

Internal resettlement of certain communities in Uzbekistan  
Government of Uzbekistan: Unofficial Translation

The end of 2000 saw an aggravation of the domestic political situation in Central Asia, and in particular along the Kyrgyz-Tajik and Uzbek-Tajik border, where gangs of fighters from the terrorist organization “Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan” (IMU) with tacit agreement of the Afghan “Taliban” movement, and due to the helplessness of the Tajik Government, conducted constant raids from its territory into neighboring countries. It should be noted that the IMU has been recognized as a terrorist organization by the US State Department and the UK Government, with all the resulting consequences linked with the necessity of terminating its finances and arresting its leaders and members.

At the end of 2000 a series of mountainous border villages from the Surkhandarya Region found themselves in a zone of clashes between the IMU and the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan. Raising this issue, it should especially be noted that the residents of these villages were torn away from modern reality: the populated areas lacked elementary sanitary-domestic conditions; children weren't attending educational establishments. IMU fighters actively used the given circumstances for their own aims. Available information testifies/attests that MU members IMU members use these villages as transfer points containing their own accomplices.

In this connection, and also in order to safeguard the personal security of the residents of these villages, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan took the decision regarding their resettlement to the flat parts (plains) of Uzbekistan in the Sherabad and Shurchi Districts.

In total 1333 were subjected to resettlement. A special governmental decision was adopted regarding this question. All social/domestic and medical conditions were established in the places of resettlement for the normal continuation of the everyday life of the residents of the mountain villages.

The places of resettlement (in Sherabad and Shurchi) were repeatedly visited by the governmental commission of Uzbekistan, accompanied by the Hokim (religious leader) of the Surkhandarya Region, as well as by representatives of UNHCR, ICRC and other international organizations.

This question continues to be looked at by the leadership of Uzbekistan.