

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Uktam Pardaev, human rights defender, who was charged with fraud and bribery. He is facing 10 years in prison. He is being targeted for his legitimate human rights work.

I would like to express my concern that the allegations and charges against Uktam Pardaev are politically motivated and linked to his legitimate human rights work.

I need to call on the Uzbekistani authorities to ensure that Uktam Pardaev has full access to all legal safeguards in detention, in accordance with Uzbekistan's obligations under international human rights law, including access to a lawyer of his choice and protection from torture and other ill-treatment.

I also urge the authorities to stop the harassment and intimidation of civil society and remind them of their responsibility to protect human rights defenders, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Your attention on his matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,