



FACTS AND FIGURES: TORTURE IN UZBEKISTAN

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Torture and other ill-treatment is endemic in Uzbekistan's criminal justice system. Security forces use torture against men and women charged with criminal offences, such as theft and murder, as well as against individuals who have fallen out of favour with the authorities.

The following facts and figures give an idea of the scale of the problem, the government's prolonged failure to act, and the international community's willingness to look the other way for economic or military ends.

The numbers behind the crime:

336 – number of torture complaints officially registered from 2010 to 2013

166 – Uzbekistan's rank on the Corruption Perceptions Index, placing it in the world's top 10 most corrupt public sectors

60 – witnesses and torture survivors were interviewed for Amnesty International's new report

20 – years have passed since Uzbekistan acceded to the UN Convention Against Torture

11 – requests are pending from UN human rights experts to visit Uzbekistan since 2002

11 – police officers have been convicted for torture from 2010-2013

4 – Uzbekistan Supreme Court directives explicitly prohibiting the use of torture to extract confessions and use them in court

0 – number of independent monitors or bodies who inspect prisons or conditions under detention

The international community:

\$1 billion US dollars – value of investment projects implemented by leading German companies in Uzbekistan. Trade between Uzbekistan and Germany was valued at 461 million euros in 2014, up 10% from 2013

\$348 million US dollars – value of military vehicles the USA gave Uzbekistan in January 2015

14 – number of years Germany has leased Termez army base in Uzbekistan. Its troops change planes there on the way to Afghanistan

Uzbekistan's torture techniques:

The police and security forces commonly use a range of methods to torture and otherwise ill-treat people in custody:

- Beatings with hands and fists, batons, rubber truncheons, iron rods and water-filled plastic bottles
- Beatings while suspended from ceiling hooks by their hands, often with their arms fastened behind their back, or handcuffed to radiators or to metal bars attached to walls.
- Asphyxiation with plastic bags or gas masks
- Rape
- Psychological torment
- Deprivation of food and water
- Exposure to extreme temperatures
- Sleep deprivation
- Electric shocks
- Sexual humiliation
- Needles inserted under fingernails and toenails

Torture – a global crisis:

157 – countries have ratified the International Convention against Torture

141– number of countries in which Amnesty has reported on torture in the past five years