

**THE ACTIVITIES OF GDLYAN AND HIS GROUP IN CHIROQCHI (BASED ON SELECT CASES)****PhD Nurbek Rustamovich Suyarov**

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In the 1980s, the economy of the Chiroqchi district relied primarily on cotton growing, grain farming, and livestock breeding. Collective farms (kolkhozes) and state farms (sovkhozes) played a leading role in the district, with cotton being the main product delivered to the state. There were also small industrial enterprises engaged in processing agricultural products.

The lifestyle of the population revolved around agriculture, and educational institutions, libraries, and cultural centers were active in the area. Infrastructure developed gradually: major transport routes were based on automobile roads, while water supply depended largely on canals and wells. Political life was conducted under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

(On March 2, 2022, at the plenary session of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the issue of creating the Kökdala district by dividing the territory of Chiroqchi district into two parts was considered. During the session, it was agreed that 171 thousand hectares of land inhabited by 177 thousand people would be allocated from Chiroqchi district to the newly established Kökdala district<sup>1</sup>. On March 17, 2022, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis adopted the corresponding decision on the establishment of Kökdala district<sup>2</sup>.)

The “Gdlyan-led purges” of the 1980s did not spare several selfless individuals in Chiroqchi either — within the degrading practices of the collapsing Soviet state, they were punished due to injustices surrounding cotton, a value that for the Uzbek people had at times become a source of livelihood and at times a source of tragedy.

The case known as “Rajabov Abduraim” was separated from criminal case No. 160, which had been opened on January 18, 1986, against several officials and materially responsible

<sup>1</sup><https://xs.uz/uz/post/chiroqchi-tumanidan-kokdala-tumani-tarkibiga-qancha-er-majdoni-otkazilishi-ochiqlandi>

<sup>2</sup> <https://senat.uz/uz/lists/view/4132>: <https://senat.uz/uz/lists/view/4132>:

persons from the former “Party XXIV Congress” kolkhoz and the “Ilich” and “O‘xunboboyev” sovkhozes in Chiroqchi district, for the purpose of being reviewed separately.

This case arose from certain mistakes and misunderstandings that occurred during the delivery of the 1983 cotton harvest at the former “Ilich” sovkhoz. According to the allegations, the former director of the sovkhoz, Rajabov Abduraim, allegedly conspired with the former First Secretary of the district Party Committee, T. R. Tillayev, the former second-zone cotton classifier of the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant, Beknazarov Keldiyor, the chief accountant of the sovkhoz, Avlayev Normurot, the cashier, Navro‘zov Cho‘li, and the cotton delivery operator, Toshmamat Xolmurotov. They were accused of jointly inflating cotton delivery figures and creating turnover without actual product — thereby unlawfully acquiring wealth.

Rajabov Abduraim was born on July 28, 1946, in the village of Tepasoy in the Chiroqchi district. He lived in the village of Jar with his seven children. He served as the director of the “Ilich” sovkhoz in Chiroqchi. He was tried on suspicion of committing crimes such as abuse of official position, document forgery, embezzlement of large amounts of state funds, and bribery. By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated October 4, 1986, he was given a probationary period of 2 years and 6 months. By the ruling of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated October 26, 1990, the criminal case was dismissed.

Avlayev Nurmurat was born on April 30, 1949, in the village of Dovtash, Chiroqchi district. He had a higher education and worked as the chief accountant at the former “Ilich” sovkhoz in Chiroqchi. According to the indictment issued by the Kashkadarya Prosecutor’s Office on May 8, 1986, N. Avlayev was accused of abuse of official duties, inflating cotton delivery figures, falsifying documents, bribery, embezzlement of state and public property, and causing material damage. However, by the decision of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated October 4, 1986, he was given a lighter sentence — 3 years of conditional punishment with compulsory labor — because he did not personally benefit from the falsification and had acted under pressure from his superiors. His property was confiscated. By the ruling of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Uzbek SSR dated October 26, 1990, it was proven that N. Avlayev was not guilty, and he was fully acquitted.

Navro'zov Cho'li Raimovich was born on October 5, 1948, in the village of Mang'it in the Chiroqchi district. He had a second-degree disability. He worked as a cashier at the former "Ilich" sovkhos in Chiroqchi. He was accused of assisting in inflating cotton figures, falsifying documents, bribery, and embezzlement of state and public property. By the decision of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated October 4, 1986, Article 43 of the Criminal Code was applied, and he was given a 2-year probationary period. By the ruling of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Uzbek SSR dated October 26, 1990, the criminal case was dismissed.

Xolmuratov Toshmamat was born on February 10, 1947, in the village of Qorakamar in the Chiroqchi district. He worked as a cotton delivery officer at the "Lenin" kolkhoz in Chiroqchi. He was accused of falsifying documents, abuse of office, and bribery. According to the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated October 4, 1986, he was given a probationary period of 2 years and 6 months. By the ruling of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated October 26, 1990, the criminal case was dismissed.

According to the acquittal, the individuals involved in this criminal case acted under the unlawful orders of T. Tillayev, the former First Secretary of the Chiroqchi district Party Committee, and did so as a matter of urgent necessity<sup>3</sup>. According to the case materials, during the 1983 cotton harvest season, the defendants arranged for inflated cotton delivery figures under the name of the former "Ilich" sovkhos, and using these fictitious figures, withdrew funds from the sovkhos's cash office, which were then delivered to K. Beknazarov, the classifier of the district Cotton Processing Plant. During preliminary investigation and trial, the actions of Rajabov, Avlayev, Navro'zov, and Xolmuratov were misclassified under certain articles of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan. Their main intent was not to embezzle state or public property or to give bribes, but rather to fulfill unlawful orders requiring the procurement of cotton and falsification of cotton plan indicators for the sovkhos. This was confirmed by investigation materials, trial documents, witness testimonies, legal

<sup>3</sup> Qashqadaryo viloyati sudi Jinoyat ishlari bo'yicha sudlov kollegiyasining arxivi: Rajabov Abduraim va boshqalar jinoyat ishi bo'yicha materiallar to'plami.

provisions, and other evidence. These sources clearly showed that their actions did not constitute a crime, and therefore their complete acquittal was just.

On January 29, 1986, the case opened by the Kashkadarya Regional Prosecutor's Office against Boyqo'ziyev Qurbonazar and others was separated from the materials of criminal case No. 4144 involving E. Qo'chqorov, the classifier of the second zone of the "Kommunizm" Cotton Reception Point belonging to the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant, and others. After examination, it was submitted to court on September 10, 1986.

According to the indictment, Toshpo'latov N., who served as director of the "Kökdala" sovkhoz from 1980 to October 29, 1983, Uktam Rustamov, who served as chief accountant from 1981 to October 1984, accountant Boyqo'ziyev Qurbonazar, Shoimov Ro'ziboy, who for one year headed the 5th cotton-growing department, Ergash Qo'chqorov, the second-zone classifier of the former "Kommunizm" cotton point, and several cotton brigadiers conspired to present the cotton production plans of the former "Kökdala" sovkhoz as successfully fulfilled and, in pursuit of false prestige, carried out fictitious exchanges without actual product.

Boyqo'ziyev Qurbonazar was born in 1940 in the village of Moylijar, Chiroqchi district, where he continues to reside. He worked as an accountant at the former "Kökdala" sovkhoz in the Chiroqchi district. According to the indictment issued by the Kashkadarya Prosecutor's Office on January 12, 1988, he was accused of abuse of official duties, inflating cotton data, falsifying documents, embezzling large amounts of state funds, official forgery, bribery, and causing financial damage.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court dated June 4, 1988, he was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. However, under Article 44 of the then-applicable Criminal Code, the execution of the sentence was postponed for 2 years. In subsequent judicial proceedings, he was acquitted under Article 149.

By the ruling of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated October 26, 1990, the criminal case was dismissed.

Toshpo'latov Norpo'lat was born in 1937 in the Samarkand region and lived in the center of the former Kökdala sovkhoz. He worked as the forage preparation brigadier at the former Kökdala sovkhoz in the Chiroqchi district. He was accused of abuse of official duties, inflating cotton data, falsifying documents, embezzling large amounts of state funds, official forgery, bribery, and causing economic damage.



By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court in 1988, he was sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment. Due to having minor children and because he had not personally benefited from the proceeds of the alleged offenses, execution of the sentence was postponed for 2 years. He was later acquitted under Article 149 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Rustamov O'ktam was born in 1952 in the village of Yanvar, Chiroqchi district. He resides in the village of O'tamayli, Chiroqchi district. He worked as an assistant accountant at the "Bukhoro" sovkhoz in the Muborak district. According to the indictment issued by the Kashkadarya Prosecutor's Office on January 12, 1988, he was accused of abuse of official duties, inflating cotton data, falsifying documents, embezzling large amounts of state funds, official forgery, receiving and giving bribes, and causing material damage. By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court dated June 4, 1988, he was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment under Article 42 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan, and under Article 44, execution of the sentence was postponed for 2 years. He was acquitted under Article 149 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan.

Shoyimov Ro'ziboy was born in 1941 in the Chiroqchi district. He worked at the 51st sovkhoz in the Chiroqchi district. By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court dated June 4, 1988, he was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment under Article 42 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan, and under Article 44<sup>4</sup>, execution of the sentence was postponed for 2 years. This case was not reviewed in cassation but was heard by the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 26, 1990, where the following conclusions were reached:

— Q. Boyqo'ziyev, R. Shoyimov, and N. Toshpo'latov engaged in these actions as a last resort in order to fulfill the actual production plan of the sovkhoz.  
— During the 1983 cotton harvest season, they arranged for more than 700 tons of cotton to be recorded through Qo'chqorov, the second-zone classifier of the former "Kommunizm" cotton receiving point, delivered the cotton payments to him, and returned the remaining funds from the total revenue to the sovkhoz's cash office. Thus, the funds were not misappropriated for personal gain.

<sup>4</sup> Qashqadaryo viloyati sudi Jinoyat ishlari bo'yicha sudlov kollegiyasining arxivi: Akbarov Samad va boshqalar jinoyat ishi bo'yicha materiallar to'plami.

— The trial and the indictment materials indicate that the primary intention and purpose of the defendants were not to embezzle state property or to engage in bribery transactions, but to acquire cotton under unlawful directives and to inflate the sovkhoz's cotton delivery plan.

Boyqo'ziyev Qurbonnazar was born in 1940 in the village of Moylijar, Chiroqchi district, where he still resides. He worked as an accountant at the former "Kökdala" sovkhoz in the Chiroqchi district.

According to the indictment issued by the Kashkadarya Prosecutor's Office on January 12, 1988, he was charged with abuse of official authority, inflating cotton yield data, falsifying documents, embezzling large amounts of state funds, official forgery, bribery, and causing financial damage.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court dated June 4, 1988, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment; however, under Article 44 of the then-applicable Criminal Code, execution of the sentence was postponed for two years. In later judicial proceedings, he was acquitted under Article 149.

By the ruling of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated October 26, 1990, the criminal case was dismissed.

Toshpo'latov Norpo'lat was born in 1937 in the Samarkand region and lived in the central settlement of the former Kökdala sovkhoz. He worked as the forage-preparation brigadier at the same sovkhoz.

He was charged with abuse of official duties, inflating cotton data, falsifying documents, embezzling large amounts of state funds, official forgery, bribery, and causing economic damage.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court in 1988, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Because he had minor children and had not personally benefited from the alleged offenses, execution of the sentence was postponed for two years. He was later acquitted under Article 149 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Rustamov O'ktam was born in 1952 in the village of Yanvar, Chiroqchi district, and currently resides in the village of O'tamayli of the same district. He worked as an assistant accountant at the "Bukhor" sovkhoz in the Muborak district.

According to the indictment issued by the Kashkadarya Prosecutor's Office on January 12, 1988, he was charged with abuse of official duties, inflating cotton data, falsifying documents, embezzling large amounts of state funds, official forgery, receiving and giving bribes, and causing material damage.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court dated June 4, 1988, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment under Article 42 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan; under Article 44, execution of the sentence was postponed for two years. He was subsequently acquitted under Article 149 of the Criminal Code.

Shoyimov Ro'ziboy was born in 1941 in the Chiroqchi district and worked at the 51st sovkhoz.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Court dated June 4, 1988, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment under Article 42 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan; under Article 44, execution of the sentence was postponed for two years. The case was not reviewed in cassation but was examined by the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 26, 1990. The following conclusions were reached:

— Q. Boyqo'ziyev, R. Shoyimov, and N. Toshpo'latov undertook these actions as a last resort in order to fulfill the actual production plan of the sovkhoz.

— During the 1983 cotton harvest season, they arranged for more than 700 tons of cotton to be recorded through Qo'chqorov, the second-zone classifier at the former "Kommunizm" cotton receiving point; the cotton payments were delivered to him, and the remaining funds from the total revenue were returned to the sovkhoz's cash office. Thus, the funds were not misappropriated for personal gain.

— The trial materials and indictment documents demonstrate that their primary intent was not to embezzle state property or engage in bribery, but to procure cotton under unlawful directives and to inflate the sovkhoz's cotton delivery plan.

Taking the above into consideration, by the decision of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 26 October 1990, all individuals convicted within this case were discharged from liability on the grounds that their actions did not constitute a criminal offense.

The case concerning Allayorov Normurod and others was initially initiated in 1985 by investigator B. Navro'zov of the Chiroqchi District Prosecutor's Office based on a written application submitted by Suloymanov Isomiddin, former general director of the old "Vosxod" sovkhoz. In his application, he stated that after returning 15,000 rubles from the amount he received as a "bonus," the sovkhoz cashier, Rahmonov Xoliq, issued him a receipt but then appropriated the money without depositing it into the cash office.

Subsequently, the case was taken under the supervision of the regional prosecutor's office.

According to the indictment dated 13 May 1986, suspect Allayorov Normurod, who served as director of the former "Vosxod" sovkhoz in Chiroqchi district from August 1982 to August 1984, was accused of abusing his official position, engaging in bribery and extortion, systematically committing official falsification, and—in collusion with (alleged) accomplices Jomuradov Shog'dor (chief accountant), Sulaymonov Isomiddin (chief livestock specialist), Rahmonov Xoliq and Eshbadalov Tuval (cashiers)—causing significant financial damage to the state.

**Allayorov Normurod**, born on 15 December 1940 in the village of Arbbandi, Chiroqchi district, served as director of the former "Vosxod" sovkhoz until August 1984 and was awarded the medal "For Distinguished Labor" in 1980. According to the indictment approved by the Kashkadarya Regional Prosecutor's Office on 13 May 1986, he was accused of inflating cotton yield data, abusing his official authority, and embezzling state funds.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated 28 October 1988, N. Allayorov was sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment and was barred from holding managerial or materially responsible positions for 3 years. Confiscation of property was ordered.

**Jomuradov Shog'dor**, born in 1940 in the village of Uyshun, served as chief accountant of the old "Vosxod" sovkhoz. According to the indictment of 13 May 1986, he was accused of abusing his position and, in collusion with Allayorov and others, embezzling state funds. By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated 28 October 1988, he was sentenced to 2 years and 10 months of imprisonment, with confiscation of property.

**Xoliyarov Yakub**, born in 1938 in the village of G'allachi, Chiroqchi district, worked as the cotton delivery representative of the sovkhoz. He was accused of abusing his position as cashier and embezzling state funds in collusion with Allayorov and others. By the verdict of 28 October 1988, he was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment, with execution postponed for 2 years.

**Raxmonov Xoliq**, born on 12 May 1941 in the village of Uyshun, was a cashier at the old "Vosxod" sovkhoz. He was accused of abusing his position and embezzling funds in collusion with Allayorov and others. By the verdict of 28 October 1988, he was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment; execution was postponed for 2 years.



**Suloymonov Isomiddin**, born on 9 March 1940 in the village of Langar, served as the chief livestock specialist of the former “Vosxod” sovkhoz. He was accused of conspiring with Allayorov and others to embezzle state funds. By the 28 October 1988 verdict, he was sentenced to 2 years, 7 months, and 22 days of imprisonment.

The case file shows that numerous errors and shortcomings were committed by the prosecution authorities before the case was submitted to the court. Although the first-instance court considered the defendants’ personal circumstances, the pressure exerted on them by former high-ranking party officials, and the degree of public danger of their actions, it nevertheless imposed unjustifiably lenient sentences without properly assessing the damage caused to the state and without adequate evidentiary support. Consequently, the Presidium returned the case to the Kashkadarya Regional Court for reconsideration.

By the decision of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 26 October 1990, the charges were dismissed due to the absence of corpus delicti.

#### **The Case of Mamatov Dilmurod**

This case involved chief accountant D. Mamatov of the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant, its director Akbarov Samat, head of the technical control department Beytullayev, chief economist Qorayev Isoq, head of the finished-products department Qo‘ziyev X., transit commodities officer Shukurov Ne‘mat, and others, who were accused of falsifying statistical data, committing official forgery, and embezzling large amounts of state funds.

**Mamatov Dilmurod**, born in 1950 in the “Maskova” sovkhoz of Chiroqchi district, worked as records officer and chief accountant. According to the indictment dated 5 May 1986, he was accused of abusing his duties and conspiring with the First Secretary of the Chiroqchi District Party Committee, T. Tillayev, to embezzle large amounts of state funds.

By the ruling of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated 10 October 1986, the part of the case concerning D. Mamatov was returned for additional investigation and was not dismissed. On 26 October 1990, his case was reconsidered at an open session of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court. Article 155 of the Criminal Code was removed from the indictment, and the remaining parts of the verdict were left unchanged.

**Akbarov Samat**, born in 1949 in Choydari village of Yakkabog‘ district, worked as chief mechanic of “Zagotxlopka” and director of the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant. He was accused of conspiring with T. Tillayev and others to embezzle state funds.

By the 1986 verdict, he was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment, barred from holding official positions for 4 years, and his property was confiscated. By the decision of the Supreme Court dated 28 December 1990, charges under Article 152(2) and bribery episodes involving Tillayev and Eshonqulov were removed; the remainder of the verdict was upheld.

**Qorayev Isoq Jurayevich**, born in 1948 in Chiroqchi district, served as chief accountant of the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant. He was accused of abusing his position and embezzling large amounts of state funds. By the first-instance verdict, he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, barred from holding official positions for 3 years, and subjected to confiscation of property. By the decision of 28 December 1990, Articles 152(2) and 155 were removed; his sentence under Article 119<sup>1</sup> and total charges was reduced to 7 years, and the unserved portion was halved under an amnesty. Having served the required portion, he was released.

**Shukurov Ne'mat**, born in 1957 in Chiroqchi district, worked as transit commodities officer. He was accused of abusing his position and embezzling state funds. By the 1986 verdict, he was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, barred from official duties for 3 years, with confiscation of property. By the decision of 28 December 1990, Articles 152(2), 153(2), and 155 were removed; his sentence under Article 119<sup>1</sup> and aggregated charges was reduced to 8 years, and the unserved portion was halved under an amnesty, after which he was released.

**Quchqorov Ergash Niyozqulovich**, born in 1945 in O'tamayli village, worked at the "Kommunizm" cotton receiving point of the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant. He was accused of abusing his duties and embezzling state funds in collusion with T. Tillayev and others.

The first-instance verdict barred him from holding official positions for 3 years and ordered confiscation of property. By the 28 December 1990 decision, Articles 152(2), 153(2), and 155 were removed, and his sentence under Article 119<sup>1</sup> and aggregated charges was reduced to 8 years, the unserved portion halved under amnesty, and he was released.

**Ochilov Jumanazar**, born in 1934 in Arabbandi village, worked as second-zone classifier at the F. Xo'jayev receiving point. He was accused of abusing his duties and embezzling state funds. By the 1986 verdict, he was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and barred from office for 3

years, with property confiscation. By the 28 December 1990 decision, the same reductions were applied, and he was released under amnesty.

**Turdiyev Eshburi**, born in 1950 in Ayritom village, worked at the former “O‘zkompartiya” sovkhoz. He was accused of abusing his duties and embezzling state funds. By the 10 October 1986 verdict, he was sentenced to 3 years’ imprisonment and 3 years of compulsory labor. By the 28 December 1990 decision, the case was dismissed due to absence of corpus delicti.

**Pardayev Maxmarajab**, born in 1923 in Ayritom village, served as third-zone classifier at the F. Xo‘jayev receiving point. He was sentenced to 3 years’ imprisonment (converted to 3 years’ probation). By the 28 December 1990 decision, the case was dismissed due to absence of corpus delicti.

**Bobodustov Tursunmurod**, born in 1950 in Ayritom village, worked as senior accountant at the F. Xo‘jayev receiving point. He was accused of abusing his duties and conspiring with T. Tillayev and others to embezzle state funds. By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court, he was sentenced to 5 years’ imprisonment, barred from official positions for 3 years, and subjected to confiscation. By the 28 December 1990 decision, Articles 152(2) and 155 were removed; the offense was reclassified from Article 119<sup>1</sup> to Article 118(1), and he was sentenced to 3 years’ imprisonment, considered conditional, and credited as served through compulsory labor.

**Bekmurodov Juma**, born in 1942 in the village of Yarritom of Chiroqchi district, worked as a laboratory assistant at the former “F. Khojayev” cotton receiving point belonging to the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant. According to the decision of the court session held by the Kashkadarya Regional Prosecutor’s Office on 6 May 1986, he was found guilty of several offenses, including extortion and tampering with cotton grades, and was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment. In addition, he was prohibited from holding official positions for 3 years, and confiscation of property was ordered.

According to the decision of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated 28 December 1986, the part of the verdict concerning J. Bekmurodov was modified: charges under Article 152(1) and Article 155 were removed, the offense under Article 119<sup>1</sup> was reclassified as Article 118(1), and he was sentenced to 3 years of corrective labor, conditionally imposed, and considered to have served the penalty.

**Ravshanov Nurmuxammad**, born in 1933 in the village of Ayritom, Chiroqchi district, served as a “Sots master” at the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant. He was tried on charges of abusing his official position and embezzling state funds while serving as Sots master of the Chiroqchi Cotton Processing Plant. By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court, he was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment, prohibited from holding official positions for 2 years, and his property was confiscated.

According to the decision of the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated 28 December 1990, the portion of the verdict concerning N. Ravshanov was modified: charges under Article 152(2), Article 153(2), and Article 155 were removed. His sentence under Article 119<sup>1</sup> and the cumulative charges was reduced to 4 years. As he had already served this term, he was released from imprisonment.

**Khurramov Abdusattor**, born in 1953 in the village of Khojaqurg'on of Chiroqchi district, worked as a laboratory assistant at the former “Kommunizm” cotton receiving point. According to the indictment, he was suspected of abusing his official duties and participating in falsification related to cotton operations.

By the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated 10 October 1986, he was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment, which was replaced with 3 years of compulsory labor. According to the decision of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated 28 December 1990, the case was dismissed due to the absence of corpus delicti.

**Jumanov Azam Khudoyqulovich**, born in 1959 in the village of Arabbandi of Chiroqchi district, worked as a workshop manager at the district public services enterprise. He was accused of abusing his official duties and conspiring with T. Tillayev, the First Secretary of the Chiroqchi District Party Committee, and others to embezzle state funds. According to the verdict of the Kashkadarya Regional Court dated 10 October 1986, he was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment, replaced with 3 years of compulsory labor. By the decision of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan dated 28 December 1990, the case was dismissed due to the absence of corpus delicti.

According to the documents related to this criminal case, the activities, investigation, and prosecution of a total of 16 individuals were examined. When imposing penalties upon the accused and suspects, the fact that the crimes had been committed under pressure from former high-ranking party officials was not taken into consideration. The Presidium of the Judicial



Collegium for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, during its session held on 28 December 1990, re-examined the case, concluding that the previous verdicts had been issued without sufficient evidence and that the sentences were unjustifiably lenient. A fair judgment was then delivered for all involved.

Thus, the case of D. Mamatov and others demonstrates both the common and specific features of the repressive policy carried out in our country by the notorious investigators. It reflects the injustices and violations of human dignity that characterized this period.

For centuries, the Uzbek people have preserved a spiritual value that defines them—humanity and compassion. The so-called investigators violated this noble legacy, resorting to slanderous and deceitful methods. However, they did not achieve their malicious goals. Thanks to our priceless independence, thousands of innocent people who had been unjustly imprisoned were exonerated. The truth, although delayed, ultimately prevailed.

The next task is to stand among those intellectuals who demanded the prosecution of T. Gdlyan and N. Ivanov—the main organizers of the mass repressions committed in Uzbekistan under the “cotton affair.” It is necessary to create and disseminate scholarly, journalistic, and literary works that completely refute the false and unjust notions that arose from slander.

The “Uzbek affair” and “cotton affair” have many dimensions, and from any perspective it is evident that they were rooted in treachery. One can only feel disgust toward those who carried them out, and any attempt to justify their actions must be regarded as profoundly wrongful. Historical facts themselves prove that the methods used by Gdlyan and his group—who sought power by defaming an entire nation—can never be justified.

Time passed, and the state known as the “empire of oppression<sup>5</sup>” collapsed into nothingness—leaving behind unprecedented suffering for the Uzbek people. In the 1980s, Uzbekistan endured the most horrifying repression orchestrated from the center of the former Soviet state and carried out by the malicious investigative group led by Gdlyan. The scale of suffering exceeded even the “Great Purge” of 1937–1938, during which tens of thousands were imprisoned and executed without trial. The honor of an entire nation was tarnished. This inflicted deep material and moral wounds on the tolerant and noble Uzbek people.

Although temporary, the injustices of the “cotton affair” created false negative stereotypes about the Uzbek nation both in the former Soviet state and around the world. The fact that these actions targeted individuals who were the guiding lights and intellectual leaders

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<sup>5</sup> <https://kun.uz/uz/23192237>

of the nation further underscores that this was one of the darkest and most tragic episodes of the oppressive regime.

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