

**English translation:**

In Uzbekistan, umm... from the 70<sup>th</sup> to the 89<sup>th</sup> year,<sup>1</sup> life was good during those times, umm... of the Soviet Union, during the years of the Soviet Government. But as of the 89<sup>th</sup> year [1989], at the 89<sup>th</sup> year, umm... I mean... umm... this thing happened. The Gorbachev<sup>2</sup> administration had started. Umm... there, a freedom was given to everyone. A right for everyone to say whatever they wanted was given. And then, umm... all states that were connected to the Soviet Union -- Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan -- all the states, fifteen<sup>3</sup> republics, all of them, wanted their freedom. You see, umm... at the time, our people, who were living as friends with the Uzbeks in Uzbekistan, just like two siblings, they [Soviet Union] set these two nations at loggerheads. Of course this is caused by the enemy, and then they just sat back and watched. Two nations had a conflict over an insignificant thing. I mean there was a scene in Fergana, and this event was known all around Uzbekistan within a very short time. Umm ... I mean, over a strawberry, a strawberry that you can buy from the market. Something that Nishonov<sup>4</sup> said, I mean which is a bad thing to say ... he was the President umm ... over something in the market, over a strawberry, umm... there was a rumor about crude strawberries.<sup>5</sup> Nishonov said in Moscow, umm... "Spread the word that crude strawberries are sold in the market," which was a lie. This was wrong ... umm... they made this up; this was planned. Umm... they did another [act of] cruelty to a forlorn nation by thinking that they did not have anyone to help them, and if they did this nothing could save them. This was the second persecution against the Abkhaz Turks after the one in the 44<sup>th</sup> year [1944]. There, in Uzbekistan, they set two siblings at loggerheads, Uzbeks and Turks -- Muslims too. And then the people of this were not able to live there anymore, umm.... Because, they made people in jail drink alcohol; they injected drugs into them, and pitched them over, this nation. They burnt, persecuted and killed this nation in Fergana, an oppressed and innocent nation. This nation couldn't save its dignity, religion, customs, or traditions; therefore, they moved themselves to Russia, because there wasn't any other option, because they had to save their religion and dignity. This nation saved their dignity.

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<sup>1</sup> From 1970 to 1989: colloquially they refer to years with an enumeration suffix.

<sup>2</sup> Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev was the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, serving from 1985 until 1991, and also the last head of state of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, serving from 1988 until its collapse in 1991.

<sup>3</sup> The fifteen republics were Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR), Azerbaijan SSR, Byelorussian SSR, Estonian SSR, Georgian SSR, Kazakh SSR, Kirghiz SSR, Latvian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Moldavian SSR, Russian SFSR, Tajik SSR, Turkmen SSR, Ukrainian SSR and Uzbek SSR.

<sup>4</sup> Rafiq Nishonovich Nishonov was the twelfth First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR, from 12 January 1988 to 23 June 1989. He was also the Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities from 1989 to 1991.

<sup>5</sup> The riots in Fergana in 1989 were apparently sparked by an incident in a marketplace. At least 57 people, mostly Abkhaz Turks, were killed.

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