We, the undersigned students and community members of Stanford University, strongly urge you to help abolish the use of the death penalty in Uzbek and Belarus, making Central Asia and Europe death penalty – free zone. We urge you to acknowledge the flawed justice systems, which often result in unfair trials and uses torture to obtain “confessions” from innocent people. Please acknowledge that prisoners on death row can be executed at any time and are not even given the chance to say goodbye to their families. Furthermore, their bodies are not given to the family nor is their burial site disclosed to their loved ones.

One Uzbek woman, Tamara Chikunova, describes how traumatic her son’s execution has been for her. The policies surrounding the use of the death penalty in Uzbekistan have caused her and her family great suffering: “It is one of the worst things for me that I do not know where Dmitry is buried. If I knew I would at least have a place where I can go with my grief and where I can talk to him.”

We urge you to introduce a moratorium on death sentences and executions; to commute all outstanding death sentences and fully abolish the death penalty; to improve prison conditions on death row according to international standards; to ensure that relatives of death row prisoners are allowed to have regular and private meetings with the prisoner, and if that prisoner is executed, their relatives should have the right to say goodbye and to carry out a private burial.

Thank you very much for your attention.

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS