UPR 16, April 24, 2013

Recommendations by Canada

**Uzbekistan**

**Question**

In 2008, Uzbekistan indicated that a number of recommendations made by Canada pertained to measures already being implemented or which had already been implemented and would be further considered by the Uzbek Government.

Could the Delegation of Uzbekistan inform us on the status of the implementation and enforcement processes, specifically as regards: forced labour of youths (people under the age of 18) and civil servants during the cotton harvest; the use of torture and other enhanced interrogation techniques in the criminal justice system; and efforts to strengthen democratic development, in particular the protection of basic human rights such as the freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of the press? What concrete progress has been achieved so far, what are the benchmarks for remaining steps and the deadline for completion of this review?

**Recommendations**

Canada recommends that Uzbekistan:

1.    Ensure full compliance with international child labour standards, including ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Canada recommends that Uzbekistan collaborate with the ILO to that effect and carefully consider the relevant recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee.

2.    Take effective measures to eliminate the use of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on an urgent basis, investigate allegations of such acts and prosecute and punish all those responsible.

3.    Adopt effective measures to prevent any harassment or intimidation of all those exercising their democratic rights of freedom of association and expression. Political prisoners and human rights activists who have been illegally detained or forced out of the country, should either be freed immediately or allowed to return to Uzbekistan to enjoy their basic rights and freedoms.

4.    Close Jaslyk Prison, or relocate it in order to improve the conditions of detention and its accessibility.

**Observations**

We note that an order banning child labour was issued in 2012. According to some reports, the incidence of labour by young children (under the age of fifteen) dropped significantly during the 2012 harvest. However, we remain concerned that school-aged children (fifteen and over), university students and public servants, including teachers, are forced to work during the cotton harvest.