

Boycott Uzbek Textile and Companies Using It!

We, the undersigned citizens of Uzbekistan, call for an international boycott of Uzbek textile and companies that use it. For the Uzbek textile is produced of cotton harvested using forced labour of children and adults. Foreign investors and partners of Uzbek textile companies must comply with international human rights standards, and press for the Uzbek government to respect human rights. Only independent monitoring by the International Labour Organization can confirm when Uzbekistan ceases the practice of forced labour. We urge the European Union and the United States of America to cancel the trade benefits for Uzbek textile manufacturers, provided by the General System of Preferences. Below is a list of companies in Uzbekistan that feed cotton products into supply chains of Western companies. We call for a boycott.

Throughout the post-Soviet period Uzbekistan has not stopped the practice of large-scale forced mobilization of school children, students, employees of enterprises, government agencies and public sector workers to harvest cotton. Under orders from the central government executed by the district and provincial authorities, an estimated two million school children and adults are mobilized every autumn for two months to harvest the cotton. School children and academic year is interrupted, and they work in the cotton fields with no days off. Adults follow orders under threat of punishment, including dismissal from their jobs, losing social security benefits, and fines. Ratification of fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) № 29, 105, 138, 182 by Uzbekistan, which prohibit forced labour and child labour, and the adoption of certain legislation to protect the rights of children has not lead to the cessation of forced labour.

Cotton is the main agricultural crop exported by Uzbekistan, and it brings one billion U.S. dollars to the government budget. However, we Uzbek citizens have no access to the information on how the earnings from the export of cotton are used.

The research, mass media coverage of forced labour in Uzbekistan, and the repeated calls made by international organizations to stop the practice of forced labour are not bringing positive outcomes. Appeals to allow the ILO mission to examine the implementation of the country's international obligations under the four conventions mentioned above are always rejected by the Uzbek government. To fulfil its obligations under these conventions, the Uzbek government will need to dismantle the command system in the cotton sector of the economy, which relies on forced labour. Farmers and their families become victims and hostages of the command economy. The Uzbek government sees no benefit in real agricultural reforms, preferring the old practice, dating back to the days of Stalin.

Since September 2012, we are receiving new reports of forced mobilization of students, doctors, teachers and other groups of citizens for the cotton harvest. The practice of forced

labour continues, because the international pressure remains imperceptible for the government of Uzbekistan.

Since 2007, we have been calling for an international boycott of Uzbek cotton, and a number of international companies have supported it. More than 80 companies signed a pledge (<http://www.sourcingnetwork.org/the-cotton-pledge/>) that they will not knowingly source Uzbek cotton until the government of Uzbekistan ends the practice of forced child labour in its cotton sector. However to identify the country of origin of the cotton in a huge trade flow is technically very difficult, a reality which is well used by the Uzbek government. We therefore call for the start of the next phase of the campaign against forced labour in Uzbekistan - a boycott of Uzbek textile and companies using it.

According to our data, annually more than 250,000 tons of cotton fibre is sold in Uzbekistan to locally-based textile companies. The biggest part of this cotton is obtained by the companies with a foreign capital - joint ventures or subsidiaries of foreign companies. There are at least 50 of these companies. Their products, *e.g.* yarn and fabrics, are intended for export to global textile and apparel supply chains, and thereby enter Europe and the U.S. In the appendix we provide a complete list of these companies with information identifying their foreign partners.

The list is headed by the enterprises founded by Korean companies who are the largest buyers of Uzbek cotton and textile manufacturers. First of all, these are the enterprises owned by Daewoo International. Its subsidiary “Daewoo Textile Fergana” buys the largest quantity of cotton of any company in the country’s cotton processing industry - about 30,000 tons per year. On the second place is “Daewoo Textile Bukhara” (10,000 tons a year). In addition, there are two more Korean enterprises, LLC «Hain Tex» in Namangan and «Senas Textile» in Andijan. Given the magnitude of Korean investment in the textile industry of Uzbekistan (46,500 tons of cotton purchased per year), it is hard to imagine that they were carried out without the participation of the South Korean government and its embassy in Uzbekistan. The South Korean government is informed of the situation of forced labour in the cotton sector of Uzbekistan and the international campaign for its cessation; however, it has not warned Korean companies about the risks of conducting business with Uzbek cotton and cotton products. Therefore, along with Korean companies the responsibility to boycott Uzbek cotton is shared with the government of South Korea.

We call for a boycott of the entire textile production of Daewoo International as the largest investor in the textile industry in Uzbekistan. Daewoo has to do everything possible to put the pressure on the Uzbek government to bring an end to the slavery in the cotton fields of our country. This is the way forward towards making Uzbekistan’s cotton production comply with the international social standards of business conduct, approved by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, of which South Korea is a member state.

Turkey is the second biggest investor in the Uzbek textile industry. In our country, there are about 11 textile companies with Turkish capital. The largest of them is “Osborn Textile”, owned by Tarmac Group. This company purchases 10,000 tons of Uzbek cotton per year. Below is a full list of companies in Uzbekistan that feed cotton products into supply chains of Western companies.

Our call is primarily addressed to the companies that have confirmed their desire to exclude Uzbek cotton from their supply chain, by signing the Cotton Pledge

(<http://www.sourcingnetwork.org/the-cotton-pledge/>). This is possible through blacklisting the textile companies indicated on our list. We encourage other enterprises - trading companies, apparel companies and business associations, especially in Europe and North America – to follow their example.

We call upon the European Commission and the U.S. Administration to withdraw Uzbekistan, its cotton and textile, from the General System of Preferences, which provides trade incentives, until the Uzbek government demonstrates that it meets GSP conditionality to protect fundamental human rights.

The boycott of Uzbek cotton and companies using it should continue until the ILO has completed its monitoring and Uzbekistan ends the practice of forced labour. The Uzbek government must show the political will and within one year abolish the practice of exploitation. It is in the interests of the Uzbek people, socio-economic development and the international reputation of our country.

Major Uzbekistan textile companies with foreign capital

(Acronyms: JV – Joint venture; FC – subsidiaries of foreign companies; TBD – to be defined)

	Company name	Country investor	Foreign Investor	Uzbek cotton fibre purchase volume 2012, ton	Location	output, export
1	FC "Daewoo Textile Fergana"	South Korea	Daewoo Int'l	30,000	Fergana	Yarn
2	FC "Daewoo Textile Bukhara"	South Korea	Daewoo Int'l	10,500	Bukhara	Yarn
3	FC LLC "OSBORN TEXTILE"	Turkey	Tarmak Group	9,600	Tashkent oblast	Spinning Unit - 17 tons; Yarn Dyeing Unit - 17 tons; Towel Weaving - 3 tons; Sewing Unit - 3 tons; Sales volume: US\$10 Million - US\$50 Million
4	JV LLC "Indorama Kokand Textile"	Singapore	Indorama Group (JV with NBUz), 143 Cecil Street #14-00, GB Bldg, Singapore -069542 Ph : +6562221347 Fax : +6562234613, http://www.indorama.com	6,000	Fergana	Spun yarn. Targeting more than 90 per cent of exports mainly to Latin America, Europe, Bangladesh, CIS.
5	JV LLC "Uztex Tashkent"	UK, Switzerland	TBD	5,400	Tashkent	Combed and carded yarn
6	FC LLC "HAIN TEX"	South Korea	TBD	5,000	Namangan	TBD

7	JV LLC "Mili Guliston Textile"	UK	TBD	3,100	Syrdarya	TBD
8	JV "Baht Textil"	Lichtenstein	TBD	3,000	TBD	TBD
9	JV "Bagattekstil"	Turkey	TBD	3,000	Khorezm	TBD
10	FC LLC "DAKA-TEX"	Russia	TBD, www.dakatex.uz	2,760	Samarkand	Yarn 34/1 Nm -- 68/1, 250-300 tons monthly
11	FC "SKORTON TEKSTIL"	US	TBD	2,500	Andijan	TBD
12	FC OAO "KORAY TEKSTIL"	Turkey	TBD	2,000	Tashkent oblast	TBD
13	JV "TashKaya Tekstil"	Turkey	TBD	2,000	Tashkent	Cotton fabrics, yarns, threads and textile materials. Main Markets: North America South America Western Europe Eastern Europe
14	FC "Navbahor Tekstil"	Turkey	TBD	2,000	Navoi	Main markets: Europe (Poland, Germany); Mid East; . cotton yarns for weaving and knitting in the count size varying from Nm10/1 to Nm70/1, with capacity of 6300 tons per year, 2300 tons from them are twisting yarns in the count size varying from Nm10/2 to Nm70/2.
15	FC LLC "Nanyang Red Cotton Angel Textile"	China	NANYANG RED COTTON GROUP CO.,LTD	1,700	Andijan	TBD
16	JV "PapFen"	Turkey	80% owned by Tekfen Foreign Trade Co. Inc, Tekfen Group of Companies, address: Ulus Mahallesi, Tekfen Sitesi D-Blok, Istanbul, 81080	1,650	Namangan	Yarn, treads
17	JV "PESHKUTEKS"	Belo-russia	220023, г. Минск, ул. Макаенка, 23а/70, (017) 211-86-44, 263-66-31	1,600	Bukhara	Angora yarns,
18	JV "AL'YORTEX"	TBD	TBD	1,200	Andijan	TBD
19	FC LLC "Baraka Teks"	TBD (created in 2012)	possibly Baraka Textiles Ltd. 95-97 Victoria Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6DS, tel: 01254 678680	1,000	Syrdarya	TBD
20	FC "Senas Tekstil"	Korea	TBD	1,000	Andijan	TBD

21	JV "Kottontex"	Russia	TBD	1,000	Khorezm	Yarn 2.5 th tons annually, market: Poland, Russia
22	JV LLC "TOSHBULOQ TEKS"	Russia	TBD	1,000	Namangan	
23	JV LLC "Los Gigantes Textiles"	Turkey	TBD	1,000	Fergana	
24	JV "Surkhontex "	USA	TBD	1,000	Surkhanda rya	
25	JV "Marhamattekstil" (Marhamat OAO)	UK	TBD	1,000	Andijan	
26	JV LLC "Platinum Invest"	China	TBD	1,000	Tashkent	
27	JV "Cotton road"	USA; Turkey	TBD	800	Kashkadar ya	
28	FC LLC "Jilasum Tashkent"	TBD	TBD	800	Khorezm	
29	JV «Amin invest international»	Russia	TBD	600	Samarkand	
30	FC "MEGA TEKSTIL"	Turkey	Mega Tekstil, Organize Sanayi Bolgesi Gri Cd.2.Sk.N.2, Bursa, 16159, 90-224-2438909	600	Namangan	Target markets: North and South America; Western and Eastern Europe; Eastern and Southeast Asia; Mid East; Africa; Oceania, Total Annual Sales:US\$50 Mln - US\$100 Mln
31	JV LLC "Textiles Spektrum Kolors"	UK	TBD	600	Bukhara	Markets: Poland, China, CIS
32	JV LLC "TOSH-ROSS-TEXTIL"	Russia	TBD	500	Tashkent	
33	FC "Muruvvat-Teks"	Switzer-land	Zeromax GmbH	500	Other	
34	JV ODO "BAYPAK TEXTILE"	Turkey	Baypak Textile, Baspinar, Gaziantep province, 27000, 90-555-8510646	500	Tashkent	
35	FC LLC "ADM TEKSTIL"	UK	Adm Textile Ltd, 20 Plym Drive,Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PG	500	Tashkent	Markets: Western and Southern Europe
36	JV "POYTUG TEX"	UK	TAGUS Management Services Ltd., member of Makarios Group - MAKARIOS (MG) Holdings GmbH, Trident Chambers, P.O. Box 146, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin	350	Andijan	

			Islands			
37	JV LLC "BULUT TEXTILE"	Russia	TBD	300	Fergana	
38	FC "BAYTEKS TICARET"	Turkey	Bayteks Tekstil Sanayi Ve Ticaret A S, Muammer Güler Bulv. Bati 3.Cad. No:2 Baspinar/Gaziantep ; Gaziantep	300	Tashkent	Bayteks Ticaret exports products to One Step Up in New York via Istanbul, ONE STEP UP 1407 BROADWAY SUITE 3200 NEW YORK NY 10016 US.
39	JV "TAGUS TEXTILE"	UK	«TAGUS Managment Services Ltd.», member of Makarios Group - MAKARIOS (MG) Holdings GmbH, Trident Chambers, P.O. Box 146, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands	300	Andijan	
40	JV LLC "MUSAVARTEX"	TBD		300	Fergana	
41	JV LLC "SIRKECHI TASHTEKSTIL"	Turkey	Sirkeci Tekstil, Velikoy Organize San. Bolg.59510 Cerkezkoy/Tekirdg, +90282 746 11 61, info@sirkecitekstil.com, http://www.sirkecitekstil.com/	200	Tashkent	output 6 000 tons annually
42	JV «Les quates de Boukhara»	TBD	TBD	200	Bukhara	
43	JV "FERGHANA SPINNING"	Jordan	TBD	200	Fergana	
44	JV LLC "Cotton Wool Impex"	TBD	TBD	200	Other	
45	FC LLC "China-UK SLLD"	China, UK	TBD	150	Other	

46	JV Barakat Alfa Ltd	Afghanistan	Barakat Company Ltd, http://www.barakatgrp.com, Najib Zarab Market, No. 409, Shar Ara, Kabul, (93-799) 325 424	100	Tashkent	Pharmasudical cotton, capacity of over 4000 tons per year. Markets: well-known in healthcare and cosmetic cotton production in France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, and Poland.
47	JV LLC "Madaniyat-Arteks"	Russia	TBD	50	Other	
48	JV "ASKLEPIY-SVIFT"	UK	TBD	50	Tashkent	Medical absorbent cotton wool, bandages ...

The undersigned, civil society activists of Uzbekistan:

No	Name	Country of residence	Affiliation, capacity, status
1	Atayeva, Nadejda	France	Contact Person; President, Association for Human Rights in Central Asia, asiecentrale@neuf.fr
2	Obid, Jodgor	Austria	Poet; member, International PEN
3	Ignqtyev, Sergey	USA	Coordinator of the project "Art and Human Rights" of the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia
4	Bushueva, Natalia	Sweden	Editor, Radio program "SOS", Association for Human Rights in Central Asia
5	Dadadjanov, Ismail	Sweden	Chairman, Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
6	Iskhakova, Dilarom	Uzbekistan	Literati
7	Khudoyergenov, Iskander	Uzbekistan	Human rights activist
8	Isabekov, Bakhtioyr	Uzbekistan	PhD in of Philology
9	Nurullayeva, Gulchekhira	Uzbekistan	Literati
10	Juma, Yusuf	USA	Literati
11	Aripov, Atanazar	UZbekistan	Secretary General, "Erk" Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
12	Ikramov, Surat	Uzbekistan	Chair, Initiative Group of Uzbekistan's Independent Human Rights Defenders
13	Imomov, Sanjarali	Uzbekistan	Literati
14	Bekjan, Safar	Switzerland	Literati
15	Boymatov, Abdujalil	Ireland	President, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
16	Umarov, Sanjar	USA	Chairman, Sun Shine Coalition
17	Yakub, Shahida	UK	Chair, Uzbek Initiative-London
18	Choriyev, Bahodir	USA	Chairman, "Birdamlik" People's Movement
19	Niyazova, Umida	Germany	Uzbek-German Forum for human Rights
20	Yuldashev, Tashpulat	USA	Political scientist
21	Boymatov, Salomatoy	Ireland	Member, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
22	Yeshova, Bashorat	Switzerland	Coordinator, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
23	Urlaeva, Elena	Uzbekistan	Chair, "Human Rights Alliance of Uzbekistan" Public movement

24	Karaeva, Gulshan	Uzbekistan	Chair of the Kashkadarya branch, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
25	Toksanov, Alisher	Switzerland	Independent Journalist
26	Ismoilov, Sukhrobjon	Uzbekistan	Expert Working Group of Uzbekistan
27	Babadjanov, Kudrat	Sweden	Independent Journalist
28	Abidov, Alisher	Norway	Human rights activist
29	Kutbiddinov, Khusniddin	USA	Independent Journalist
30	Muxtarov, Farhodhon	Uzbekistan	Human rights activist
31	Karaev, Tulkin	Sweden	Member, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
32	Khaydarov, Ulughbek	Canada	Independent journalist and human rights activist, winner of the Hellman-Hammett Prize
33	Episova, Daria	USA	Independent Journalist
34	Sapurov, Oleg	Uzbekistan	Human rights activist
35	Mamatkulova, Muborakkhon	Uzbekistan	Member, "Birdamlik" party
36	Abdurakhimov, Abdulatif	Sweden	Political refugee Member, "Ezgulik" Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
37	Isakov, Dilmurod	Sweden	Political refugee
38	Bakaev, Abdumalik	Sweden	Member, "Ezgulik" Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
39	Isakov, Avaz	Sweden	Political refugee
40	Usupov, Bayramali	Demark	Member, "Ezgulik" Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan
41	Ganiev, Rafik	Sweden	Political refugee
42	Narbutaev, Nabidjon	Sweden	Member, "Birlik" Party
43	Akhmedov, Asadullo	Norway	Political refugee
44	Akhmedova, Dildora	Norway	Political refugee
45	Anderson, Daniel	Norway	Political refugee
46	Anderson, David	Norway	Political refugee
47	Khodzhaev, Shavkat	Uzbekistan	Member, "Birlik" Party
48	Kiyamova, Rufiya	Uzbekistan	Member, "Birlik" Party
49	Rakhimov, Ota	Uzbekistan	Member, Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
50	Kazimov, Davlat	Uzbekistan	Member, Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
51	Kazimova, Saodat	Uzbekistan	Member, Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
52	Kazimova, Zakhro	Uzbekistan	Member, Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
53	Davronov, Bek	Uzbekistan	Political refugee
54	Iskhanov, Zubaid	Uzbekistan	Political refugee
55	Karimov, Ibodot	Uzbekistan	Political refugee
56	Karimov, Anvar	USA	Political refugee
57	Karimov, Avaz	USA	Political refugee
58	Karimov, Aub	USA	Political refugee
59	Bobokhonov, Inom	USA	Political refugee
60	Bobokhonov, Ilkhom	USA	Political refugee
61	Kabimov, Rustam	Uzbekistan	A member of the Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
62	Kasimova, Farida	Uzbekistan	A member of the Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
63	Suunov, Karim	Uzbekistan	A member of the Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
64	Ishmatov, Rafik	Uzbekistan	A member of the Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
65	Alibekov, Bek	Uzbekistan	A member of the Democratic Forum of Uzbekistan
66	Abutov, Mukhammadsalikh	Sweden	Chairmamn, NGO "Tayanch"

67	Khudaynazarov, Dustnazar	Sweden	Member, "Erk" Party
68	Egamberdiev, Asror	Uzbekistan	
69	Fayazov, Avaz	Sweden	Member, International Organization Human Rights Defenders
70	Gafurov, Khait	Sweden	Political refugee
71	Khadjimatov, Khatam	Norway	Political refugee
72	Zaynabitdinov, Ulugbek	Sweden	Political refugee
73	Ruzimatov, Kamil	Ukraine	
74	Ikramov, Jalil	Ukraine	
75	Makhkamov, Rustam	Uzbekistan	
76	Ishmatov, Komil	Uzbekistan	
77	Ruzikulov, Ikrom	Uzbekistan	
78	Abidova, Zulfia	Norway	Political refugee
79	Abidova, Kamilia	Norway	Political refugee
80	Isaev, Burkhon	Norway	Political refugee
81	Kadyrov, Bakhodyr	Norway	Political refugee
82	Ikramov, Abos	Norway	Political refugee
83	Khodjaev, Jalokhir	Norway	Political refugee
84	Abdullaev, Akmal	Norway	Political refugee
85	Tursunov, Zakhid	Norway	Political refugee
86	Safaev, Umid	Norway	Political refugee
87	Djuraev, Bakhrom	Norway	Political refugee
88	Izatullaev, Nemat	Norway	Political refugee
89	Fazilova, Mukhabbat	Norway	Political refugee
90	Akbarov, Sanjar	Norway	Political refugee
91	Khamraev, Oybek	Norway	Political refugee
92	Khasanov, Dilshod	Norway	Political refugee
93	Khodjaev, Pulat	Norway	Political refugee
94	Obidov, Batyr	Norway	Political refugee
95	Khakimova, Dildora	Sweden	Political refugee
96	Salikh, Mukhammad	Norway	Chairman, People's Movement of Uzbekistan
97	Temirov, Khasan	Sweden	
98	Normumin, Namoz	Sweden	Member of the Central Council, People's Movement of Uzbekistan
99	Shomansurov, Alidjon	Norway	
100	Kurbanov, Tahir	Norway	
101	Satvoldiev, Izzat	Norway	
102	Abdullaev, Nosyr	Norway	
103	Agzamov, Shavkat	Norway	
104	Nazirov, Maksim	France	
105	Mukhammad, Shavkat	Kazakhstan	
106	Eliboev, Bokhodir	Uzbekistan	Member, Initiative Group of Uzbekistan's Human Right Defenders
107	Sharipova, Saida	Russia	
108	Yusupova, Khurshed	Russia	
109	Mamadjonov, Mustafo	Russia	
110	Makhmudov, Sukhbatjon	Russia	
111	Fayzimatov, Ilkhom	Russia	

112	Usmanov, Mukhitdin	Russia
113	Usmanov, Niriddin	Uzbekistan
114	Sufiev, Sherzod	Russia
115	Mukhammadi, Shavkat	Russia
116	Mirzoboiev, Burkhonjon	Uzbekistan
117	Kurbanov, Bakhodir	Uzbekistan
118	Solieva, Shakhnoza	Uzbekistan
119	Sattarova, Umida	Uzbekistan
120	Akhmedov, Gulom	Uzbekistan
121	Akhmedova, Ozoda	Uzbekistan
122	Khamroev, Muslimbek	Uzbekistan
123	Dekhkanov, Muzafar	Uzbekistan
124	Dekhkanova, Guzal	Uzbekistan

The list of signatories can be downloaded here:

http://www.fergananews.com/archive/2012/ahrca2012_Signatures%20Eng%20.pdf

The full list of Uzbek textile companies can be downloaded here:

http://www.fergananews.com/archive/2012/ahrca2012Uzbek_textile_companies_Eng.pdf