

Uzbekistan: Opposition Leader On Trial

ETHAN WILENSKY-LANFORD (NYT)
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The embezzlement trial of Sanjar Umarov, a businessman who is the chairman of the opposition group the Sunshine Coalition, began in Tashkent, Human Rights Watch reported. Rights groups say they believe the case is politically motivated and have expressed concerns that Mr. Umarov was drugged or tortured in custody. His lawyer, who had earlier said that he had found Mr. Umarov naked and incoherent in his cell, said his mental and physical health appeared normal. Surat Ikramov, the director of Independent Group for Human Rights Defenders of **Uzbekistan**, said that Mr. Umarov "explained in court that he could not remember anything from his arrest on Oct. 23 until early November." ETHAN WILENSKY-LANFORD (NYT)

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