



MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REPRESSIVE POLICY OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN THE NAMANGAN REGION IN 1937–1938

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ABSTRACT

Since 1930, the policy of repression began to escalate in Uzbekistan. This policy continued until the 1950s. This political and bloody process was carried out by the Soviet authorities. A policy of mass dekulakization was launched against ordinary people by the Soviet Union. A policy of punishing innocent people was pursued, and those labelled kulaks began to be deported to foreign lands — Belarus, Siberia, the Far East and the remote regions of Ukraine.

KEYWORDS: Totalitarian regime, „Great Terror“, „enemy class“, former kulaks, Shuroi Islamiya, German spy.

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that ideological repression and suppression operated throughout the entire period of Soviet rule. This policy brought unprecedented hardship to the people of Uzbekistan, as well as to all the peoples of the Soviet Union. The policy of repression, in various forms, continued from the establishment of Soviet power, with brief interruptions, until the collapse of the Union. As a result of the policy of repression, progressive people and free thinkers who opposed the totalitarian system and demanded respect for their rights were brutally destroyed and declared an «enemy class». In 1937–1938, when repression reached its peak — during the «Great Terror» — thousands of residents of Uzbekistan were persecuted, and thousands were shot or thrown into concentration camps. In particular, more than 41,000 residents of Uzbekistan were imprisoned, more than 37,000 of them were punished, and 6,920 were brutally executed by firing squad. The policy and practice of repression continued during the Second World War as well. As a result of mass repression in Uzbekistan, alongside statesmen and public figures, figures of science and literature, teachers and journalists, thousands of ordinary peasants, craftsmen, workers and employees entirely removed from politics were also punished though innocent. In the post-war years, many figures of literature, art, science and religion were subjected to repression on fabricated charges. In the 1940s and 1950s, many of our compatriots were repressed under the pretext of «combating anti-Soviet elements». The principal culprits of the mass repressions are Stalin, the members of the Politburo who signed the execution lists, and, of course, the ruthless executioners of the NKVD. According to research conducted on this subject, in accordance with the top-secret operational order No. 00447 «On the operation for the suppression of former kulaks, criminals and other anti-Soviet elements» of 30 July 1937, signed by the People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the USSR Nikolai Yezhov, who was nicknamed the «Iron Commissar», from 10 August 1937 to 1 January 1938 a total of 10,700 people were arrested in Uzbekistan, of whom 3,613 were sentenced to execution under the 1st category, and 7,087 – to imprisonment for terms of 8 to 10 years under the 2nd

category [1]. In 1937–1939 alone, more than 41,000 people were imprisoned by the «troikas» of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) of the Uzbek SSR. Of these, more than 37,000 were brought to trial, and 6,920 were shot[2].

The repressive policy during the period under review was carried out in all regions of the republic. In particular, the Namangan region did not remain apart from these processes. In these years, the victims of brutal repression included intellectuals and religious figures of the Namangan region such as Iskhakkhan Tura Ibrat, Asil Mansur, Sattar Jabbor, Rafiq Mumin, Usman Nasir, Nasirkhan Tura Said Kamolkhan Tura ugli.

A progressive figure who studied in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century, the first Uzbek chemist, translator, teacher and literary critic. Sattor Jabbor (1905–1938), an active participant in the important socio-cultural processes taking place in Uzbekistan in the 1930s, was accused of espionage for Germany and shot by the Soviet penal institutions on 8 January 1937 [3]. During the repressions of 1937–1938, the following prominent people from the Namangan region became victims of the Soviet authorities:

Ikromov Isok (1905–1938) was born in the city of Namangan into a family of workers. He had a perfect command of Uzbek and Russian. He began his working career in 1918. At first he worked as a foreman at one of the agricultural artels near the city of Kokand. Later, from 1923, he continued his work at the oil plant in the city of Namangan. Ikromov Isok worked at the plant until the 1930s, and then from 1930 to 1937 he held the post of secretary of the Komsomol organization in the Shakhrikhan district of the Andijan region.

At a session of the Circuit Panel of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR on 5 September 1938, Isak Ikromov was sentenced to death by shooting. The sentence was carried out on the same day [4].

Nasirkhan Tura Said Kamolkhan Tura ugli (1871–1938) – Minister of Education of the Turkestan Autonomous Government, one of the leaders of the movement against Soviet power. Head of the Namangan branch of the «Shuro-i Islamiya» organization, member of the Namangan City Duma (1917). Nosirxon to'ra was accused of opposing the Soviet government in the Kosonsoy, Namangan and Yangiqo'rg'on districts of the Andijan okrug, and was arrested by the Soviet punitive organs. In 1919 he organized a cell of the «National Union» organization in the Kasansay district. Nasirkhan Tura was arrested by the Soviet punitive authorities on charges of opposing the Soviet government in the Kasansay, Namangan and Yangikurgan districts of the Andijan okrug. He was subjected to investigation and exiled to Orenburg (1924–1929). Memoirs and other works of Nasirkhan Tura, written by him during his exile, have survived, such as «The History of Turkestan», «The Orenburg Letters» and others. The repressed Nasirkhan Tura, Said Kamolkhan Tura, was subsequently imprisoned again at the height of the repressive policy of the Soviet regime and died in 1938 while serving his sentence. [5].

Ibrat, son of Iskhokkhon Junaydullakhoja (1862–1937), lived and worked in the Turakurgan district of the Namangan region. The indictment concerning his arrest states that Isokkhon Ibrat was born in the village of Turakurgan, currently resides in the Sayram district, his occupation is unknown, and that he conducted propaganda among collective farmers in the Andijan and Stalin regions about the inevitability of the defeat of Soviet power, and in connection with this, as soon as the war began, he organized counter-revolutionary demonstrations among the population against Soviet power and about the need to fight for the defeat of Soviet power in the war. On the basis of this indictment, in accordance with

paragraphs 49–51 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Uzbek SSR, Isokkhon Ibrat Junaydullaev was charged under Part 1 of Article 66 of the Criminal Code of the Uzbek SSR and was to be placed in the Andijan prison. Senior Lieutenant of State Security Lisitsyn issued the warrant for his arrest on 10 February 1937. Ishakkhon Ibrat was arrested on 10 February 1937 under warrant No. 6 and sent to the Andijan prison. His house was searched by prison officers, and on 7 January 1937 the NKVD confiscated all his books, all his written materials and many rare manuscripts. Isokkhon Ibrat was sentenced to death by shooting by the «Third Court» and died in 1937 at the age of 75. [6].

Asil Mansur (1905–1937) – over the course of 10 years, from 1927 to 1937, he held various positions. He worked as head of the department of propaganda and agitation, executive secretary of the executive committee of the Andijan district, executive secretary of the Namangan City Council, a teacher, head of the department of propaganda and agitation in the Naryn district, editor of several newspapers, and director of the Namangan school for the training of executives. At the height of the repressive policy in 1937–1938, a large group of cultural and educational figures living in the Namangan region was also drawn into the whirlpool of these repressions. Among them was Asil Mansur, who had only just turned 32, and who became one of the innocent victims of the repressive machine of the Soviet regime. He was arrested on 28 May 1937 by NKVD officers on false charges and shot on 2 December of the same year. [7].

Rafiq Momin (1900–1951) – When the Bolsheviks came to power in Turkestan in 1917, he went over to the Bolshevik side of politics and supported them ideologically. He joined the ranks of the local «revolutionaries» and took part in the campaign against illiteracy that began in the country in those years. Rafiq Momin founded several schools and introduced a new teaching methodology in them. At the beginning of his career he began working as a teacher at an orphanage in Namangan. He devoted most of his time to caring for children left without parents. The poet, playwright and educator Rafiq Momin (1900–1951), born and raised in the Namangan region, is also considered one of the victims of the repressions. He worked as a teacher in Namangan until his arrest on 25 May 1937. He was arrested on 25 May 1937 and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Kuibyshev for 10 years. After serving his ten-year term he was released and returned to his homeland in 1947. After returning from Kamsak, Rafiq Momin worked in various institutions in Namangan. He died on 5 May 1951 from a severe illness contracted in prison [8].

Usman Nasir (1912–1944) – a poet who burst into the world of poetry at the beginning of the 20th century and lived a short creative life. He was born in the city of Namangan, Namangan region. He lived and worked in Namangan, achieving many successes during his short life and becoming a well-known poet. On 13 July 1937 the poet was arrested as an «enemy of the people» and prosecuted under Article 58 of the Criminal Code of the Uzbek SSR. Usman Nasir was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment by the decision of the «troika» of the NKVD of the Uzbek SSR. At first Usman Nasir was held in the Zlatoust prison, then in the Vladivostok and Magadan camps. In 1943 he was sent to a camp in the Mariinsk district of the Kemerovo region. By the end of 1944 a commission was formed at the corrective labour camp, which found Usman Nasir innocent and rehabilitated. However, the poet did not live to hear the news of his rehabilitation; he died in prison on 9 March 1944 [9].

Toshkhojaev Sodik was born in 1906 in the city of Namangan into a family of shoemakers. He was orphaned early. In 1917–1924 Toshkhojaev Sodik served as a bondsman to the wealthy Mullah Otaboy and Nasriddin Kadirov. His main occupation was that of a servant. In addition, in 1924–1926 he worked as an educator at an orphanage, in 1926–1927 he headed a club at the Namangan City Trade Union Council, and in 1927–1928 he was secretary of the Namangan City Komsomol Committee. Toshkhojaev Sodik was admitted to the ranks of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan in 1929. He too became a victim of the repressive policy of the authoritarian regime. In October 1938 Toshkhojaev Sodik was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment at a session of the Circuit Panel of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR. In the same year he was placed in a GULAG camp. We do not know in which camp and at what time Toshkhojaev Sodik served his term, what the conditions of detention in the camp were, and whether he returned from the camp or not [10].

In general, on the basis of the results of the brief study conducted among the persons subjected to repression in the Namangan region, the following conclusions can be drawn:

The repressive policy carried out by the Soviet authorities in Uzbekistan in 1937–1938 also affected the Namangan region. The victims of this policy were the most varied people: political figures, writers, poets, the intelligentsia, religious figures, young specialists who had returned from Turkey and Germany, ordinary peasants and innocent people of various professions.

During this period, our compatriots from Namangan became victims of the repressions, such as the party members Ikramov Isok and Toshkhojaev Sodik, the enlighteners Nosirkhon Tura, Said Kamolkhon Tura, Isokkhon Ibrat, Rafiq Mumin, the education worker Asil Mansur and the talented poet Usmon Nasir

During the period under review, the repressed were subjected to varying degrees of punishment depending on the degree of «danger» they represented to the Soviet state. Some were sentenced to immediate execution, while others received long prison terms.

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