

## Uzbekistan's Tyrant Tries to Suppress the Manifestation of Islam in Society

## News:

**News & Comment** 

On 16 September Radio Liberty reported: "The campaign against the wearing of beards and hijab has once again intensified in Uzbekistan. Video footage sent to Ozodlik on 13 September shows female students at the Bank College in Andijan, who wear the hijab, being asked to tie their headscarves differently, with knots in the back. The students who refuse to comply are not allowed to enter the institution. Hijab bans among students have also been observed in other regions of Uzbekistan.

The campaign against the wearing of beards and hijabs comes amid the Uzbek parliament's adoption of amendments to the Code of Conduct in Public Places. According to sources, at a special government meeting held on 10 September, Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov "warned" civil servants of the consequences of visiting mosques".

## Comment:

The Uzbek authorities regularly attack Islam and Muslims in a variety of ways. Most recently, the parliament passed a bill providing for administrative responsibility for polygamy, and corrupt imams supported the authorities' decision.

Now there are raids on markets and public places in search of Muslims with beards. Men are detained and demanded to shave off their beards on the spot. Halal-branded restaurants have been searched, after which many have been closed.

The criminal authorities are physically trying to erase any manifestation of Islam in society. One can say that Muslims are being rolled into pavement, but the Muslims of Uzbekistan are like the sprouts of trees that break through the pavement and once again delight the eyes and heart with their vitality and steadfastness in the struggle against Taghut.

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