 The exchange rate in use during the period covered by this report was approximately 2,119 soums per $1 USD.
The Labour Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 7, states that “forced labour, that is, forcing the performance of work under the threat of any penalty (including as a means of labour discipline) is prohibited.” After ratifying the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2008, the Government of Uzbekistan established a law “On measures to implement the Convention, ratified by the Republic of Uzbekistan on the minimum age for admission to employment and the Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour”.

The ILO Convention on the Prohibition of Forced Labour (No. 105), Article 1(b), prohibits the use of any form of forced or compulsory labour “as a means of mobilizing and using labour for purposes of economic development.” Unquestionably in violation of this Article, the Uzbek government uses forced labour to produce cotton and generate over one billion USD annually. Forced or compulsory labour is defined at Convention No. 29, Article 2.1, as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself [or herself] voluntarily”. The Uzbek government penalizes children and adults who refuse to work in the cotton fields with expulsion from school, dismissal form work, and fines; and the government uses the threat of these penalties to mobilise children and adults to this work.


As a member of the ILO, the Government of Uzbekistan has committed to uphold four fundamental principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, effective abolition of child labour, and elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.