A NEW ERA IN UZBEKISTAN | Fall 2020

Uzbekistan is a country on the rise. Since 2016, the nation has enacted a broad program of sweeping changes to modernize the economy, open the culture, and embrace a more active engagement in world affairs. Some of the highlights in the Timeline include:

2016

DECEMBER 4

President Mirziyoyev Wins National Election
Shavkat Mirziyoyev defeats three candidates to win the popular vote

2017

FEBRUARY 10

President Announces Landmark " Strategy For Action 2017-2021"
President Mirziyoyev announces a five year plan to modernize Uzbekistan and improve the lives of its nearly 33 million people

MAY 11

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights isits Tashkent
First ever visit to Uzbekistan by any UN High Commissioners for Human Rights since the office was established in 1993.

OCTOBER 1

Human Rights Watch Returns to Uzbekistan
Human rights advocates begin in-country reporting on key issues, sighting positive steps taken since the election of President Mirziyoyev.

OCTOBER 9

Presidential Decree UP-5199: Protects Rights of Farmers
The decree addresses reforms for the effective protection of the rights and interests of individual "dekhkan" farms and owners of household plots

This material is provided by Xenophon Strategies on behalf of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade for the Republic of Uzbekistan. More information is available at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

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2018

MAY 17

OPIC Signs Commitment Supporting Investment in Uzbekistan's Emerging Market

The Commitment strives to tackle development challenges and bolster investment in natural resources, energy, infrastructure, and other critical sectors in Uzbekistan.

JUNE 28

US State Department Upgrades Uzbekistan Status on 2018 " Trafficking in Persons" Report

The government made key achievements during the reporting period; therefore Uzbekistan was upgraded to Tier 2 Watch List.

JULY 16

EU Begins Negotiation on Enhanced Partnership With Uzbekistan

The future agreement is expected to cover areas such as political dialogue and reforms, rule of law, justice, freedom and security, human rights, migration, trade, as well as economic and sustainable development.

SEPTEMBER 19

EBRD Reengages With Uzbekistan

Uzbek authorities re-engage with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

OCTOBER 23

13 US Companies Ink Deals in Uzbekistan Worth $2.5 billion

At the annual business forum in Tashkent, 13 US Companies commitment to business deals and investments with Uzbekistan.

NOVEMBER 28

US State Department Upgrades Uzbekistan Status on Religious Freedoms

Uzbekistan upgraded to Special Watch List, had previously been designated as a Country of Particular Concern from 2006 to 2017.

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2019

JANUARY 22

Uzbekistan Amends Administrative and Penal Codes, Increase Fines on Forced Labor

The Uzbek governemt increased administrative fines for the use of child labor and forced labor and introduced penal liability for repeat offences.

MARCH 25

US Department of Labor Removes Uzbekistan Cotton from Prohibited List for Federal Contractors

The US Department of Labor, in consultation with the State Department and Homeland Security, determined that forced labor had been significantly reduced and no longer merited exclusion.

JUNE 4

President Mirziyoyev Pardons 575 Political Prisoners

For the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, the amnesty decree was issued to more than 2,500 prisoners. Following this decree, several other amnesty documents were adopted in the country.

JULY 30

President Mirziyoyev Criminalizes Forced Labor

President Mirziyoyev adds additional penalties for forced labor, tightening fines and adding criminal liability to offenders.

AUGUST 4

President Mirziyoyev Announces Closure of Controversial Prison

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev announced that the notorious Jaslyk prison would be closed. Jaslyk's planned closure offers hope that Uzbekistan is on the path to making serious improvements on human rights.

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2020

FEBRUARY 3

US Secretary of State Pompeo Visits Tashkent

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hailed the "wonderful, rapidly growing" partnership between the United States and Uzbekistan, which he said "deserves praise for its progress on human rights issues."

FEBRUARY 5

ILO Report Shows 40% Drop In Forced Labor Year-Over-Year

The International Labour Organization cites systemic changes in Uzbekistan have reduced the use of forced labor to estimated 5.9%

MARCH 4

Uzbekistan Accepted as the 84th member-state of the Hague Conference on Private Property Law

The meetings and subsequent discussions built momentum for the efforts of the Justice Ministry in harmonizing the country's civil legislation with the best foreign practices and implementation of advanced international standards.

MARCH 6

President Mirziyoyev Abolishes Government Price Setting for Cotton

Government quotas are one of the last major systemic barriers to ending forced labor.

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