

Andijan Campaign Blog

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PRESS RELEASE

5/5/10

Extrajudicial Execution in Uzbekistan

Revealed by new direct testimony to be a regular practice of Uzbekistan's National Security Service

In October 2008, the European Union lifted sanctions against Uzbekistan—sanctions initially imposed due to the Uzbek government's refusal to allow an international investigation into the Andijan events of May 2005. The argument in favour of lifting the sanctions was based largely on the fact that the government of Uzbekistan had formally revoked the death penalty, and introduced a right of habeas corpus. These gestures were perceived as signs of progress in Uzbekistan's human rights situation. New evidence shows that the Karimov regime has compensated for the abolition of the legally sanctioned death penalty by increasing the practice of extrajudicial executions. Approximately 300 extrajudicial executions were witnessed during a six-month period 2005-2006 in the Ferghana valley.

The Association "Human Rights in Central Asia" has learned that during the period from September 2005 to February 2006, one of regional morgues in the Ferghana Valley region recorded the intake of at least 300 bodies that bore fresh signs of torture and gunshot wounds. Some of them had the traces of having been shot in the head. The bodies came accompanied by staff of the National Security Service and were registered on a special green card. In most cases, these were male corpses, but there were also 20-25 bodies of women between the ages of 20 to 40, including one pregnant woman and 6 children between the ages of 3-10. There were no accompanying identification documents with these bodies. Instead of names, each corpse was identified by a seven-digit number. On the "green cards," in addition to the identification number, there was a report on the autopsy results as well as on the presence and character of the injuries sustained.

According to a witness, all of the corpses were delivered between 3 to 5 hours after death, with it clear in most cases that the deceased people had been previously held for prolonged stays in detention. They bore signs of torture such as bruises, cuts, chemical burns, gunshot wounds, damaged internal organs, as well as signs of severe forms of rape and violence in their genital areas.

According to some indirect indications, the victims of these extrajudicial killings were:

-eyewitnesses of the Andijan events;

-people, who had participated in the demonstrations of 13 May 2005 and who were presumably

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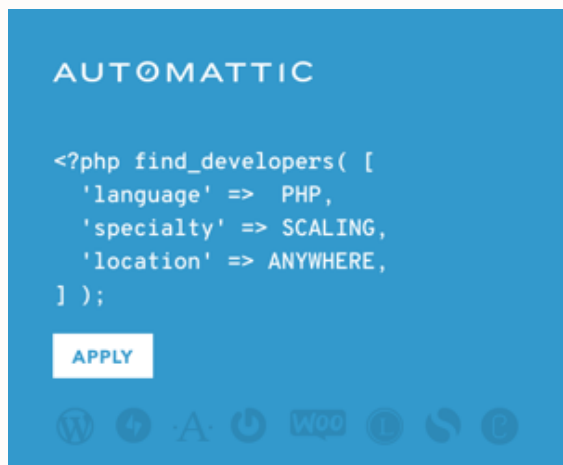
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This new information was obtained through interviews with a witness who was previously employed in a facility controlled by the National Security Service of Uzbekistan. Further details supporting the credibility of these reports will be published soon.

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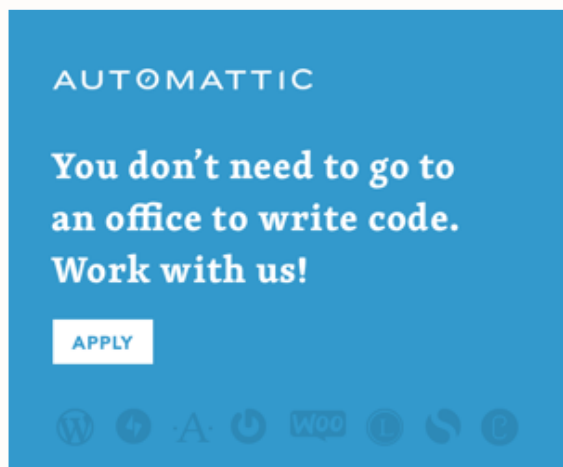
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