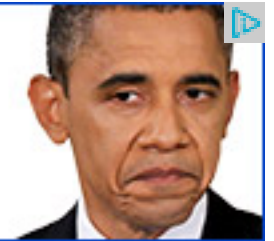


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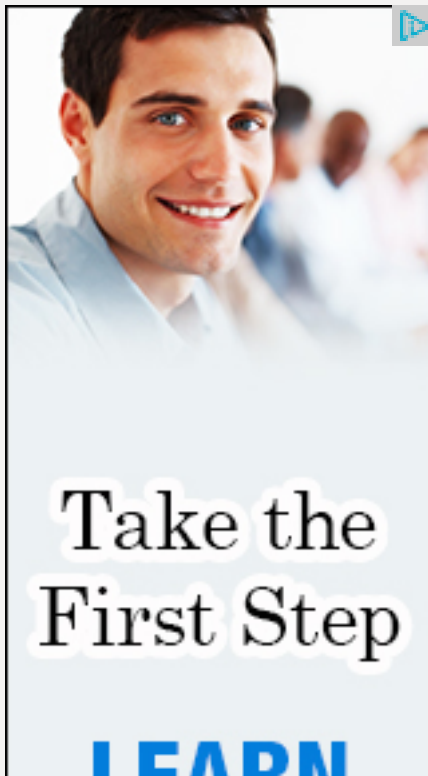


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15 July 2013

Central Asia news

COTTON FIELDS



USA, Human Rights Watch and Freedom House condemn sentence given to opposition activist V.Kozlov

09.10.2012 21:31 msk
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The United States has expressed its concern about the sentence given to Vladimir Kozlov, leader of **Kazakhstan** opposition party Alaa! (Forward!). who has been



The Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights compiled and distributed a new video clip on the forced labor of doctors and other medicine-related professionals to weeding cotton fields in Uzbekistan.

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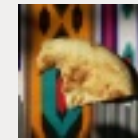


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... (Vladimir Kozlov), who has been sentenced to 7.5 years in prison for inciting social upheaval by the court of Aktau, *Novosti-Kazakhstan* reports. The announcement made by the US embassy in Kazakhstan says “The United States of America deeply value the strategic partnership with the Republic of Kazakhstan and its commitment to further transparency and democracy. This is why we are expressing concern regarding the criminal persecution of Vladimir Kozlov and the clear use of the criminal justice system to silence the opposition.”

International human rights organisations Human Rights Watch and Freedom House also condemned Mr Kozlov’s sentence. The HRW [statement](#) says that the sentence is a blow on the freedom of expression and political pluralism in Kazakhstan, and that Mr Kozlov “is paying dearly for publicly criticising the government.”

Susan Corke, director of Freedom House Eurasia programme, said “the court




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process was deeply politicised, and we found clear process violations”, Azattyk reports. Ms Cork said that Kazakhstan’s authorities showed their inability to create a stable legal base for a trial, adding that Mr Kozlov’s crime consisted of him “supporting oil sector workers through legitimate political actions.”

Yesterday, on 8 October 2012, the Aktau city court sentenced Vladimir Kozlov, leader of the Alga! opposition party, to 7.5 years in prison with the confiscation of property. Opposition politicians Serik Sapargali and civil activist Akjanat Aminov received conditional sentences.

Fergana international information agency. Translated by Sophia Matveeva

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