

UZBEKISTAN

Universal Periodic Review – Third cycle
30th session of the UPR Working Group (April-May 2018)

Submission on “Corruption and Human Rights in Uzbekistan”

Presented by:

- Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights (UGF)
- State Crime Initiative (SCI)
- Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre)

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Submitting Organizations

1. Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights (UGF)

The Uzbek–German Forum for Human Rights (UGF) is a Germany-based NGO dedicated to improving the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and strengthening and promoting civil society. UGF was established and registered in Berlin in July 2009 as a joint venture between Uzbeks and Germans with the purpose of strengthening human rights advocacy through engagement with European and international institutions. The goal of the organization is to end to human rights abuses in Uzbekistan by building the capacity of local human rights groups, conducting advocacy with the EU and international institutions and by mobilizing public opinion in Europe. Advocacy efforts are particularly focused on Germany because of its strong ties with Uzbekistan and throughout the region and because of its influential role in EU foreign policy. UGF also partners with other human rights organizations to address key issues such as forced and child labor in the country’s cotton sector; strengthen the rule of law and establish an independent legal system; promote the establishment of more human rights organizations and to stand up for the freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

Website: <http://uzbekgermanforum.org>

2. State Crime Initiative (SCI)

The most serious crimes in the modern world, on any reasonable definition, are acts that are largely committed, instigated or condoned by governments and their officials: for example, genocide, war crimes, torture and corruption. However, state crime is under-acknowledged by popular and academic authors. Calling these activities ‘crimes’ should be uncontroversial as they violate international and/or national criminal law. SCI takes the term crime to include all violations of human rights that are deviant in the sense that they infringe some socially recognized norm. We take states to include all bodies that seek to achieve a monopoly of the legitimate use of force in some substantial territory, whether or not they are internationally recognized as states. State crimes are crimes committed or condoned by the personnel of such organizations in pursuit of organizational goals. For example, if a single police officer force takes a bribe, that is not necessarily a state crime. But if the government turns a blind eye to bribery because it is the only way the police can achieve a reasonable income, or if bribery is part of an informal strategy for controlling the local drugs trade, then it is a state crime.

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3. Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre)

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre) works to promote the participation of NGOs in the work of the Human Rights Committee. By raising awareness, strengthening the capacity of the NGOs and providing technical and legal support at all stages of the reporting process and the individual complaint procedure. One of the CCPR-Centre’s priorities is promoting the use of the Human Rights Committee’s follow-up procedure. The CCPR-Centre also aims at ensuring that the work of the Human Rights Committee is fully taken into account in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) established by the Human Rights Council. The CCPR-Centre targets national and regional NGOs, as well as thematic NGOs whose mandates relate to the ICCPR.

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