



"COTTON WORK" BRINGS A NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION IN KASHKADARYA

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Abstract: This scientific article examines the repressive policy of the former Soviet government in Uzbekistan in the 1980s related to the "cotton case", and in particular the impact of this policy on the lives of the local population in the Kashkadarya region. It partially sheds light on the tragic fate of people who were unjustly victimized as a result of the economic and political reforms carried out during the former Soviet era.

Keywords: "Cotton case", "Uzbek case", political repression, former Soviet government, Kashkadarya, Gdlyan, Ivanov, victims of repression.

Introduction: Our people lived under the oppression of the former Soviet government for almost a century and during this period experienced very difficult and trying days. The policy of repression carried out by the leaders of the center from the 30s of the 20th century to the early 50s led to the physical destruction of many intellectuals and enlighteners of our country. Unfortunately, such repressions continued in subsequent years.

By the mid-1980s, repression and legal restrictions began to rise again in the former Soviet Union, and this wave of political repression did not bypass the Uzbek SSR. The next wave of repression was faced by people of national creativity, as well as economic construction and statesmen. The national intelligentsia of Uzbekistan never, even in the most difficult times, abandoned the ideas of national independence of the Uzbek people. Even when it was not possible to fight openly, they fought secretly to gain national independence. These struggles began in the early 1980s, when "landing" groups of responsible officials with great authority began to arrive from the Center under the guise of restoring legislation and legal order in the Uzbek SSR and strengthening party and state bodies with personnel. They were given important positions in party, Soviet, and judicial bodies. The fabrications, slanders, and slanders they fabricated were given a political connotation, such as "the cotton affair" and "the Uzbek affair." As a result, the Uzbek people began to be portrayed as criminals by the Center and the entire Union, and as a result, a new era of repression began in Uzbekistan.

Main part: Through this political repression, called the "Cotton Affair," various slanders and slanders were spread against the Uzbek people, thousands of innocent people were imprisoned and punished on unfounded charges. Thousands of families were left without breadwinners, and children were left without fathers. How many parents lost their children, their loved ones, and women lost their spouses? This repression has broken the will of the people and the nation, and extinguished their faith in a brighter tomorrow.

The investigative team led by Gdlyan and Ivanov, sent by the center, involved several thousand executives working in various sectors of the republic in the investigation process. They were accused of bribery, extortion, and other forms of crime. Physical violence and psychological torture were used to force the prisoners to confess to the false accusations and slanders made against them, and there were many cases in which they were even threatened with the loss of their loved ones, family members, and children. Among those who were



investigated and labeled as criminals was even Sharof Rashidov, the former First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, a true son of the Uzbek people, and the puppet leaders of the Uzbek SSR at that time also played a significant role in this. Mass arrests were rampant, and many honest, conscientious people were tortured. Such vices as extraneous writing, embezzlement, and bribery were typical of socialist republics. The "Cotton Affair" was nothing more than a specially prepared, far-reaching political conspiracy.

During the "Cotton Case" period, the investigation team initiated criminal cases against a total of 25,000 people from all regions of our country, almost the majority of whom were imprisoned without formal inquiries or any investigative work, 4,500 people were brought to criminal responsibility, and 3,600 people were subjected to various levels of punishment. As a result of this political repression, many leaders who worked in our country at that time, as well as leaders who worked in various positions, were dismissed from their positions and brought to criminal responsibility. If we take the example of the Kashkadarya region alone, in 1985 alone, almost all the leaders of the regional leadership and district authorities were removed from their positions, and almost all of them were labeled as "bribery", "thief", "criminal". The late Rozmat Goyubov, who served as the First Secretary of the Kashkadarya Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan for many years in the Kashkadarya region, was also one of the victims of the "cotton case" political repression. Rozmat Gayubov resigned from his post in 1983 and was investigated in the "cotton case" that same year. In 1984, R. Gayubov, unable to bear the unjust accusations and slander against him, committed suicide. After R. Gayubov's death, all his titles and awards were revoked and he was branded a criminal.

Results and Discussion. The political and economic situation in Kashkadarya deteriorated for several years after the resignation of R. Gayubov. In such a precarious and complex situation, Islam Karimov was appointed head of the region in December 1986. Historical documents indicate that the decisive struggle to restore the human rights of those unjustly punished began first in the Kashkadarya region, and Islam Karimov himself personally led this. From the very first days of his arrival in the region, Islam Karimov focused his attention on improving the political situation in the region.

In the history of Islam Karimov's activities in Kashkadarya, a special place is occupied by the protection of people who were unjustly victimized due to the campaigns called "Uzbek affairs" and "cotton affairs", and the restoration of their honor and dignity. After Islam Karimov was appointed as the leader of Kashkadarya, he first of all set out to restore the broken will of the people, acquit those who had been unjustly imprisoned and brought to justice, and return them to the bosom of their families. He was not afraid of the difficulties, obstacles, contradictions, and pressures and threats made against him by the leadership of the Center and the republic.

As a result of comprehensive re-examinations, it was confirmed that the vast majority of those detained were illegally punished, subjected to unjust discrimination and insults. It was thanks to such courageous actions that work was subsequently carried out throughout the republic to protect and restore the rights of those unjustly punished. The truth was openly told to the whole world, not only from the pulpits of our republic, but also from the platforms of the former Soviet Union, about restoring the trampled honor and pride of our people, and freeing the blessed name of Uzbek from all kinds of slander and libel¹.

¹ Poyon Ravshanov "Qashqadaryo istiqloq arafasida 1986-1989 yillar . Toshkent 2003



Many of our compatriots still remember with deep sorrow the repressive policy of the former Soviet government in our country in the 1980s. At that time, those who were unjustly imprisoned for the "cotton case" and spent several years in prison in extremely difficult conditions until they were acquitted, or those who were unable to help their loved ones who were imprisoned without any guilt and on false charges, There are many written and spoken memories of this political repression by our compatriots who, because the regime of that time did not allow this or who applied to various agencies to review the cases of the convicted, could not achieve any positive results. In particular, the late, Hero of Uzbekistan, People's Poet Abdulla Oripov, remembering that terrible period, recalls:

The fabricated accusations of "Uzbek affairs" and "cotton affairs" have made so many families bleed, and have made our honor one with the earth. They even forced people to say "I am a traitor", "I am a bribe-taker". They accused us of organized crime and tried to tarnish our reputation throughout the world. So why so many insults, so many humiliations? Who had the right to insult and slander an entire nation? The goal of this injustice was to break the spirit of the people, trample on their pride, and shatter their confidence in themselves and their future. However, even in those turbulent and difficult times, there were individuals who stood firm against injustice, fought bravely, and defended their people with open arms"².

Another of our compatriots, Shukhrat Boboyorov, who was imprisoned for several years on charges of "cotton fraud", was appointed chairman of the farm in the Shahrizabz district in 1983, but he held this position for only six months, because Shukhrat Boboyorov was also imprisoned in 1984 on charges of "incorporating cotton harvests". Shukhrat Boboyorov recounts the terrible days he spent in prison as follows:

Conclusion. "In short, the prison sentence began. Eleven years is easy to say. We completely lost hope in life. We - ordinary peasants working in the fields, without religion, without nationality, were taken and thrown into a prison of headless, hardened criminals. Two thousand people were thrown into a prison designed for 1,440 people. Let's not mention the cell, they crammed 45-50 people into a space designed for ten. People imprisoned for the "cotton case" are also vulnerable here: we can't protect each other. There were a lot of godless scoundrels in the zone we went to. Every day we spent among them was a thousand and one tortures. So, only those imprisoned know the true horror of prison"³.

Shukhrat Boboyorov was acquitted and released in February 1990, and thousands of our innocent compatriots who had served their unjust sentences in prison were also acquitted and returned to the arms of their loved ones and families. Among them, the majority were from Kashkadarya.

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