

Islam Karimov

White Palace, Tashkent

Born : 30 January 1938, Samarkand

UZBEKISTAN

President



Training/education

1960: Graduates from Central Asian Polytechnic Institute in Tashkent, works as engineer in construction, aerospace and machine-tool industries and then becomes economist.

1940s: Brought up in orphanage.

Professional experience

March 2006: Has two opponents sentenced to 10 years in prison and a woman human rights activist to eight years for “anti-government activity.”

December 2005: Puts more than 110 people on trial, including 36 members of security forces accused of negligence during the Andijan uprising. Closes office of US-funded *Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty*.

November 2005: 73 people sentenced to between 12 and 22 years in prison for taking part in Andijan revolt. They “confess” under torture.

October 2005: Orders British *BBC* radio/TV offices in Tashkent to close.

September 2005: Blames foreign media for Andijan uprising and closes office of US NGO *Internews*.

August 2005: Has stringer for foreign radio station, Nozir Zokirov, jailed for six months for airing views of villager criticising the repression in Andijan.

13 May 2005: Bloodily crushes revolt of prisoners in Andijan, leaving 169 dead, including civilians, according to regime. Opposition says 769 killed and local NGOs say over 1,000. Secret police remove local and foreign journalists from scene.

11 April 2005: Orders arrest of independent press reporter Sabirjon Yakubov for supposed “religious extremism.” Released after being held for a year.

9 January 2000: Re-elected president with 91.6% of the vote against one opposition candidate. Receives “Hero of Uzbekistan” award.

18 August 1999: Journalists Jusuf Ruzimuradov and Mohammed Bekjanov sentenced to eight and 15 years in prison.

16 February 1999: Claims he foiled assassination attempt and cracks down on opponents.

1991: Declares country independent on 31 August. Elected president with 86% of the vote on 29 December.

1964: Joins Communist Party under Soviet rule.

Hobbies/interests

Water-skiing, hunting down Islamists (all presumed to be terrorists).