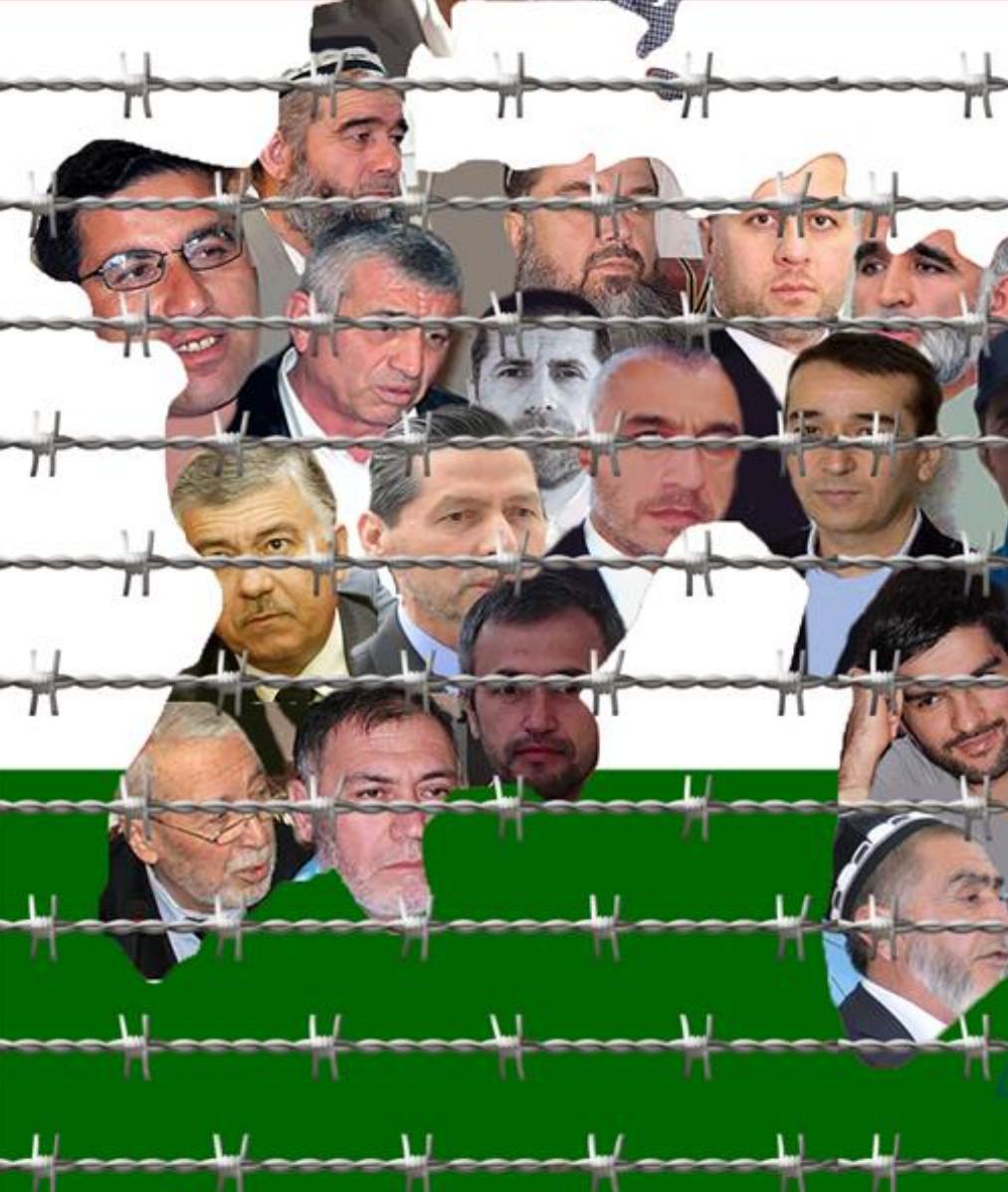


TAJIKISTAN

THE CHRONICLES OF REPRESSIONS

September 2019

Annual Report of the National Committee for the Release of Political Hostages and Prisoners of Tajikistan for the year 2019



The mysterious death of human rights activist Fayziniso Vohidova

Mass Execution of Prisoners

Chronology of Mass Execution of Prisoners in the Vahdat Prison

Daylight Abduction

Torture

HIV and other deadly infectious diseases in prisons in Tajikistan

Widespread Corruptions in all Prisons in Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Discrimination against Hijabs as Violation of Women Rights

Cases of 14 Tajik Political Prisoners Sent to the UN Working Group: A Triumph of Tajik Civil Society and a Proof of Existence of Political Prisoners

List of Tajikistan Political Prisoners

List of the Tajik Officials, involved in Torture

Report of Tajik NGOs based in Europe on human rights situations in Tajikistan



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Political Hostages and Prisoners of

Tajikistan

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The blessed memory of Fayziniso Vokhidova is dear not only to every active citizen of Tajikistan but also to journalists, human rights activists and diplomats far beyond it. Her life was short but brilliant. Brave and uncompromising defence of the violated rights and freedoms of those humiliated in Tajikistan by the lawyer Fayziniso Vokhidova brought her not only faithful friends and admirers of her human and professional virtues but also powerful enemies in the higher ranks of the authoritarian dictatorial system of Emomali Rahmon.

A member of the Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan and the Civil Committee for the Protection of Political Hostages and Prisoners in Tajikistan, Fayziniso Vokhidova was alien to arrogance in relation to representatives of other political and religious parties and movements and did not divide the defended into those who are beneficial to protect and those who are insecure.

Despite the pressure and harassment by the authorities, she continued to defend the violated rights of her innocently convicted colleague, lawyer Buzurgmehr Yorov, and representatives of the IRPT, illegally banned by the regime.

Interrogations, threats, an eight-month sentence on far-fetched charges, moral harassment in the official press and on the part of the special services troll factory on social networks undermined her health. Being on the list of dissenters with no exit visa, she was under constant obsessive control and pressure of Tadjikistan special services.

On January 4, 2019, she died in a hospital under mysterious circumstances, though hospitalized with pneumonia on her own accord. After she was visited by security agents in her hospital ward, Fayziniso Vohidova's condition worsened sharply and she was transferred to the intensive care unit. But the doctors could not save her.

The Tajik NPO in Europe - the Central Asian Migrant Association - established in her memory the Faisiniso Vohidova International Human Rights Award.



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Editor's Foreword

The tendencies of the human rights situation in Tajikistan are characterized by increasing cruelty and the range of the citizens repressed, growing cynicism and the shameless lies of the authorities to the population and the international community.

The reigning elite and the entire repressive, corrupt administratively subordinate structures continue to corrupt the nation, instill in legal nihilism and neglect of the Constitution, laws and international covenants and conventions. The legal field is narrowing like shagreen skin and the reign of lawlessness subjects ever-increasing segments of the population.

The essence of the dictator Emomali Rahmon's policy is to complete cleansing of the political and socio-economic field from all possible and impossible obstacles to the transfer of power by inheritance. He has been by now an unchallenged so-called democratically elected president for 25 years.

The last significant obstacle to achieving this goal was the legal parliamentary Party of Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan (IRPT). To eliminate side obstacles, the entire independent press has been dispersed or blocked. Along with the trial of the IRPT leaders in the fall of 2015, the whole idea of an independent bar was annihilated, a new law "On Lawyers and Advocacy" was adopted, which completely deprives the institution of the bar of independence from the courts, the prosecutor's office and the ministry of justice.

As soon as any aggravations of socio-political tension arise, access to the Internet, to unwanted information sites, and search services is blocked. Under pressure in 2018, the last independent Tajik-language publication "Ozodagon" was forcedly closed, and its founder and editor-in-chief Zafar Sufi was forced to emigrate and seek asylum in Europe. Even after closing the media and emigration, he continued to receive threats, including a real threat of abduction throughout the territory of the former USSR. Other popular Tajikistan media, such as "Asia Plus" and "Radio Ozod", are subjected to severe pressure and intimidation. "Asia Plus" has been blocked for

over a year, and a number of "Radio Ozodi" correspondents have been denied accreditation. Access to the popular Tajik information portal in Prague



"Akhbor.com" is also blocked in Tajikistan.

The best lawyers were imprisoned for terms exceeding life imprisonment on false accusations. Despite numerous inquiries from international organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Norwegian Committee and others, as well as the UN Human Rights Committee and the EU, the Tajik authorities refuse to release the lawyer Buzurgmehr Yorov. The other day, he was nominated for the Vatslav Havel Prize as a fighter for human rights and freedoms.

What was a usual response of Rahmon to these pleas and the news about the nomination of Buzurgmehr Yorov for the Vaclav Havel Prize? The authorities organized a rally of the lawyer's "victims" and opened a new criminal case against him, though he has already been sentenced to 28 years of imprisonment, and that - instead of capital punishment.

Some lawyers have been driven to death, such as Ishok Tabarov. His fault was to disclose falsehood and fabrication in the case against Zaid Saidov, creator of the New Tajikistan Party. Despite the fact that the evidence base of the prosecution was objectively denounced in front of the whole Tajik society, the authorities sentenced Zaid Saidov to 29 years. The lawyer Ishok Tabarov undertook two more fake cases of political convicts and suddenly died of a heart attack, as runs authorities' ungrounded statement.

The mysterious death of a well-known lawyer Fayziniso Vohidova died followed suit the interrogation in the hospital ward by the State Committee for National Security agents. She instantly fell in a coma and died. In 2019 in Europe Tajik immigrant NPOs established the

Fayziniso Vohidova International Award for Merit in the fight to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens.

After the elimination of independent press and the independent bar, Rahmon unleashed the hands of the law enforcement agencies and courts to search “enemies” and fabricate criminal cases against “enemies of the people” in best traditions of Stalinism of the 30-40s of the last century.

The shortcuts “enemy of the people”, “terrorist”, and “extremist” are designated to journalists, lawyers, and civil activists. Users of social networks get a prison term of up to 9 and a half years simply for a single “Like”. A critic of the local district corrupt official, well-known blogger Junaidullo Khudoyorov was declared a Salafi and put into prison. Young people are easily labelled “supporter of the IRPT”, of “Group 24” and even “ISIS supporter”. Young people who have never held weapons in their hands receive charges and sentences for alleged intention to leave the country and join ISIS. The so-called fight against terrorism in Tajikistan has become a profitable business for extortionists in uniform, as well as for corrupt officials who want to get rid of critics and ill-wishers.

The tail grown by Emomali Rahmon in order to maintain personal power, more and more distinctly wags the owner. The suppression apparatus adopted the rules of the game, being sure that if they’ll support the party in power, no one shall be dismissed for excessive zeal and enrichment.

Under these conditions, prisons are overcrowded by innocent victims of the slander, sentenced on trumped-up charges of political and religious nature. The very repressive system of the Emomali Rahmon regime, built on the patterns of

Stalin, taking an extremely radical anti-clerical and anti-liberal position, began to stimulate and produce extreme Islamic radicalization in society.

To eliminate and combat the moderate Islamic movement such as legal and parliamentary IRPT, the regime collaborates with its antipodes - radicals and ISIS supporters for four years already. The authorities are encouraging aggravation of ideological and worldview contradictions between the supporters of the IRPT and the ISIS adepts. They are trying to neutralize the influence of the IRPT members and supporters

in places of detention by their hands. In doubtful prison riots, a number of opposition leaders are reported killed by radicals.

Actually, this alliance of seemingly incompatible radical forces, the Rakhmon regime and the Salafis supporters of ISIS are trying to occupy the niches of secular liberal and

moderate Islamic power in the society, seriously threatening the embryo of a democratic secular legal system as well as fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Rakhmon regime, positioning itself as a democratic secular and legal, devalues and discredits these very concepts: democracy, secularism and the legal nature of the state. Thus, the Rakhmon regime successfully helps the extremely anti-secular, anti-democratic and anti-liberal radical forces.

Under these conditions of polarization and intolerance in the society, the situation in prisons becomes the focus and mirror of the meanest vices of the repressive corrupt Rahmon regime, who chose to use unlimited brutal violence against the human persons and dissents.

Temur Varki, journalist, poet, human rights activist

The Rakhmon regime, positioning itself as a democratic secular and legal, devalues and discredits these very concepts: democracy, secularism and the legal nature of the state. Thus, the Rakhmon regime successfully helps the extremely anti-secular, anti-democratic and anti-liberal radical forces.

Note of Head of the National Committee for the Rescue of Political Hostages and Prisoners of Tajikistan

Emomali Rahmon has been ruling Tajikistan for the last 28 years and has established a tyrannical and repressive regime.

According to the constitution, Rahmon, in addition to his post as president, is the head of the state and simultaneously he rules the government. His daughter, Ozoda Rahmon, is the president's chief of staff and in fact her post is the second powerful post in the government. His son, Rustami Emomali, continues to maintain his post as a mayor of Dushanbe. High positions are held also by other children and relatives of Emomali Rahmon, who have turned the government into a system for financial gains and political purposes. They continue to rob the people.

Rahmon has established a cult of personality and enjoys every year giving himself new titles, including "Leader of the Nation" and "Founder of the Peace and National Unity", etc.

If someone dares to criticize his policy or shows protest against his actions, such people would be declared as terrorists and traitors and sentenced to long prison terms.

Rahmon has so far attached the label of a "terrorist" to his peaceful opponents and has used the pretext of combatting terrorism and extremism to intimidate the Tajik opposition and imprison hundreds of the activists.

The exact number of political prisoners in Tajikistan has not yet been known. According to experts, there are about 17 thousand people in the prisons of Tajikistan and 1200 of them are political prisoners that have been kept in an unbearable situations.

According to information received from the sources inside the prisons, many prisoners have been deliber-

ately infected by the prisons' staff with chronic diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc. There are about 10-12 people in the cells that have been designed for four prisoners in the overpopulated prisons.



In the heat of summer and in the cold of winter, especially political prisoners stay outdoor several times per day for long time that their number to be counted and are forced to spend couple of hours outdoor.

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The regime introduced moratorium on carrying out the death penalty in 2004 and no executions have taken place since then. However, the political prisoners are subjected to physical extermination by various

means. In the last ten months, more than 200 prisoners, including political prisoners, have been killed in the prisons of Khujand and Vahdat, as well as during the transfer of prisoners from Sughd to Dushanbe.

Authorities of a country having a population of nine million have put on the Interpol wanted list more than 2000 people, who are mostly political activists or people, who are close to the activists.

Considering the current situation, we ask all members of the international community and relevant international organizations to stand up for the human rights in Tajikistan and protect the rights of the people of this country.

With best regards,

Abdusator Boboev, Head of the National Committee for the Rescue of Political Hostages and Prisoners of Tajikistan



The mysterious death of human rights activist Fayziniso Vohidova

Fayziniso Vohidova, a well-known Tajik lawyer, was born in 1963 in the area named after Bobojon Gafurov of the Sughd province. In 1986 she graduated from the Law Faculty of Moscow Lomonosov State University. From 1995 to November 2015, when the new Law on the Bar and the Advocacy was adopted, she worked as a lawyer. Under the new law, the bar as an institution has lost independence from the executive and judicial branches of the government.

The judicial executive branch introduced examinations and validation of rights for lawyers and got the opportunity to revoke licenses of independent lawyers and get rid of them to manage the courts and obtain the necessary political-ly and economically motivated sentences. In this regard, in protest, Fayziniso Vohidova refused to certify and undergo the humiliating examinations taken by the Ministry of Justice.

Fayziniso Vohidova was a member of the SDPT and ran for the parliament from this party in 2005. In 2006, she was slandered in a fake diploma of higher education at Moscow State University and spent 8 months in custody. But after the slander was not proven, she was released.

From 2013 to the end of her days, she has been frequently subject to harassment and pressures done by the State Security Committee, including physical violence, moral pressure and threats.

In September 2015, the Tajik authorities threw more than a thousand dissidents, including opposition political activists, journalists and lawyers into prisons. They were suppressed and

tortured. Thousands of others were forced to leave the country. After the arrest of lawyer **Buzurgmehr Yorov**, Fayziniso Vohidova also left the country and lived in Bishkek for some time.

She returned to Tajikistan and published an open letter to Emomali Rakhmon in May 2017, calling for the release of lawyer Buzurgmehr Yorov. Fayziniso Vohidova was again targeted by special services, detained and subjected to interrogations and threats. Later, authorities freed her and forbidding her to leave the country.



In July 2018, Fayziniso Vohidova accepted an invitation to become a member of the Civil Committee for the Protection of Political Hostages and Prisoners in Tajikistan, formed by Tajik dissidents in

Poland. She confirmed that she would make every possible effort at home to help and protect political prisoners in Tajikistan.

In 2018, after another campaign of pressure and interrogations at the State Committee for National Security, Fayziniso Vohidova's health was seriously shaken. In December 2018, she was forced to see a doctor and was hospitalized with a diagnosis of pneumonia. But in the hospital, the Security officers did not give her rest.

She was interrogated on her publications on social networks even in the hospital ward. According to the testimonies of Fayziniso Vohidova herself, shared in a telephone conversation with a member of the human rights Civil Committee, she was again threatened with death and said that she would no longer leave the walls of this hospital. After visits of Security investigators, Fayziniso Vohidova's condition in the hospital

deteriorated sharply. She was transferred to the intensive care unit and died on January 4, 2019, in the hospital of the district named after Bobojon Ghafurov.

The unexpected and unexplainable death of the lawyer Fayziniso Vohidova shocked Tajik civil society with its dubious circumstances: the intrusion and intervention of security services in the treatment process, a sharp deterioration after visiting the patient by special services, an attempt to transfer the patient from one hospital to another. And the result was coma and death in the intensive care unit when being treated for pneumonia.

The Central Asian Migrant Association in

personalities as Fayziniso Vohidova inspired Tajik society with faith and hope."

Shokirjon Hakimov, lawyer, deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan, said: "*Fayziniso Vohidova was one of the people who openly talked about problems in the society and the state, even if her courage could harm her and her loved ones.*" According to Hakimov, Fayziniso Vohidova absolutely could not stand the fawning and reverence, although she had all the possibilities to secure a carefree existence, to obtain a public position and become part of the system.

Fayziniso Vohidova as a lawyer took part in a number of high-profile trials, including in the



Human Rights Watch Central Asia researcher Steve Sverdlov said about Fayziniso Vohidova: "I was personally acquainted with Fayziniso Vohidova, she was a brave and fearless person and a fighter for the rights and freedoms of citizens in extremely dangerous conditions and admired her dedication on this path".

Europe, after the untimely death of a well-known human rights activist, decided in July 2019 to establish the annual international Fayziniso Vohidova Prize, which will be awarded to human rights defenders - worthy successors of the deceased human rights defender.

Human Rights Watch Central Asia researcher **Steve Sverdlov** said about Fayziniso Vohidova: "*I was personally acquainted with Fayziniso Vohidova, she was a brave and fearless person and a fighter for the rights and freedoms of citizens in extremely dangerous conditions and admired her dedication on this path*".

Rajab Mirzo, a civil society activist, journalist wrote: "*The very presence in the society of such*

case of the failed attempt to assassinate the head of Tajikistan in 1997 as well as in the defense of the *BBC* correspondent **Urunboi Usmonov**.

Government propagandists and trolls on social networks in the last years of Fayziniso Vohidova's life were harassing her. She regularly received threats and insults on her phone and in instant messengers. The state propaganda of the Rahmon regime and the "troll factory" of the Tajik special services reacted extremely aggressively and uncivilized to the establishment of the posthumous annual international Fayziniso Vohidova Prize.

This was another confirmation that the responsibility for the mysterious death of a human rights activist rests with the repressive dictatorial regime of Emomali Rahmon.

Mass Execution of Prisoners

Khujand Prison

On October 21, 2018, one of the prisoners of Khujand prison N: 3/3, one of the strictest prisons in the country, called his family, saying that he would be unavailable for two weeks.

On November 6, social networks and some online messengers were blocked in Tajikistan.

In the evening of November 7, people living near the prison N: 3/3 in Khujand ci-ty told the media that they heard so-me screams of the prisoners coming from the prison and then heard sounds of machine guns.

On November 8, relatives were given two bodies of the deceased prison's staff: Mirsaid Kodirov and Ehson Yokubov.

The Bloody Event on Internal and International Media

Russian media, including *RIA Novosti* and *Lenta.ru* reported a riot in the prison and the death of 12 persons during it.

The Tajik border authorities, in response to a request from their Kyrgyz counterparts, confirmed that a riot took place in the prison of Khujand.

Well-known world media, such as *Al-Jazeera* and the *Diplomat*, reported the riot of prisoners in a prison in Khujand city.

The independent Tajik website, *Akhbor.com*, reported the death of 19 to 22 prisoners and two warders and claimed that the initiators of the riot were members of ISIS and Hizb-ut-Tahrir.



The bodies of the dead warders Mirsaid Kodirov and Ehson Yokubov were buried. At the farewell ceremony, one of their counterparts said, the riot was provoked to let several prisoners escape.

Some media reported the death of at least 27 people and injury of 100 others.

24 hours passed from the riot, but the Tajik authorities did not comment on the incident.

Relatives of the prisoners were not able to get any information about their close ones.

On November 9, the bodies of two prisoners from Asht, four from Istaravshan and one from Konibodom were buried in their hometowns without washing and farewell ceremonies. Families of the deceased prisoners were not allowed to approach the bodies.

ISIS Claims Responsibility

On November 9, ISIS claimed responsibility for the riot in the prison No. 3/3 in Khujand city.

This news has attracted the attention of many media around the world. The well-known

international media reported the death of more than 20 people as a result of the suppression of prison riot. This bloody event was considered as one of the bloodiest suppression of prison riots in recent decades in Tajikistan.

Izatullo Sharifov, head of prison administration in the Ministry of Justice, told “*Ozodi*” that he was not aware of the riot and its suppression.

The National Committee for the Rescue of Political Hostages and Prisoners in Tajikistan, in a statement, called upon the authorities to form a joint commission, consisting of international organizations, Tajik civil society and relatives of the victims to investigate the bloody event and publish its findings to the public.

How many Prisoners were killed in Khujand Prison Riot? The Government Kept Silent

The media reported the hospitalization of 6 warders and more than 100 prisoners.

Khayrullo Abdulloev, the father of one of the wounded warders, told radio *Ozodi* that his son informed him that the riot began during the evening roll call after the electricity was suddenly turned off. He also said that prisoners beat the warders with bricks and other improvised means.

In the evening of November 9, two days after the riot, the authorities reported nothing about the riot and did not comment on the incident.

Relatives still could not obtain any information about the situations of their close ones.

In the morning of November 10, two photos appeared with the bodies of the dead prisoners of Khujand prison on the social networks. In the said photos, the bodies were arranged in two rows and 15 bodies could be fully or partially seen.

The website *Payom.net*, citing from the Red Cross, reported that the death toll rised to 40 people.

Dilovara Kodirova, the widow of the killed officer Mirsaid Kodirov, said in an interview with *Asia Plus* that her husband and other warder Ehson Yokubov died as a result of severe beatings by prisoners.

The sister of the wife of the deceased warder Ehson Yokubov on her Facebook account wrote that Mr. Yokubov died from beating.

In the noon of November 10, President Emomali Rahmon spoke at the solemn ceremony of honoring officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the occasion of Police Day. In his speech, which was live broadcasted by all television channels, Emomali Rahmon did not say a word about the tragedy in Khujand prison.

In the evening of November 10, three days after the prison riot, the authorities reported nothing about the tragedy and did not comment on it in any way. Relatives of prisoners remain totally unaware. They don't know whether their close ones are alive or dead. Nobody is allowed to visit the wounded inmates.

The Total Number of Deaths Much Higher

On November 11, the website *Akhbor.com*, citing from unnamed sources in the investigative agencies, reported that up to 47 bodies of dead prisoners were buried on that day.

Payom.net, citing a source from the regional prosecutor's office of Sughd, reported that 53 prisoners were killed and 186 were injured.

In the evening of November 11, four days after the event, the authorities officially reported nothing about the tragedy in Khujand prison. Relatives remained unaware of the fate of their close ones and nobody was allowed to visit the wounded persons.

On November 12, correspondent of “*Ozodi*” in one of the government offices was able to see

Rukiya Ismoilova, mother of the deceased 23-year-old prisoner Bakhrom Ismoilov, told Radio Ozodi that the wrapped body of her son was buried by a grave digger under police supervision in her village cemetery and neither she nor relatives could approach the body and say a goodbye to him.

the list of victims, consisting of at least 50 names that belonged mainly to prisoners.

The National Alliance of Tajikistan, in its statement, considered the killing of prisoners as a mass execution.

Rukiya Ismoilova, mother of the deceased 23-year-old prisoner Bahrom Ismoilov, told Radio Ozodi that the wrapped body of her son was buried by a grave digger under police supervision in her village cemetery and neither she nor relatives could approach the body and say a goodbye to him.

Relatives of 21-year-old prisoner Khojiismoilkhon Bahovuddinov from Isfara district reported that he was shot in the head.

Why Did the Government Remain Silent?

On November 13, a person from the authorities



ACCORDING TO PAYOM, IT WAS REPORTED THAT WHILE TRYING TO "CALM" THE RIOT, THE OMON OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS BLOCKED THE PRISONERS, WHILE THE SPECIAL FORCES "ALPHA" FROM STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY OPENED FIRES ON THE PRISONERS.

told *Radio Ozodi*: "this event is not worth to be covered on state television."

Another Tajik official told the media that "As we are going to celebrate the launch of Roghun hydropower plant, reporting this incident can tarnish this significant historical event."

The head of the press of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Umedjon Emomali, ruled out the involvement of Special Forces in suppressing the prison riot. He stated that prisons have their own effective means of suppressing riots.

On November 14, a Petition was published on *change.org* website, a request from Tajik civil

society activists calling upon the country's leadership, Emomali Rahmon, and the Attorney General to form an independent commission to investigate the mass execution of prisoners.

On November 15, *Akhbor.com*, citing its source, reported the detention and initiation of criminal proceedings against Fayzullo Safarov, head of Khujand prison.

On November 16, *Payom.net* with reference to two of its sources reported the details of the incident. According to *Payom*, it was reported that while trying to "calm" the riot, the OMON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs blocked the prisoners, while the Special Forces "Alpha" from State Committee for the National Security opened fires on the prisoners.

Radio Ozodi, citing its sources, announced confirmation of the news of the arrest of the head of the colony Fayzullo Safarov.

International Pressures

On November 18, nine days passed, but the government remained yet silent. The relatives of some prisoners with the help of bribing officials and warders managed to obtain limited information about their close ones and nobody was allowed to the injured ones.

On November 19, head of the EU mission and the western ambassadors in Tajikistan met the representatives of human rights organizations in Tajikistan, including the Coalition against Torture, and discussed the Khujand prison incident.

In the evening of November 19, *Akhbor.com* website reported that seven prison staff who received various injuries and were being treated in the regional hospital in Khujand city, were handcuffed after being interrogated by officers of the Khujand police department and detained and transferred from the regional hospital to the region's pretrial detention center.

On November 20, acting US Ambassador to Tajikistan Kevin Covert met with the Tajik Attorney General as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and discussed the incident in Khujand prison.

A number of ambassadors of European countries turned their attention to the investigation and called upon the Tajik

authorities to conduct an honest investigation of the execution of prisoners.

Criminal Case against Head of the Prison's Administration

On November 21, *Payom.net*, citing its sources, announced the initiation of a criminal case against Izatullo Sharifov, head of the prisons' administration in the Ministry of Justice. The website said that after the incident in Khujand prison, Izatullo Sharifov, has lost access to President Emomali Rahmon.

In the afternoon of November 21, despite requests from democratic countries and international institutions, as well as citizens' expectations that after the launch of the Roghun hydroelectric plant, the authorities would provide information about the tragedy in Khujand prison, the authorities continued to remain silent about the tragedy that killed at least 50 persons and injured around 200 citizens.

Civil request: Form an independent Commission to investigate the mass execution of prisoners in Khujand!

On the evening of November 7, 2018, the day after celebrating the Constitution Day, one of the bloodiest crimes took place in Tajikistan against the mankind.

In the CLC-3/3 of Khujand, mass execution of unarmed prisoners was committed by the OMON special forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the "Alpha" group of the SCNS of Tajikistan.

As a result at least 53 prisoners were shot and 186 other prisoners were wounded.

Anonymous sources in state structures justify the mass execution of prisoners by the necessity of suppressing a prison riot, "pacifying" prisoners who attacked guards using the word "shootout".

However, there is no information about the employees of the Ministry of Justice, OMON special forces and "Alpha" being wounded and shot with firearms. Unfortunately, as a result of beatings two employees of the colony died.

Their relatives testify that they died from beatings by prisoners.

Therefore, it is nothing but the shooting of unarmed, mass extrajudicial execution,

inadequate, unjustified and unacceptable excess of the use of force in a legal state.

Nevertheless, till today, 14th of November, official sources have not yet reported about what took place 7 days ago.

Izatullo Sharipov, the head of the Department for

the Execution of Criminal Sentences of the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan, several days after the emergency told Radio Ozodi (the Tajik service of Radio Liberty) that he is in Dushanbe and is not aware of what took place.

The deputy head of the Centre for Strategic Studies under President Saifullo Safarov told Radio Ozodi that it is not worth to show that event on television, as it might cast a shadow over the launch of the first turbine of the Roghun hydropower plant.

WE CALL ON GOVERNMENTS OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, RIGHT-WING ORGANIZATIONS TO START INVESTIGATING THE FACT OF MASS EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF PRISONERS IN TAJIKISTAN AND TO DEMAND FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THIS HEINOUS CRIME INVOLVING THE OMBUDSMAN, OTHER AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF TAJIK AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, RELATIVES OF DEAD AND INJURED AND THE MEDIA.

A spokesman of Ministry of Internal Affairs said that he did not know about the shooting and noted that to pacify prison riots there are other adequate and effective ways.

In its turn, on the website of the Committee of Religious Affairs under the government an article was published justifying the mass executions. What the article says is that convicts have no right to life and are worthy of death.

We remind that Tajikistan joined the moratorium on the death penalty and joined the "Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" adopted by General Assembly resolution 39/46, which entered into force on June 26, 1987. However, torture and abuse of prisoners continues. It has become the norm in Tajik prisons. According to staff, it is committed with the encouragement and direction of Izatullo Sharipov. Surely, higher rank officials have knowledge about it.

The UN Human Rights Committee also pointed to the Tajik authorities the inadmissibility of torture and called for the release of illegally convicted political prisoners, mainly Mahmatali Haitov and Zaid Saidov. The International Red Cross and the OSCE were again denied inspection of places of detention and meetings with convicts.

According to independent sources with reference to the employees of the colony, the revolt on November 7, 2018 in CLC-3/3 in Khujand was provoked by the violation of the prisoners' rights, torture and harassment by guards. According to various sources, prisoners attacked the guard after one of the convicts had been stripped naked and taken out under a rain for several hours.

We demand the publication of a complete list of the dead and wounded. We want to know who gave the order to kill our citizens and is responsible for this crime against humanity.



We also demand that the General Prosecutor's Office of Tajikistan initiate criminal proceedings:

- on the fact of torture against convicted citizens in CLC-3/3, which provoked retaliatory violence;

- upon the organization of a riot and intelligence services employees' complicity, since the electricity was disconnected by non-detainees;

- on the fact of abuse of official power by employees of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the SCNS;

- upon the fact of the massacre of convicted citizens, protected by the Constitution and the state for correction after the crimes committed and the crimes not committed by them;

- and also on the fact of concealing a massacre.

We call on governments of democratic

countries,
international
institutions,
right-wing
organizations to

start
investigating the
fact of mass
extrajudicial

execution of
prisoners in
Tajikistan and to
demand from the

government of
Tajikistan to
create a
Commission to

investigate this
involving the

heinous crime
the Ombudsman, other authorities, as well as representatives of Tajik and international human rights organizations, relatives of dead and injured and the media. The Tajik authorities must give a full account of the reasons, circumstances, perpetrators and punishment for the mass execution of our fellow citizens.

We believe that democratic countries and international institutions that provide loans and grants for the improvement and reform of the penitentiary system, the Ministry of Internal

Affairs and the strengthening of the security forces, do not provide these means for strengthening the violation of civil rights, torture and mass executions in Tajikistan. Your silence will be perceived as encouraging

violence, which carries a serious threat to our citizens and our country.

We want to live in a truly legal, democratic and secular state, where such a thing would be unacceptable and impossible.

Chronology of Mass Execution of Prisoners in the Vahdat Prison

18 May 2019: The site “Payom” reports that in the prison No. 3/2, located in the Rohati village of the Vahdat district, 15 kilometers east of Dushanbe, better known as “Brick Prison” (*Kirpichniy*), the dining room and toilets are being renovated. According to the source, repairing was undertaken by prisoners themselves and at their own expense.

19 May 2019: Evening. Radio Ozodi, citing a source in Tajikistan’s security services, reports a clash between the convicted members of the banned Hizb-ut-Tahrir organization and the guards.



Night. The site "Akhbor" reports some checkpoints set up in Dushanbe and around it. Trucks and vehicles are being checked by SWAT, army and police forces. Eyewitnesses also report ambulances and trucks with Special Forces and soldiers heading towards Vahdat.

20 May 2019: IRPT’s own source. Nearby residents claim a 35 minutes nonstop automatic and machine gun fire that started at 3 a.m. at the prison, takes place.

Morning. All social networks, some online messengers and most popular search engines are blocked in Tajikistan.

Relatives of dozens of prisoners, alarmed by the gossips of the riot and casualties, gathered in front of the prison. They are not allowed by the police to approach the prison. There were gossips that the bodies of the killed prisoners are to be given to relatives in the afternoon.

The Tajik Ministry of Justice confirms that there was a “riot” led by some prisoners on Sunday night in the strict prison No. 3/2 in Vahdat district. Authorities report that around 8:30 pm, a group of about 30 prisoners, who had been sentenced for membership in the Islamic State, armed with knives and other sharp objects, took three prison guards hostage and killed them, while demanding release. The statement also adds: “Prison’s administration took decisive measures to stabilize the situation, and there were casualties among dangerous criminals during the restoration of order.” The exact number of victims among the rioters was not reported by the government.

Noon. The “Payom” website, citing its sources, reports numerous casualties among prisoners in the Vahdat prison. According to the website, early in the morning 4 ambulances entered the prison and each ambulance left the prison every 15-20 minutes. The website reports that the former Minister of Industry, the founder of the "New Tajikistan" party Zaid Saidov, who had been sentenced to 29 years of imprisonment, was safe, not injured.

Abdujabbor Halimov, an employee of the Vahdat prison, who was killed previous night, was buried in the Hamadoni district of Khatlon region. Abdukarim Halimov, the father of the deceased, said that stab wounds were visible on his son’s neck.

The body of Alimurod Makhanov, one of the murdered prisoners, was not handed over to his relatives and was buried without washing and with absence of his family members.

The Reuters, citing a source in law enforcement agencies, reports that 29 prisoners were killed during the riot last night.

Afternoon. The Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs publishes a list of 29 prisoners killed on the night of May 19 during the riot of prisoners and its suppression in the Vahdat prison. According to this list, 18 out of 29 killed had been convicted for membership in ISIS, 3 members of Ansorulloh, and two members of the IRPT.

The “Payom” website, citing its source, reports that prisoner Sattor Karimov, a member of the IRPT’s political council and Said Kiyomiddin Gozi, a former member of the IRPT, were beheaded. The website reports that Sattor Karimov tried to play an intermediary role between the administration of the prison and the rebellious prisoners, but was killed by the rebellious ISIS members.

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan states that the organizers of the riot were ISIS supporters - Behruz Gulmurod (son of Gulmurod Halimov, the ex-SWAT commander who fled to Syria and joined the ISIS) as well as Fakhriddin Gulov, Makhmadullo Sharipov and Ruhullo Khasanov. The statement says that the rioters first “brutally killed the three guards of the prison,” then they killed 5 prisoners in front of the others, including Said Kiyomiddin Gozi, Sattor Karimov (Makhsumi Sattor) and Saidmakhdikhon Sattorov (Sheikh Temur). “During the legal measures to suppress the rebellion, 24 prisoners were eliminated, 35 others were detained. Prisoners, who had been taken as hostages, have been released,” the official statement says.

Relatives of dozens of prisoners, alarmed by the gossips of the riot and casualties, gathered in front of the prison. They are not allowed by the police to approach the prison. There were gossips that the bodies of the killed prisoners are to be given to relatives in the afternoon.

The IRPT condemns the brutal suppression of the rebellion in the Vahdat prison. The party demands the creation of an independent investigation team, including international organizations and independent journalists to thoroughly investigate the incident and present the results to the public.

“Akhbor”, citing its own source, reports that the reason for the riot was the militants' ill-treatment of prisoners, as well as putting 8 prisoners in punishment cells. Moreover, the prisoners were kept for several hours in the sun outdoors during the fast (Ramadan). The source reports that the riot began when the prisoners gathered for the *taroveeh* - a special evening prayer read only during the holy month of Ramadan.

Most world media report a riot in the Vahdat prison led by the ISIS members.

The killed political prisoner and IRPT's member, Sattor Karimov (Makhsumi Sattor) was buried in Dushanbe in the Sari Osiyo cemetery. One of the people close to the Karimov family said in an interview with “Radio Ozodi” that he was involved in identifying the body of the deceased and saw stab wounds on his body.

21 May 2019: Morning. The Civil Committee for the Protection of Political Hostages and Prisoners in Tajikistan is not confident with the Tajik authorities' version of the bloody event and claims to collect



more information about the incident.

At a meeting with the heads of the security services, Emomali Rahmon expresses concern about the activities of the terrorists on the Internet. He does not mention the riot and death of 31 citizens.

“Payom” reports that the bodies of Sattor Karimov and Kiyomiddin Gaziev have been interred. Kiyomiddin Gaziev was buried without participation of his relatives. The website also publishes a photo of Karimov's head with visible traces of violent blows.

The leader of the National Alliance of Tajikistan, Muhiddin Kabiri proclaims the slaughter of prisoners in the Vahdat prison as genocide and blames the government of Tajikistan for it.

All major search engines, including Google, remain blocked in Tajikistan.

22 May 2019: Radio Ozodi, referring to the prisoner's relatives, reports that Rakhmatullo Rajab, a member of the IRPT's political council, who has been serving in the prison No. 1 in Dushanbe, has been transferred to a solitary confinement and was tortured.

“Payom” reports many political prisoners, especially members of the IRPT in all prisons of the country, either being transferred to solitary confinement or subjected to ill-treatment and torture.

24 May 2019: Valomat Ibrohimzoda, wife of Rahmatullo Rajab, goes on hunger strike and intends to continue on her hunger strike until her husband would be released from solitary confinement.

The National Alliance of Tajikistan condemns the bloodshed in the Vahdat prison, blames the authorities for this bloody event and calls for the creation of an independent and international inquiry commission as soon as possible.

25 May 2019: Authorities allow Valomat Ibrohimzoda to meet her husband Rahmatullo Rajab inside the prison.

A photo of Kiyomiddin Ghoziev appears in social networks. There are signs of a deep stab wound on his throat. Apparently, somebody tried to cut off his head. It is also vivid that his body was cut in the chest and abdomen, probably for post-mortem examination

4 June 2019: The Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan issues a statement demanding a thorough, impartial, effective and timely investigation into the causes of the riot.

13 June 2019: “Asia Plus”, citing a source in the government, reports that several officials were dismissed, including the Prosecutor of the law enforcement in the prisons in Dushanbe and Mirzo Aminzoda, department of the Prosecutor General Office of Tajikistan in the region of Republican Subordination, and several administrators of the Vahdat prison.

14 June 2019: Reuters reports Islamic State claimed responsibility for the riot in the Vahdat prison. However, ISIS does not provide any evidence.

20 June 2019: “Ozodi”, citing its own source, reports that the plan of the riot in Vahdat was plotted by the prisoner Zarif Zaripov, who had been sentenced for the involvement in the Anzorulloh extremist group. He had been transferred three years ago from Khujand to Vahdat. However, Zarif Zaripov failed to become the instigator of the rebellion. This role was played by three other inmates of the “Brick prison” - Makhmadullo Sharipov, Sadullo Kazakov and Rukhullo Hasanov, who had been sentenced for connection to Islamic extremists.

29 June 2019: “Ozodi”, citing a source in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, reports that the Prosecutor General’s Office has started criminal proceedings against 5 prison guards, who were hiding in a safe place during the riot. The source informs that about 40 other prisoners were going to be charged with involvement in the riots and get new sentences. They were being interrogated by investigators.



Daylight Abduction

Sharofiddin Gadoev

Sharofiddin Gadoev, born May 19, 1985, a Tajik activist who has received political asylum in Netherland and has so far lived in this country. He is former co-founder and leader of the political opposition movement "Group 24". He is currently head of the movement "Reforms and Development in Tajikistan", which is a member of the National Alliance of Tajikistan, an alliance established

Federal Security Service of Russia began an operation of kidnapping Gadoev from Russia and forcibly deporting him to Tajikistan.

At around 18:20 (Moscow time), officials of MIA of Russia illegally detained Gadoev, forcibly seized his Dutch travel document and residence permit, as well as personal belongings. They handcuffed him, wrapped his



Gadoev was forcibly placed on a plane of the Tajik airline "Somon Air" and was handed over to two employees of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan.

on September 9, 2018 in Poland.

In 2012, Gadoev was forced to leave Tajikistan after his business being seized and receiving threats from Shamsullo Sohibov, the son-in-law of the current president of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon. Sohibov has illegally captured all properties of Gadoev by using the state power for his own interests. When threat of imprisonment arose by fabricating a criminal case against him, Gadoev left the country. His name was later put on INTERPOL's red list on the request of Tajikistan government.

On February 13, 2019 at 11:50 local time, Gadoev flew from Amsterdam to Moscow with the flight KL0903 operated by the Dutch airline KLM. He had a round-trip ticket and he was supposed to return to Amsterdam on February 16, 2019.

On February 14, 2019 at 18:00 Moscow time, officers of the Russian Security Council, the Ministry of the Internal Affairs (MIA) and the

head in scotch tape, put a black plastic bag on top and drove him to an unknown destination without charge.

At about 20:00 (Moscow time), Gadoev was handed over to the staff of the Federal Security Service of Russia and they forcibly took him to the airport. He later realized it was Domodedovo Airport. At around 23:30, by passing passport and border control, without a single document (according to Gadoev, Russian intelligence services seized his documents), Gadoev was forcibly placed on a plane of the Tajik airline "Somon Air" and was handed over to two employees of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan.

At about 00:00 on February 15, 2019, Gadoev was illegally sent from Russia to Tajikistan on the flight SZ 8202W Moscow-Dushanbe operated by the Tajik airline "Somon Air". On the plane, he was beaten over the head and the whole body by the officers of the CID of the

MIA of Tajikistan and staff of “Somon Air” airline. During the four-hour flight he was kept half-bent barely having access to air. At the same time, in the economy class of the plane, there were passengers who most probably heard Gadoev screaming.

Upon arrival, on February 15, 2019 around 06:00 (Dushanbe time), they placed Gadoev under arrest in the basement of the CID of the MIA of Tajikistan under the supervision of the head of this department, lieutenant colonel militia Shohrukh Saidzoda (born Shohrukh Fattoevich Saidov), who was the organizer and leader of this crime.

The officers of the CID of the MIA of Tajikistan have beaten Gadoev in the same basement under the supervision of Bakhtiyor Nazarov, the deputy head of this department. Later, Bakhtiyor Nazarov told Gadoev about three scenarios of his fate:

1. *If Gadoev refuses to cooperate with security forces, they will continue to torture him and get all the information they need from him, and then they will kill him, and no one will know about his presence in Tajikistan.*
2. *Same as in the first option, but instead of death he receives life-imprisonment or at least 25 years of imprisonment.*
3. *If Gadoev agrees to cooperate, then he supposedly receives freedom, which will be under the control of security forces, and he will carry out all their orders so that to criticize the opponents of the regime of Emomali Rahmon.*

At around 8:00 to 9:00 (Dushanbe time) Major General of the State Committee for National Security (SCNS) Amirbek Beknazarov, Major General of the SNCS Atamkhon Atoevich Pirov, and Lieutenant-General of the MIA Abdurahmon Alamshozoda (Buzmakov) came to the basement of the CID of the MIA of Tajikistan. These three generals once again confirmed the three scenarios mentioned above and Mr. Gadoev under the pressure and death threat told them to consider the deal.

Since February 15, 2019 operational teams of the SCNS and MIA of Tajikistan, under the supervision of already mentioned generals, recorded him series of videos. For instance, Gadoev’s statement about his supposedly voluntary return to Tajikistan and vilifying the opponents of the current regime of Emomali Rahmon. In the next video, it is demonstrated how he supposedly voluntarily goes on

foot from Dushanbe airport to the police department for the sake of repenting of mistakes and asking authorities to pardon him. Apart from this, they forced his mother and sister to make a statement on the camera, where they say that they were happy for his return and thankful to the authorities.

All these videos were recorded under the pressure and threats by the security forces of Tajikistan. They forced Gadoev and his relatives to say in front of the camera a text prepared by them.

With the help of these videos, authorities tried to

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convince society that Gadoev returned to Tajikistan voluntarily. However, everything said on those videos were against his will. During two weeks, from February 15 through March 2, 2019, security forces of Tajikistan kept him under strict control without contacting outside world. However, community and foreign diplomats were told that he was free. All this time, the Tajik authorities tried to use him and his relatives for their propaganda purposes, constantly exerting pressure and keeping his whole family in fear.

Upon his return to Netherlands he stated: “The authorities were forced to release me, thanks to the mobilization of all efforts by the National Alliance of Tajikistan for my rescue, publication of the video recordings that I left as my testament before traveling to Russia, as well as the persistent interference of civil society activists, human rights organizations, the media and the diplomatic corps of Western countries.”

During the conversation on February 16 and 21, 2019 with the Head of SCNS of Tajikistan, Colonel-General Saymumin Sattorovich Yatimov, Mr. Gadoev realized that the operation of his abduction was planned and approved at the level of the leadership of Russia and Tajikistan.

Kiyomiddin Ghazi

On November 20, 2017 Kiyomiddin Ghoziyev (21.03.1952), known as Sayid Kiyomiddini Ghozi, was abducted from the Saint Petersburg, Russia, and extradited to Tajikistan.

On May 12, 2018, the president Emomali Rahmon, in his official meeting with the representatives of the “civil society” accused Kiyomiddin Ghozi as stating: "He has accepted Shia sect completely". Later, on May 15, 2018, the Supreme Court of Tajikistan sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

Kiyomiddini Ghozi, on the evening of May 19, 2019 was beheaded cruelly in the prison No 3/2 of Vahdat city for changing the school of thought, the accusation was publicly made by president Rahmon.



Kiyomiddin Ghazi Killed on the Basis of “Fatwa” of President Rahmon

He was buried in his homeland on the following day. We may say that he is the first victim of the president Rahmon's fatwa.

Naimjon Samiev

Naimjon Samiev, well-known as Domullo Naimjon, was born on May 24, 1962 in the village of Chorkuh, Isfara district, Sughd region of Tajikistan. In 1988 he graduated from a technical school in the city of Isfara and he was a teacher of Arabic Grammar.

He is former leading member of the IRPT, especially in Sughd province. After signing the

the Assembly of Representatives of the Sughd Region.

From 2007 to 2013 - he has been head of the regional representative office of the IRPT in Sughd province and in 2015 he was elected as head of the IRPT's chapter in his hometown, Isfara. Due to serious pressure and harassment by the SCNS (formerly the KGB of Tajikistan), he was forced to leave Tajikistan in 2015 and



Naimjon Sameyev was detained by officers of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the FSB of Russia on the night of November 30 to December 1, 2018 at one of the road posts in the city of Grozny in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation at the request of the Tajik authorities.

Inter-Tajik Agreement on Peace and National Accord in 1997, he was appointed by the Commission for National Reconciliation responsible for the Sogd region for agitation of the provisions and spirit of the Peace Agreement.

In 2000, as a result of regional elections for a period up to 2005, he was elected as a deputy of

has lived in Russia till his deportation in December 2018.

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Russian Federation at the request of the Tajik authorities.

He was handcuffed from Grozny to Stavropol and, without any court hearing and consideration of his case, was deported to Tajikistan, a move contrary to documents permitting his stay in Russia. In fact, this was an illegal abduction of a dissident, an operation carried out jointly by Russian and Tajik security services.

In Tajikistan, Samiev has been tortured and forced to make a public statement in the video recorded by the Tajik Interior Ministry on his “voluntary return” to his homeland and denouncing the Tajik opposition.

Despite the “voluntary return” and leaving political activities since 2015, he was severely

beaten and tortured. He was not “forgiven” as the government claims that those activists who return voluntarily, would be forgiven on the basis of the promise of pardon made by Emomali Rahmon.

On April 11, 2019, a court of the city of Isfara sentenced him to 15 years in prison.

The trial against Samiev was held behind closed doors in the Detention Center No. 2 of Khujand. Relatives and observers were not allowed to announce the verdict of the court.

As a result of the torture, the health of 57-year-old Naimjon Samiev has seriously deteriorated. He also suffers from hypertension and angina pectoris in the prison and needs medication and treatment, which are hardly provided.

Amrullo Magzumov

Magzumov Amrullo Mulloevich was born on 1964 in the village of Chorbogh, Vahdat town. From 1992 until the ban of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan in September 2015, he was an active member of the IRPT and participated in all political and social events held by the party.



During the parliamentary elections in March 2015, he was nominated as a candidate from the IRPT. However, the elections were marred by widespread fraud and ballot-box stuffing and intimidation of opposition candidates. It was the elections that for the first time since the 1997 Peace Agreement, the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan has not received even a single seat in the parliament.

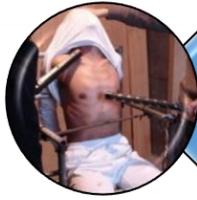
In March 2015, after the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan, Amrullo Magzumov left Tajikistan for Russia as a labor migrant. Due to his political activities, he had received various kinds of threats from Tajik authorities, especially following the ban of the IPRT and being classified as terrorist organization and imprisonment of hundreds of the members, he was not able to return to the country due to the risk of detention and imprisonment.

From March 2015 till his deportation, Mr. Magzumov has lived in the territory of the Russian Federation. According to the newspaper "Fergana", Magzumov was detained at Moscow Vnukovo airport in the evening of May 16, 2019 on the request of the Tajik government.

On 18 May of 2019, two days after his arrest in Moscow, he was told to be transferred to another custody in Moscow, but in fact he was taken to the airport and put on a plane. He was then illegally extradited to Tajikistan.

His lawyer who was going to meet him at that time, told the media: *"Now Amrullo Magzumov called from the plane. He was put on a flight to Dushanbe. We do not know the details, but it is a clear illegal and unlawful. He was either persuaded or forced. It's clearly against the law, but there's nothing we can do now. It seems too late."*

Approximately, there was no news about Magzumov for one week following his deportation. After a week of his illegal extradition, he was found in a custody of security services in Dushanbe, where he has been so far kept. Since then, no one can even contact the family members and relatives of Mr. Magzumov, because they have been subject to various kinds of pressures and were told not to speak with the media about him.



Torture

Rahmatullo Rajab

Jobir Rahmatullo Rajab was born on 5 June 1958 in a large family of teachers. In 1975 he received general secondary education. In 1975-77 he served in the Soviet troops in the German Democratic Republic. In 1977 he entered the Tajik state University at the faculty of planning and economics.

Republican subordination (Central and Eastern regions of Tajikistan, including Dushanbe).

From 2009 to 2015 he was a member of the political Council of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan.

He continued his journalistic activities,



After a prison riot in another colony — in Vakhdat (village "Kirpichniy") was placed in a punishment cell with charges the discovery of his radio, nail tongs, and then again tortured.

In 1983 he successfully graduated the University. After receiving a diploma of higher education he worked as an economist in the state statistics Committee of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1989 he joined the public movement "Rastokhez". He started his journalistic activity in 1992, he worked as a journalist in State Broadcasting of Tajikistan, until 1995 he collaborated with the independent newspaper "Charoghi Ruz".

In 1995 he joined the IRPT. From 1996 to 2002 he worked in the UN organization "Mission East", which provided humanitarian assistance to the population of Tajikistan affected by the civil war. 2003-2004 worked as a journalist for "Millat" newspaper.

From 2005 to 2010, he was Deputy Chairman of the elections Department of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan. From 2010 to 2013 he was a head of the election of Department of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan. Since 2013 he was a Chairman of the branch of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan in areas of

including for the website of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan – "Najot". He is married and has 5 children.

On 16.10.2015 he illegally detained from his own home on false suspicions by employees of the State Committee of National Security. Sentenced to 28 years in a closed court on false charges.

Contained in the colony #-1 "Sovetckiy" in Dushanbe. Tortured and ill-treated. Rahmatullo Rajab's wife was denied a scheduled appointment with him.

After a prison riot in another colony — in Vahdat (village "Kirpichniy") was placed in a punishment cell with charges the discovery of his radio, nail tongs, and then again tortured.

The release of lock-up and a date was made possible only after the publication of the application by the wife Rahmatullo Rajab, Valamati Ibrahimzoda to declare her hunger strike.

List of Victims of Torture and Inhuman Treatment During Last Three Years (2017-2019)

<i>Nº</i>	<i>Name & surname</i>	<i>Date of birth</i>	<i>Date of torture</i>	<i>Place of torture</i>	<i>Result</i>
1	Akmal Ashurboevich Rahimov	1971	06.01.2018	Police Department of Kanibadam district, Sughd Province	sentenced to 13 years in prison
2	Shahboz Ahmadov	-	16.06.2018	Police Department of Yavan district, Khatlon Province	released
3	Hasan Yodgorov	-	November 2018	Police Department of Tursunzade town, Districts of Republican Subordination	released
4	Zarobiddin Odinaev	-	14. 02.2018	Police Department of Temurmaliq district, Khatlon province	Imprisoned
5	Mahmadnabi Saidov	1971	09.02.2018	Police Department of Temurmaliq district, Khatlon Province	Imprisoned
6	Burhoniddin Rahmonovich Safaralievich	29.04. 1973	01.02.2019	Police Department of Hisor district, Districts of Republican Subordination	Unknown
7	Abdurasul Nazarov	-	28.03.2018	Police Department of Sino district of Dushanbe	Died from torture
8	Saidmurod Sairahmonovich Abdurahmanov	-	13.01.2018	Police Department of Rasht district, Districts of Republican Subordination	Unknown
9	Mamadsho Iskandarovich Yatimov	-	13.01.2018	Police Department of Rasht district, Districts of Republican Subordination	Unknown
10	Ibrohim Gadoevich Kahhorov	-	13.01.2018	Police Department of Rasht district, Districts of Republican Subordination	Unknown
11	Farhod Codikov	-	09.04.2017	Police Department of Buston district, Sughd Province	Sentenced to 16 years in prison

12	Jobirjoni Bobosohib	2000	August 2018	Military unit of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Dushanbe	Unknown
13	Khushbakht Rahmatjonovich Mahmudov		03.01.2018	Security Service's custody in Konibodom district, Sughd Province	Sentenced to 5 years
14	Shamsiddin Zaidullayev		April 2016	Custody of Tajik Drug Control Agency	Died from torture
15	Muhammad Safarov	1998	10.05.2019	Military custody of Farkhor district, Khatlon province	Unknown
16	Hamza Solehov	-	January 2019	Police Department of Dushanbe city	Unknown
17	Abdulaziz Abdurahmonzoda		17/04/19	Custody of the Tajik Anti-corruption Agency	Unknown
18	Hasan Yodgorov	1984	December 2017	Police Department of Tursunzoda district and also police Department of Dushanbe city	Unknown
19	Alijon Ashurov	1992	January 2019	Unit of Combating Organized Crime, Ministry of Internal Affairs	Unknown
20	Rahmatulloi Rajab	1958	May 2019	Prison №4, which locates in Dushanbe	Already sentenced to 28 years
	Mahmadali Hait	1957	March 2019	Prison №1, which locates in Dushanbe	Already life imprisoned
21	Farhod Bobokhonovich Sodikov	-	November-December 2018	Prison №3\3, Ministry of Justice	Already sentenced
22	Nusratullo Izatulloevich Kodirov	-	November-December 2018	Prison №3\3, Ministry of Justice	Already sentenced
23	Daler Davronovich Boboev	-	November-December 2018	Prison №3\3, Ministry of Justice	Already sentenced
24	Homidov Alisher Nurulloevich	-	November-December 2018	Prison №3\3, Ministry of Justice	Already sentenced
25	Kiyomiddin Avazov	1973	July 2019	Prison №3/2 of Vahdat town, 10 km east of Dushanbe	Already sentenced to 28 years

26	Abdukahhor Davlatov	1975	July 2019	Prison №3/2 of Vahdat town, 10 km east of Dushanbe	<i>sentenced to 28 years</i>
27	Alijon Alizoda	2004	25.08.2019	Police Department of Varzob district, region of districts of Republican Subordination	<i>Unknown</i>
28	Umed Hikoyatov		31.03.2019	Police Department of Firdavsi district of Dushanbe city (tortured till becoming a disabled person)	<i>Zubaidullo Sanginmurodzoda , police officer, who tortured Umed Hikoyatov till making him a disabled person, was appointed as head of one of the Police Units in the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Firdavsi district of Dushanbe city.</i>
29	Sharofiddin Gadoev	1985	February 2019	Criminal Investigation Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs	<i>released</i>
30	Rajabali Komilov		2018	The Ministry of Internal Affairs and also the State Committee for National Security	<i>sentenced to 10 years in prison</i>
31	Bobojon Rahimov	2009	November2 017	The Military Unit of Ministry of Internal Affairs in Varzob district	<i>Tortured in the army and pardoned from army service in spring 2017 for health reasons</i>
32	Komil Khojanazarov	1986	Summer 2017	Police Department, Department of State Committee for National Security in Asht district, Sughd Province (tortured till having committed suicide)	<i>31 years old Komil Khojanazarov was arrested in the summer of 2017 as part of a group of 15 former members of the banned Islamic Renaissance Party. Soon he was released after being cruelly tortured, but the day before the next interrogation in the Ministry of internal Affairs in the Sughd region, Khojanazarov committed suicide.</i>
33	Istad Kurbonova	1951	17/01/19	Police Department in Ainy district, Sughd province (Torture led to failed attempt of self-burning)	<i>She was torture to the extent that she tried to burn herself, but she was saved by others. https://rus.ozodi.org/a/29743858.html</i>
34	Burhoniddin Safaraliev	1973	January- July 2019	Police Department of Hisor district and also prison of Dushanbe city	<i>Attempted suicide after torture, including electric shocks. Sentenced.</i>

According to the coalition against torture, the coalition has received 44 appeals from persons allegedly affected by torture and ill-treatment, including 7 women.

It is worthy to note that this list is not complete. Most of the victims whose cases went to the media, were not included in this list, rather there was a focus on those victims whose names had not been published in the media and unknown to the society in this article.

HIV and other fatal infectious diseases in prisons of Tajikistan

After the 1992-1997 civil war in Tajikistan, a number of areas of state and public organization were to undergo urgent reforms. This also includes the penal system. The authorities had to turn the state of government bodies in the first place in line with the declared by them norms and values

In prisons and colonies of Tajikistan still reign the methods of the Stalinist dungeons of the 30s - 40s of the 20th century.

A series of prison riots and numerous unjustified victims among prisoners exposed the viciousness of the current corrupt and repressive prison system.



of a democratic and secular state.

However, none of this has been done. Over the last 27 years the current government of Tajikistan has received considerable amount of money in the form of numerous grants from the EU, the United States and international institutions and organizations. These grants were received for the prison system reforms. Despite this, the government has done nothing.

Prisons and colonies became breeding grounds for serious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, scabies and skin diseases. It resulted from several factors such as: prison system being closed not only for international human rights organizations, but also for local non-governmental organizations and lawyers; lack of control; neglecting the norms of law and medicine by the leadership and staff of the Ministry of Justice and correctional institutions. Ill-treatment, torture, unfit food, lack of

medical assistance and failure to provide medications lead to weakened immune system and health of prisoners. As a result, people suffer from diseases of the digestive tract, diabetes, and oncological diseases.

Such treatment of prisoners has become another means of punishing and killing the political opponents of the regime of Rahmon.

There are many reasons that cause spread diseases transmitted through social contact, such as:

- a) *Pervasive corruption in correctional institutions.*
- b) *Conditions of detention.*
- c) *The quality of food and water.*
- d) *Clothing.*
- e) *Prisons being closed and lack of control.*
- f) *Intentional infection of prisoners by staff.*

Corruption in the penal system of Tajikistan

Corruption is one of the consequences of the social and economic situation in the country, the government's political management,

Corruption is one of the consequences of the social and economic situation in the country, the government's political management, administrative negligence, committing crimes by the staff encouraged by the authorities, the state of legal education in society and among staff of places of detention.

administrative negligence, committing crimes by the staff encouraged by the authorities, the state of legal education in society and among staff of places of detention. It has a direct impact on the spread of transmitted diseases among prisoners. The theft of budget and foreign grants allocated for improving the prisoners' conditions, doesn't allow to create acceptable conditions for healthy prisoners and

necessary conditions for those who already suffer from the diseases so that to avoid infecting relatively healthy ones.

Khurshed (name is changed), whose father died



in 2010 in a colony in Vahdat, says that his father contracted tuberculosis in the colony. However, the cause of his death was officially called a heart attack. Khurshed notes that his father was healthy before his arrest, but a year and a half later he contracted tuberculosis. During a meeting his father told him that he was being detained with two tuberculosis patients. From what Khurshed said, his father repeatedly requested to be detained with healthy people. But the guards refused to do so since they were not able to pay the bribe. Khurshed's father died in prison four and a half years after imprisonment. He was convicted in 2007 on charges of participating in an opposition rally in 1992 and providing one of the opposition commanders with a car.

The conditions of sanitary and hygiene norms

In 2015 Shohmurod (name is changed) was released from a correctional institution in Yovon. According to him, in 2012 in custody he contracted HIV. He says that in prison their heads were often shaved using one shaving machine for dozens of people without following sanitary norms. Sometimes it was done not just inaccurately but in a rude way leaving cuts and damage. Warders did not consider the request to clean the machine before shaving. Those who could pay for a personal haircut were an exception. Shohmurod says that the bath is also common for everyone and it is not certain that you do not get infected from anyone or anything there. From what Shohmurod says, those who regularly consumed prison food suffered from many diseases. Therefore, prisoners prefer to

eat only food prepared and handed over by their relatives. According to Shohmurod, if a prisoner consumes only prison food for six months, he dies. In addition, he says that at the prison hospital, one disposable syringe is used several times for several patients. One has to

Concealing the extent of transmission

If the cause of prisoner's death is a transmitted disease, correctional institutions carefully conceal this fact. According to the prisoners, in prisons the number of people infected with

PRISONS AND COLONIES BECAME BREEDING GROUNDS FOR SERIOUS DISEASES SUCH AS HIV, HEPATITIS, TUBERCULOSIS, SCABIES AND SKIN DISEASES. IT RESULTED FROM SEVERAL FACTORS SUCH AS: PRISON SYSTEM BEING CLOSED NOT ONLY FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, BUT ALSO FOR LOCAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LAWYERS; LACK OF CONTROL; NEGLECTING THE NORMS OF LAW AND MEDICINE BY THE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

pay 50 to 150 TJS for being able to use personal disposable syringe.

Concealing the disease

Arrested and convicted HIV patients often hide their disease so that not to be among the outcasts among prisoners. There is no necessary medical control in the pre-trial detention center and in custody.

HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis have reached alarming levels. However, the administration of correctional institutions conceals this fact and makes no effort to stop and eliminate the spread of diseases. Conditions in the prisons and colonies do not allow separate detention of healthy and infected prisoners.





Widespread Corruptions in all Prisons in Tajikistan

Widespread corruption and social injustice in Tajikistan has turned into a systemic behavior of the Tajik regime. Corruption is noticed relatively more and deeply rooted in prisons, custodies and detention centers across the country.

Prisoners in Tajikistan are treated as they are not human as degrading, inhuman and humiliating. Prisons of Tajikistan are nests of corruption, torture and deaths. Due to this fact, people who get jailed are systematically tortured and humiliated and there is widespread corruption in all the prisons and detentions centers. 25 to 50 somoni, Tajikistan currency (about 2.5 to 5 dollars) should be paid for sending foods and other needs for a prisoner, while the average minimum wage in Tajikistan is 35 to 30 dollars.

Relatives of many prisoners send foods to the prisoners twice or three times per week, because prisoners have no access to healthy foods due to widespread corruption.



Shuhrat Kudratov, a well-known lawyer who was released a year ago after serving 4 years in the prison, has said: *“One should not be surprised that lawlessness and corruption exist in every prison in Tajikistan. Nowadays, the whole system is corrupted. Fighting corruption in such institutions is useless. Prisons are in terrible conditions. Seeing such conditions of detention, warders demand money from prisoners at every step. For arranging visits with the relatives of prisoners, warders demand from 150 to 400 TJS as a bribe. No one protects the rights of prisoners. And if any prisoner complains, then his relatives will be subjected to pressure and threats. Thus, the prisoners do not complain and live with such situation.”*

Money can change anything. For instance, new toilets were built for 2000 prisoners in Vahdat

prison by the political prisoner, Zaid Saidov (the successful businessman and chairman of the unregistered party “New Tajikistan”). He was then allowed to meet his wife in the prison. His relatives said that they helped this institution for charity purposes and didn’t want this news to be published in the media. It seems they were afraid of authorities’ pressure, if the news was published.

It is worthy to mention that prisons of Tajikistan are funded by the state. Government asks international organizations for money to fight corruption in the country. They receive grants and aid, but the situation has not positively changed.

Prisoners are often punished for political purposes or for any reason. In order not to get into the punishment cell or the penalty room, the prisoners are ready to give warders 50 to 200 TJS. For each call to relatives, a prisoner have to pay 10 to 20 TJS, whereas one minute of call costs 0.2 TJS.

The evidences of torture, degrading and ill-treatment of political prisoners are dramatically growing. When a prisoner is sick and asks for his hospitalization, warders and other prison staff demand money from him as a bribe. Former prisoners say that the amount of bribe is the same in all prisons.

The analysis shows that after the appointment of Mansur Umarov as a head of the prisons, the situation has not so far changed and there are no positive improvements seen.

Widespread corruption remains the main problem in all prisons and detention centers in Tajikistan.

Another problem in this regard is the issue related to amnesty and who would be included in the list of those who should be granted amnesty. Those prisoners who have the money and give money as bribe will be mostly included in the list. For example, some prisoners, who paid 500 to 1500 dollars as bribe were released instead of those whose name were in the original list.

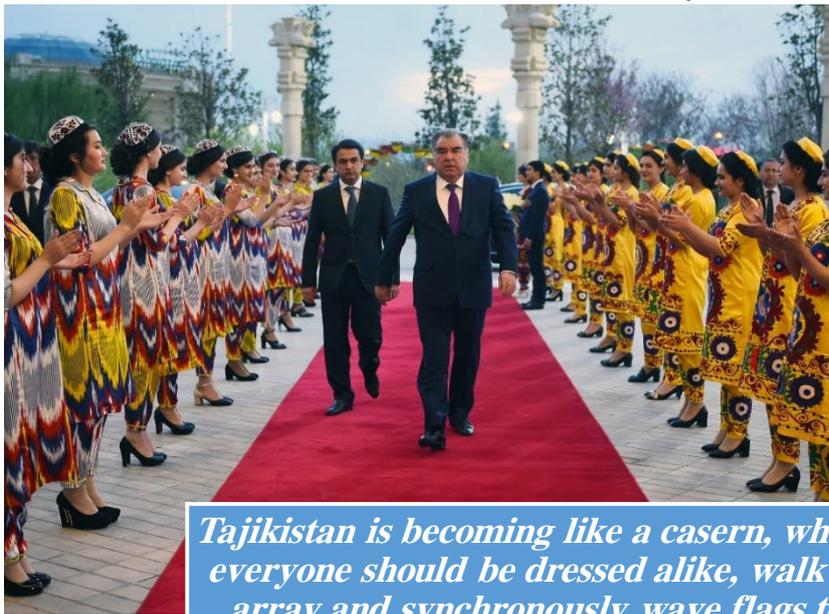
Tajikistan: Discrimination against Hijabs as Violation of Women Rights

Journalist Mavjuda Sohbnazarova



On September 16, 2019, around two weeks before beginning of the OSCE / ODIHR annually conference in Warsaw, a video appeared in the social networks showing a Tajik woman wearing hijab face discrimination because of her hijab. This video outraged Tajiks on the social networks.

What happened? A video was widely circulated



Tajikistan is becoming like a casern, where everyone should be dressed alike, walk in array and synchronously wave flags to greet "Leader of the Nation".

on social networks showing a woman wearing hijab was waiting to see the doctor. The doctor came and saw the woman having hijab on her head, repeatedly shouted: "If you wear hijab, then go and live in Arabian countries or Iran."

Tajik women, who wear hijab, hear such improper and discriminating words from officials these days. Placards with orders of ban of hijab can be seen on everywhere, in schools,

hospitals, etc., especially in the offices of state buildings.

In the law "On regulation of traditions", which came into force on August 30, 2017, there is a notice that "physical and legal persons are obliged to maintain the elements of national culture in the clothes". The government officials while referring to this law discriminate against the way of clothes of the citizens and by this way violate their basic rights.

Unfortunately, the Tajik authorities have forgotten their duties to serve the public, rather they are so busy in specifying which kind of

clothes a Tajik woman or man have to wear or a student should wear which kind of shoes with long heels or without it.

It is in fact a shame on them. Unfortunately, the Tajik authorities do not feel shame that these restrictions oppose international acts regarding to the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Tajikistan is becoming like a casern, where

everyone should be dressed alike, walk in array and synchronously wave flags to greet "Leader of the Nation".

Due to such strict laws, the Tajik women wearing hijab have become as hostages of the State Committee for Women Affairs and the Law enforcement organs of Tajikistan. During the last two years, the persecution of women wearing hijab has become the main function of

the Committee for Women Affairs. Now it doesn't deal with many serious problems being faced by Tajik women and defending their rights in a society, where women has very less rights in comparison to men.

In the writs of the Committee for Women's Affairs, there are basically only "Anti-hijab" raids in the streets and markets. During these raids, women wearing hijabs have been often faced with aggression and degrading treatments. In the streets women having hijab have been stopped and interrogated by the members of the Correctional Committee and their hijabs forcibly taken off.

Ban on hijab in public places is a clear discrimination of the rights of women. The degrading and discriminating treatments of women wear hijabs cause a feeling for these women that they are outcasts in their homeland.

Recently Ozoda Rahmon, daughter of President Emomali Rahmon and his chief of staff,

instructed the authorities to stop importing the products (clothes), which don't suit to the national culture. She ordered the investigative authorities to monitor her order in this regard and consider selling non-traditional Tajik s clothes in the market as illegal. Obviously, the order is directed against the rights of a significant part of society - women wearing hijab.

When a woman, who wants to wear clothes in accordance with the teachings of her religion, cannot work as school teacher or doctor or a civil servant or get education, isn't this a discrimination against woman? Is not this a clear violation of her basic rights?

As a result of inequality against women and their economic dependence leads to depression leading to committing suicide. It is worthy to not that Tajikistan is one of the most countries, where there is high rates of suicide among woman.

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Cases of 14 Tajik Political Prisoners Sent to the UN Working Group: A Triumph of Tajik Civil Society and a Proof of Existence of Political Prisoners

Cases of 14 Tajik Political Prisoners Sent to the UN Working Group: A Triumph of Tajik Civil Society and a Proof of Existence of Political Prisoners

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued opinions finding the detentions of the three prisoners (1. Zaid Saidov, a well-known businessman and head of the unregistered party “New Tajikistan; 2. Mahmatali Hait, the deputy chairman of the IRPT and 3. Buzurgmehr Yorov, a prominent Tajik human rights lawyer) to be in violations of international law and called for their immediate releases. Moreover, petition regarding 11 other senior IRPT leaders was filed in May 2019 and is pending before the Working Group. <http://www.freedom-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Tajikistan-Human-Rights-Committee-Report-session-126-Freedom-Now-FINAL-1.pdf>



Freedom Now, a non-partisan, non-governmental organization (“NGO”) dedicated to protecting human rights and rule of law, based in Washington, US, mostly in cooperation with the international law firm Hogan Lovells LLP have filed the petition with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of these 14 Tajik political prisoners.

Each of the petitions of Mahmatali Hait, Zaid Said and Buzurgmehr Yorov were filed separately with the UN Working Group, which issued opinions that determined Tajikistan government with their detentions has violated international law and called for their releases. But the petition on behalf of 11 political prisoners (Saidumar Husaini, Muhammadali Faizmuhammad, Rahmatulloi Rajab, Zubaidulloi Roziq, Vohidkhon Kosidinov, Kiyomiddin Kuramdzhonovich Avazov, Abduqahar Davlatov, Hikmatulloh Sayfulloza, Sadidin Rustamov, Sharif Mamadalievich Nabiev, and Abdusamat Ghayratov) was together filed with the UN Working Group and it is pending before the Working Group. <http://www.freedom-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/IRPT-11-Tajikistan-WGAD-Petition-21-May-2019-FINAL-REDACTED.pdf>

Mahmadali Hayit



Mahmadali Hayit is the deputy chairman of the opposition Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT). He is currently serving a life sentence on fabricated charges of conspiring to overthrow the Tajik government.

In early 2015, the Tajikistani government initiated a campaign to discredit and dismantle the IRPT.

On September 29, 2015, the Supreme Court issued a ruling which banned the IRPT. In its ruling, the Supreme Court determined that the IRPT should be labeled as a terrorist organization, despite the lack of evidence linking it to any terrorist activities. To this day, the distribution of any newspapers, videos, audio recordings, literature and leaflets connected to the IRPT is prohibited.

The charges against Hayit and his associates included terrorism, armed rebellion, murder, public appeals to “violent change of the constitutional order,” incitement to racial and religious hatred, and organization of a criminal group. Despite the lack of evidence, on June 2, 2016, the Supreme Court of Tajikistan sentenced Hayit to life in prison.

In May 2018, in response to a petition filed by Freedom Now, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion finding Hayit’s detention to be in violation of international law and called for his immediate release. <http://www.freedom-now.org/campaign/mahmadali-hayit/>

On September 7, 2019 after a two-hour visit of Ahmadali Hayit with his wife, it became apparent that Ahmadali Hayit is against subjected to torture. He had a busted lip, his mattress and radio were taken. He is required to speak on camera against IRPT and its chairman Muhiddin Kabiri.

(https://www.ozodi.org/a/30151849.html?fbclid=IwAR0uCIKpCLfOhnjBWzyXw2_DLo61uIowhVH-zlRNTOhbBpM9ktTaEl3Oymc)

Zaid Said

Zaid Said is a well-known businessman and former Tajikistan government official. He was arrested in May 2013 and is currently serving a 29 year sentence on charges designed to disrupt his creation of an opposition party.



In early 2013, Mr. Said organized a committee of businessmen, political scientists, and former public servants to discuss the creation of the New Tajikistan Party, a new opposition party. On April 6, 2013, Mr. Said announced the creation of New Tajikistan Party, along with plans to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Shortly after the announcement, Saidov received a message threatening his life if he did not keep out of politics.

While Saidov was abroad in France in May 2013, police raided his house. On May 19, 2013, Saidov returned from France and was arrested without a warrant immediately after he stepped off of the plane. He was held for 35 hours upon his arrival.

Saidov was charged with five crimes in the Tajik Criminal Code: “bigamy or polygamy” (Article 170), “illegal deprivation of an individual’s freedom” (Article 131), rape (Article 138), fraud (Article 247), and bribery (Article 319). The court ordered Saidov to be kept in pre-trial detention until September 2013. During his detention, Saidov’s confidential access to his attorney was extremely limited.

The trial was plagued with procedural irregularities and blatant violations. <http://www.freedom-now.org/campaign/zayd-saidov/>

Buzurgmehr Yorov

Buzurgmehr Yorov is a prominent Tajik human rights lawyer who was arrested in September 2015 and sentenced to 28 years in prison for his representation of political opposition leaders.



In early September 2015, Yorov took on the initial representation of 13 IRPT members falsely accused by the government of orchestrating a failed coup in September 2015.

On the same day that the Tajik Supreme Court designated the IRPT a terrorist organization, police arrested Yorov, raided his home and legal office without a warrant, and ultimately charged him with forgery, fraud, “arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility” and extremism. These charges appear to have been prompted by an interview Yorov gave shortly before his arrest in which he announced that his client had been tortured in pre-trial detention and called for a coalition of lawyers to join him in representing the detained IRPT members.

Yorov was held in pre-trial detention for eight months; where he was beaten and held in solitary confinement. On October 6, 2016, after a trial replete with due process violations, he was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

On October 22, 2018, Freedom Now, Lawyers for Lawyers, Hogan Lovells LLP, and DLA Piper filed a petition with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of Yorov. In May 2019, the Working Group issued an opinion that determined Tajikistan violated international law and called for Yorov’s immediate release. <http://www.freedom-now.org/campaign/buzurgmehr-yorov/>

11 Leading Member of the IRPT

The Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) was one of the country’s most popular opposition parties until it was banned in 2015.



Most of the senior IRPT leaders were arrested on September 16, 2015 after they were accused of participating in the failed coup organized by General Nazarzoda, but the government failed to provide any evidence that any IRPT members were involved. Those arrested include Saidumar Husaini, Muhammadali Faizmuhammad, Rahmatulloi Rajab, Zubaidulloi Roziq, Vohidkhon Kosidinov, Sattor Karimov, Kiyomiddin Kuramdzhonovich Avazov, Abduqahar Davlatov, Hikmatulloh Sayfulloza, Sadidin Rustamov, Sharif Mamadalievich Nabiev, and

Abdusamat Ghayratov. Relatives of the detained activists informed human rights groups that the detainees were subject to torture and kept incommunicado.

Despite the lack of evidence, on June 2, 2016, the Supreme Court of Tajikistan sentenced the 12 IRPT leaders to sentences ranging from 14 years to life in prison.

On May 19, 2019, a deadly riot broke out at a prison in the city of Vahdat, where many of the IRPT leaders are held. One of the IRPT leaders – Sattor Karimov – was killed, allegedly by members of ISIS.

Freedom Now and Hogan Lovells LLP serve as international pro bono counsel for the IRPT leaders. <http://www.freedom-now.org/campaign/irpt-leaders/>

List of 14 Political Prisoners, whose Petitions filed with the UN Working Group:

<i>N</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Birthdate</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Detention Date</i>	<i>Verdict</i>	<i>Date of Filing of the Petition with the UN</i>	<i>Date of Discussion before the UN</i>	<i>Results of the UN's Findings</i>
1	Mahmadali Hait	20.10.1957	Deputy Chairman of the IRPT	16.09.2015	Life Sentence	08.09.2016	10.05.2018	Detention illegal, to be released with compensation
2	Zaid Said	20.03.1958	Head of the unregistered party "New Tajikistan"	19.05.2013	Sentenced to 29 years	30.04.2015	04.04.2018	Detention illegal and to be released
3	Buzurgmehr Yorov	09.07.1971	Lawyer	28.05.2015	Sentenced to 28 years	22.10.2018	30.04.2019	Detention illegal, to be released with compensation
4	Saidumar Husaini	10.06.1961	First Deputy Chairman of the IRPT	16.09.2015	Life sentence	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
5	Hikmatulloh Saifullozoda	01.03.1957	Journalist and Chief-in-Editor of "Najot"	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 16 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
6	Abduqahar Davlatov	05.08.1975	Head of Foreign Affairs Dep, IRPT	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
7	Rahmatulloi Rajab	05.06.1958	Member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
8	Zubaidulloi Roziq	08.08.1946	Head of Islamic Academia, IRPT	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 25 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
9	Kyomiddin Avazov	24.06.1973	Head of the IRPT Chapter in Dushanbe city	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
10	Muhammadali Faizmuhammad	03.01.1959	Head of Investigative Committee, IRPT	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 23 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
11	Sadidin Rustamov	15.08.1956	Member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 20 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
12	Vohidkhon Kosidinov	21.08.1956	Member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 20 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
13	Sharif Nabiev	09.09.1962	Head of the IRPT's Chapter in Kulob region	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 14 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting
14	Abdusamad Ghairatov	11.01.1967	Member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 14 years	21.05.2019	Pending before the UN Group	Waiting

Lists

List of Tajikistan Political Prisoners*(Updated till September 2019)*

<i>N</i>	<i>Name and Surname</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Date of detention</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Saidumar Husaini	1961	Dushanbe	First Deputy Chairman of the IRPT, member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Life Imprisonment
2	Mahmadali Hait	1957	Dushanbe	Deputy Chairman of the IRPT, member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Life Imprisonment
3	Vohidkhon Kosiddinov	1956	Dushanbe	Chairman of the IRPT's Elections Dept., member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	17.09.2015	Sentenced to 20 years
4	Muhammadali Faizmuhammad	1959	Dushanbe	Chairman of the IRPT's Audit Commission, member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 23 years
5	Abduqahhor Davlatov	1975	Dushanbe	Chairman of the IRPT's Foreign Affairs Department, member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years
6	Saidov Zaid Sherovich	1958	Dushanbe	Chairman of the unregistered party «New Tajikistan», successful businessman	15.05.2013	Sentenced to 28 years
7	Zubaydulloi Roziq	1946	Dushanbe	Chairman of the IRPT's Islamic Academy, member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 25 years
8	Jaloliddini Mahmud	1955	Hisor	Adviser to the chairman of the IRPT, member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council	10.02.2015	Released on 04.04.2019 after serving 4 years in prison
9	Hikmatulloh Saifullozoda	1950	Dushanbe	The editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper "Najot", member of the IRPT's Political Council and Supreme Council, senior journalist	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 16 years
10	Rahmatulloi Rajab	1958	Dushanbe	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Districts of Republican Subordination, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	15.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years

11	Muhammadsharif Nabiev	1962	Kulob	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Kulob region, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 14 years
12	Abdusamad Ghayratov	1962	Kulob	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Kulob city, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 14 years
13	Umarshoi Davlat	1977	Rudaki	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Rudaki, member of Supreme Council	2015	Sentenced to 15 years
14	Fakhriddin Mahmadaliev	1981	Bokhtar	A leading member of the IRPT in Khatlon province, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	2015	Arrested, then released and finally died of tuberculosis in January 2019
15	Qiyomiddin Avazov	1973	Dushanbe	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Dushanbe, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years
16	Asomiddin Abdurahmonov	1982	Abdurahmon Jomi	Deputy chairman of the IRPT in Khatlon province, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	2015	Sentenced to 10 years
17	Muso Shekhov	1976	Dushanbe	Head of the IRPT's chairman office	10.10.2015	Sentenced to 8 years
18	Zavqibek Rahmonov		Vanj	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Vanj dist., Badakhshon	2015	Sentenced to 4 years and released in April 2019
19	Tavakkal Boboev	1956	Varzob	Responsible of the election department of the IRPT in Varzob dist., candidate of the IRPT in the parliamentary elections of 2015.	2015	Sentenced to 18 years
20	Shuhrat Qudratov	1977	Dushanbe	Lawyer, deputy chairman of Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan	10.06.2014	Sentenced in July 2014 and released in August 2018
21	Hasan Rahimov		Farkhor	Deputy chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Farkhor	23.09.2015	Sentenced to 9 years
22	Zayniddin Yusupov		Farkhor	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Farkhor	23.09.2015.	Sentenced to 10 years
23	Naimov Mirzosharif	1944	Khovaling	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Khovaling	2015	Sentenced to 5 years and released in 2019
24	Madiso Jomiev		Shurobod	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Shurobod	2015	Sentenced in 2015 and released in May 2019
25	Boboev Abdusattor	1954	Isfara	Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Isfara, member of Supreme Council	22.09.2015	Sentenced to 11 years

26	Karimov Sattor	1959	Dushanbe	Member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	16.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years, but he was killed in the prison in May 2019
27	Bobohido Haidarov	1949	Isfara	A leading member of the IRPT's chapter in Isfara dist.	22.09.2015	Sentenced to 6 years
28	Emomov Rustam	1972	Dushanbe	Member of the IRPT	22.09.2015	Sentenced to 17 years
29	Sayfov Hikmatullo	1973	Dushanbe	Driver of the chairman of the IRPT	23.09.2015	Arrested in 2025 and released in 2016
30	Narzulloev Jamshed	1974	Faizobod	Supporter of the IRPT	20.10.2015	Arrested in 2015 and released in 2016
31	Rahmatulloev Mahmatali	1962	Vahdat	Supporter of the IRPT	20.10.2015	Arrested in 2015 and released in 2016
32	Sadidini Rustam	1956	Dushanbe	Advisor to the chairman of the IRPT, member of the IRPT's Supreme Council	23.09.2015	Sentenced to 20 years
33	Safarali Shoev		Kulob	Member of the IRPT		Arrested in 2015 and sentenced to 5 years and released in 2018
34	Islomov Mahmatali	1983	Kulob	Supporter of the IRPT	01.10.2015	Sentenced to 5 years
35	Kholov Mirzoolim	1965	Mastchohi Kuhi	Head of the IRPT's chapter in Mastchohi Kuhi	2015	Sentenced to 16 years
36	Sino Hasanzoda	1974	Panjakent	Head of the IRPT's chapter in Panjakent district	2015	Sentenced to 16 years
37	Safarov Anorboy		Isfara	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 7 years
38	Abdulov Abdughafor		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 28 years
39	Abdulov Farukh		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 26 years
40	Abduloev Mehridin		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 26 years
41	Abdulov Nizom		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
42	Abdulov Nozim		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 7 years
43	Tabarov Mirzoumar		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
44	Sherov Abdulvohid		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 24 years
45	Olimov Shobadin		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 22 years

46	<i>Bilol(ov)</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
47	<i>Abdurahim Vosiev</i>		<i>Moscow</i>	<i>Member of the “Group – 24”</i>	07.02.2017	<i>Sentenced to 23 years</i>
48	<i>Mavlavi Said</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
49	<i>Son of Tabarov Mirzoumar</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
50	<i>Fayziddin Fayzov</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
51	<i>Sangov Rahmiddin</i>		<i>Rudaki</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
52	<i>Sangov Sayriddin</i>		<i>Rudaki</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced to 5 years and released in 2018</i>
53	<i>Sangov Mahmudjon</i>		<i>Rudaki</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
54	<i>Chakalov Idibek Hasanovich</i>		<i>Norak</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed. The case of Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda</i>
55	<i>Pirov Qosim Mirzoevich</i>		<i>Norak</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
56	<i>Saidov Davlatyor Alimardonovich</i>		<i>Norak</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed. The case of Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda</i>
57	<i>Jurabek Gulov</i>		<i>Norak</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed. The case of Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda</i>
58	<i>Davlatov Dilovar Abdunazarovich</i>		<i>Norak</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed, Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda,</i>
59	<i>Abdulloev Bakhtiyor Rizoevich</i>		<i>Norak</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed. The case of Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda</i>
60	<i>Muhammadruzi Iskandarov</i>		<i>Dushanbe, Mavlono</i>	<i>Chairman of Democratic Party of Tajikistan</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced to 23 years</i>
61	<i>Tojiddinov Fayziddin</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
62	<i>Gulov Mahmamin</i>		<i>Yovon</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced to 28 years</i>
63	<i>Samadov Nodirkhon</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
64	<i>Abdullov Nurullo</i>		<i>Vahdat</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced to 6 years and released in 2018</i>
65	<i>Abdulov Shodi</i>	1971	<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced to 7 years</i>

66	Buzurgmehr Yorov	1973	Dushanbe	Lawyer of detained members of the IRPT	28.09.2015	Sentenced to 28 years
67	Adolatshoev Saodatsho		Badakhshon	Former Chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Badakhshon province	14.04.2014	Sentenced to 5 years and released in 2019
68	Karamkhudoev Sherik		Khoruq	Former chairman of the IRPT in Khorugh city	24.07.2012	Sentenced to 14 years (His lawyers Shuhrat Qudratov and Fayzi Oli)
69	Mullo Mustakim		Rumi	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
70	Sufijon Rahmatov		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
71	Khojaev Mahmadvazar		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
72	Mirzoev Rozibek		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 9 years
73	Taghoev Saydali		Dangara	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced to 15 years
74	Islomiddin		Fayzobod	Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
75	Saidov Davlatyor			Member of the IRPT	2015	Sentenced
76	Khujamurodov Tojiddin		Norak		2015	Verdict passed, Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda
77	Rizoev Umar		Norak		2015	Verdict passed, Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda
78	Safarov Murtazo		Kulob		2015	Sentenced to 5 years and released in 2019
79	Adinaev Asliddin		Dushanbe		2015	Sentenced to 25 years
80	Abdulfaiz Rajabov		Vose		2015	Sentenced to 26 years
81	Safarov Nazarmuhammad		Dushanbe		2015	Sentenced to 28 years
82	Nazari Panji		Panj		2015	Sentenced to 28 years
83	Azamov Rajabali	1978	Kulob		2015	Sentenced to 26 years
84	Odinasho Muhammadziyo		Dushanbe		2015	Sentenced
85	Sarabek Murodov		Panj		2015	Sentenced
86	Mahmadulloev Komil		Yazgulom		2015	Sentenced

87	Saidmahmud Rajabov	1975	Vose		2015	Sentenced to 25 years
88	Saymuddini Rahmikhudo		Dushanbe		2015	Sentenced
89	Kabirov Bahodur		Vahdat		2015	Sentenced to 28 years
90	Majidov Abduqayum		Dushanbe		15.09.2015	Sentenced
91	Majidov Rustam		Dushanbe		18.09.2015	Sentenced to 15 years
92	Majidov Suhrob		Dushanbe		18.09.2015	Sentenced to 18 years
93	Yusupov Ahliddin		Farkhor			Sentenced to 8 years
94	Mullo Bahriddin		Shurobod			Sentenced
95	Ashurov Tohir	1978	Kulob	Imamkhatib (clergy)	2016.01	Sentenced to 6 years
96	Sayburhoni Umarzoda	1978	Kulob		2016.01	Sentenced to 7 years
97	Urunov Maqsud	1975	Konibodom	Imamkhatib (clergy) in Konibodom district	2015.12	Sentenced to 3 years and 4 months
98	Abbos Abdurahmonov		Konibodom	Deputy Imamkhatib (clergy) in Konibodom district	2016	Sentenced to 3 years
99	Abdujamil Yusufi	1976	B. Ghafurov	Imamkhatib (clergy) in B. Ghafurov dist., ex-chairman of the IRPT's chapter in B. Ghafurov	2015.12	Sentenced to 3 years and 4 months
100	Huseyn Tukhtaev		Konibodom	Imam (clergy)	2016	Sentenced to 3 years
101	Hamzali Sulstonov	1973	Khujand	Imamkhatib (clergy) of the mosque Taqvo	2015.12	Sentenced to 3 years 4 months
102	Mahdi Boltaev		Isfara	Imamkhatib (clergy) of the mosque Navigilem	2016.01	Sentenced to 3 years
103	Nekruz Jumaev		A. Jomi		2016.01	Sentenced to 3 years. The case: Rustam Mirzoev Article 307
104	Jasur Rashidov		A. Jomi		2016.01	Sentenced to 3 years. The case: Rustam Mirzoev Article 307
105	Farhod Melikov		A. Jomi		2016. 01	Sentenced to 3 years. The case: Rustam Mirzoev Article 307

106	Farhod Hayitov		A. Jomi		2016.01	Sentenced to 3 years. The case: Rustam Mirzoev Article 307
107	Mahmadkarim Ruziev		A. Jomi		2016.01	Sentenced to 3 years. The case: Rustam Mirzoev Article 307
108	Zafar Rahimov		A. Jomi		2016.01	Sentenced to 3 years. The case: Rustam Mirzoev Article 307
109	Bakhtiyor Nazarov	1994	Dushanbe	Son of Hoji Halim	2015. 10	Sentenced
110	Daler Tabarov		Vahdat	Son of Ishoq Tabarov, lawyer of Zaid Saidov	2016.02.28	Sentenced to 6 months Article 347 part 1, the charge of "not informing"
111	Khurshed Butaev		Vahdat		2016.02	Sentenced to 6 months Article 347 part 1
112	Nasimjon Shafiev		Vahdat		2016.02	Sentenced to 6 months Article 347 part 1
113	Abdurahmon Nazarov		Vahdat		2016.02	Sentenced to 6 months Article 347 part 1
114	Azam bukhariyev		Vahdat			Sentenced to 9 years 6 months
115	Shuhratullo Rasulov		Vahdat		2016	Sentenced to 5 years
116	Firuz Tabarov		Vahdat	Son of Ishoq Tabarov, lawyer of Zaid Saidov	2015	Sentenced to 13,5 years
117	Chuyanov		Isfara	Member of the IRPT	2016	Sentenced to 5 years
118	Yuldoshev		Isfara	Member of the IRPT	2016	Sentenced to 2 years Article 347 part 1
119	Sodiqov		Isfara	Member of the IRPT	2016	Sentenced
120	Abdullov		Isfara	Member of the IRPT	2016	Sentenced
121	Abubakr Azizkhojaev		Dushanbe	Businessman	2016.02	Article 189
122	Mahkamov Nuriddin		Khujand	Member of the IRPT, lawyer	2015.1	Sentenced
123	Dadojonova		Dushanbe	Lawyer	2015	Sentenced
124	Farhod Mullaboev	1983	Khujand	Imamkhatib (clergy) in "Tagi Tut" mosque in Khujand	2016.01	Sentenced to 4 years
125	Ikhtiyor	1978	Khujand		2016.01	Sentenced

126	<i>Nurulloh</i>	1980	<i>Khujand</i>		2016.01	<i>Sentenced</i>
127	<i>Davron Akbarov</i>	1981	<i>Yovon</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016	<i>Sentenced to 5 years, accused under Articles: 332,337,339,341,344,347,348</i>
128	<i>Odinaev Ehson</i>		<i>St. Petersburg</i>		19.05.2015	<i>missing person</i>
129	<i>Ahmadjon</i>		<i>Khujand</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2015.11.03	<i>Sentenced</i>
130	<i>Khushvaqto Muhammad Zakariyo</i>	1968	<i>Tavildara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2015.10.10	<i>Sentenced to 10 years</i>
131	<i>Komilov Fathullo</i>	1965	<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2002	<i>Sentenced to 25 years</i>
132	<i>Negmatov Maqsud</i>	1980	<i>Khujand</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2015.03	<i>Sentenced</i>
133	<i>Buriboev Abdurasul</i>		<i>Khujand</i>			<i>Sentenced</i>
134	<i>Umedjon Solihov</i>			<i>Group 24</i>	2014	<i>Sentenced to 17 years</i>
135	<i>Zokirov Qurbon</i>		<i>Farkhor</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016.04	<i>Sentenced to 10 years for propagating for the IRPT.</i>
136	<i>Sanginmadov Ismon</i>		<i>Hamadoni</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016.04	<i>Sentenced to 7 years for propagating for the IRPT.</i>
137	<i>Nozimov Farrukh</i>		<i>Hamadoni</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016.04	<i>Sentenced to 7 years for propagating for the IRPT.</i>
138	<i>Zamirov Karamatullo</i>	1987	<i>Bokhtar</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2015.1	<i>Sentenced to 3 years</i>
139	<i>Isoev Salomiddin</i>	1987	<i>Bokhtar</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2015.1	<i>Sentenced to 12 years</i>
140	<i>Himmatov Muhridin</i>	1984	<i>Bokhtar</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced to 8 years</i>
141	<i>Ghafurov Ravshan</i>	1979	<i>Khujand</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2015	<i>Sentenced to 5 years</i>
142	<i>Razzoqov Maruf</i>		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 8 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
143	<i>Azimov Nuriddin</i>		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 8 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
144	<i>Abdulloev Sayfulloh</i>		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>

145	Sodiqov Saidjon		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
146	Hallokov Abduvahob		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
147	Abubakrov Akramjon		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
148	Kamolov Qosim		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
149	Musoev Abdulaziz		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>Supporter of the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
150	Chuyanov Hamidulloh		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
151	Boboev Rasuljon		<i>Isfara</i>	<i>the IRPT</i>	2016.03	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307 part 1</i>
152	Dilovar Davlatov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed, sentenced to 10 years The case: Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda. Under article 307</i>
153	Jonmahmad Boev		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed, sentenced to 10 years The case: Sayfiddin Pirmuhammadzoda. Under article 307</i>
154	Daler Tilloev		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
155	Zafar Gulov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
156	Muhammad Huseynov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
157	Tojiddin Khojamurodov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
158	Jurabek Abdulloev		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
159	Davlatyor Saidov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
160	Umar Rizoev		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
161	Idibek Chakalov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
162	Davronbek Fozilov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
163	Jurabek Gulov		<i>Roghun</i>		2015	<i>Verdict passed, sentenced to 10 years The case: Sayfiddin</i>

						<i>Pirmuhammadzoda. Under article 307</i>
164	Juraev Shodi	1970	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016.08	<i>Sentenced to 11 years</i>
165	Jamolov Bahodur	1969	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016	<i>Sentenced to 6 years</i>
166	Ahmadjonov Abdukarim	1981	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016	<i>Sentenced to 6 years</i>
167	Imomov Abduroziq	1972	Asht	<i>Businessman</i>	2016	<i>Sentenced to 4 years</i>
168	Normatov Shuhrat	1980	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2016	<i>Sentenced to 4 years</i>
169	Usmonov Zavqiddin	1982	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 4 years</i>
170	Sultonnazarov Narzullo	1984	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 8 years</i>
171	Idiev Abdumajid	1989	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 6 years</i>
172	Sharaliev Dilmurod	1980	Asht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 5 years</i>
173	Oqilov Shoumed	1980	Istaravshan	<i>A leading member of the IRPT in Istaravshan dist.</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 6 years</i>
174	Mirzorahim Akhmedov		Saratov		4.2015	<i>Sentenced</i>
175	Nuriddin Vafoev		Moscow		11.25.2014	<i>Sentenced</i>
176	Yusupov Firuz	24.01.1987	St. Petersburg	<i>Member of Group 24</i>	05.03.2017	<i>In a detention centre in St. Petersburg, Russia</i>
177	Yusupov Furqat	01.10.1989	St. Petersburg	<i>Member of Group 24</i>	05.03.2017	<i>In a detention centre in St. Petersburg, Russia</i>
178	Yusupov Abdurahim	06.04.1992	St. Petersburg	<i>Member of Group 24</i>	05.03.2017	<i>In a detention centre in St. Petersburg, Russia</i>
179	Abidov Qurbon	1985	Istaravshan	<i>Chairman of the IRPT in Istaravshan dist.</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 6 years, Under article 307</i>
180	Mavlonov Shuhrat	1988	Istaravshan	<i>the IRPT's leading member in Istaravshan dist.</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 6 years, Under article 307</i>
181	Barotov Nasim	1980	Istaravshan	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 6 years, Under article 307</i>
182	Sharipov Shukrullo	1970	Rasht	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2018	<i>Sentenced</i>
183	Abdumalik Salomov	1976	Khujand	<i>On charges of having links with Salafism</i>	2017	<i>Under article 307 (subdivision 3, part 2) Sentenced to 5.5 years</i>
184	Umar Mansurov	1986		<i>For clicking LIKE and SHARE in opposition posts in social media</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 5.5 years</i>

185	Alijon Sharipov		<i>Vakhsh</i>	<i>For clicking LIKE and SHARE in opposition posts in social media</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 9.5 years</i>
186	Sheraliev Muboriz	1978	<i>Asht</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 3 years,, Under article 307</i>
187	Oqilov Habibullo	1986	<i>Asht</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 3 years,, Under article 307</i>
188	Mirboboev Nasibali	1974	<i>Asht</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 3 years,, Under article 307</i>
189	Madiev Jurabek	1983	<i>Asht</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 3 years,, Under article 307</i>
190	Rustamov Tolib	1983	<i>Asht</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 1.5 years, Under article 307</i> <i>In 2019 released</i>
191	Masoliev Abdurahmon	1988	<i>Asht</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 11 years, Under Articles 307, 187</i>
192	Ghoziev Qiyomiddin (Sayid Qiyomiddini Ghozi)	1952	<i>Khuroson</i>	<i>Former member of the IRPT</i>	2018	<i>Sentenced to 25 years , Under Articles 307, 187, 189</i> <i>Was killed in the Vahdat prison in May 2019</i>
193	Rofiev Umedjon		<i>Istaravshan</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 12 years, Under article 307</i>
194	Otaev Amriddin		<i>Istaravshan</i>	<i>Former member of the IRPT</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 3.3 years, Under article 307</i>
195	Kamolov Numonkhon (Domullo Numonkhoni Istaravshani)	1973	<i>Istaravshan</i>	<i>Ex-chairman of the IRPT's chapter in Istaravshan</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 3.3 years, Under article 307</i>
196	Azamov Muhammad	1990	<i>Jaihun dist.</i>	<i>For clicking LIKE and SHARE on opposition posts in social media</i>	2018	<i>Sentenced to 3.9 years, Under article 307</i>
197	Qurbonov Anvar	1963	<i>Sarband</i>	<i>Chairman of the IRPT in Sarband dist.</i>	2018	<i>Sentenced</i>
198	Junaydulloh Khudoyorov	1985	<i>Rasht</i>	<i>Blogger</i>	2017	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307</i>
199	Ziyoboev Maqsudjon	1984	<i>B. Ghafurov</i>	<i>Member of the IRPT</i>	2018	<i>Sentenced to 5 years Under article 307</i>
200	Komilov Rajab		<i>Dangara</i>	<i>The IRPT's member and brother of Jannatullohi Komil, an active member of the IRPT in Europe</i>	2018	<i>Sentenced to 10 years Under Articles 307, 189</i>

201	Amrullo Magzumov	1984	Vahdat	Member of the IRPT	2019	In detention centre, deported from Russia
202	Naimjon Sameev	1962	Isfara	The IRPT	2018.12.04	Sentenced to 15 years Under Articles 307, 189 (deported from Russia)
203	Nabotov Abdutauf	19	Vakhsh		2018/10	Sentenced to 22 years Under Articles 307, 189,187
204	Nazarov Jamoliddin		Dushanbe		2015/10	Sentenced to 10,5 years Under Articles 189,187
205	Akbarov Narzullo		Dushanbe		2015	Sentenced to 8 years Under Articles 307, 189
206	Najmiddinov Sherali		Vakhsh		2015	Sentenced to 25 years
207	Kambarov Sufijon		Kolkhozobod		2015	Sentenced to 9 years Under Articles 307, 189
208	Kholikov Khurshed		Vakhsh		2015	Sentenced to 22 years Under Articles 307, 189
209	Abdulloev Muhammadnabi		Vakhsh		2015	Sentenced to 9 years Under Articles 307, 189
210	Saidullo Nuridinov		Vakhsh		2018	Sentenced to 7 years Under Articles 307, 189
211	Shekhov Saidrahmon		Vakhsh		2019	Sentenced to 29 years Under Articles 307, 189,187
212	Djurabekov Shogunbek		Dushanbe		2019	Sentenced to 23 2 years Under Articles 307, 189
213	Rahimov Khol		Rudaki		2019	Sentenced 22 years Under Articles 307, 189
214	Navruzov Mahmad		Dushanbe		2109	Sentenced to 25 years Under Articles 307, 189
215	Murodov Bahriddin		Vakhsh		2019	Sentenced to 23 years Under Articles 307, 189
216	Safarov Nazarmahmad		Gumsangir		2019	Sentenced to 7 years Under Articles 307, 189,187
217	Nabotov Abdurauf		Vakhsh		2018	Sentenced to 22 years Under Articles 307, 189,187

218	Odinaev Islom		Vashdat	Member of the IRPT		Sentenced to 9 years Under Articles 307, 189
219	Makhsud Ibrogimov	1974		One of the leaders of Group 24		Sentenced to 17,5 years Under Articles 307, 189,187
220	Abdunazarov Sohibnazar	1982	fayzobod	Member of Group 24		Sentenced to 20 years Under Articles 307, 189
221	Odinaev Sirojiddin		Dushanbe			Life Imprisonment
222	Nematov Sadriddin		Dushanbe			Life Imprisonment
223	Navruzov Muhammad		Dushanbe			Sentenced to 20 years Under Articles 307, 189,187
224	Bakhti Yzgulom		Vanj			Sentenced to 28 years
225	Saydalov Yzgulom		Vanj			Sentenced to 20 years
226	Azizov Hikmatullo		Panj			Life Imprisonment
227	Mirov Tavakalshoh	1971	Rudaki			Sentenced to 27 years
228	Saidmahmad Ziyoev		Panj	Son of Mirzo Ziyoev		Sentenced to 30 years
229	Muhammadrizo Ziyoev		Panj	Son of Mirzo Ziyoev		Sentenced to 28 years
230	Zokhirov Abdurasul	1971	Ghozimalik			Sentenced to 26 years
231	Narzibekov Parviz		Yazqulom			Sentenced to 20 years
232	Jalilov Abdujabor		Yazqulom			Sentenced to 20 years
233	Navruzov Muhammad		Dushanbe			Sentenced to 20 years
234	Azamatov Abdusalom	1970	Isfara	Member of the IRPT	2018	Sentenced to 7 years
235	Homidov Homid	1961	Isfara		2018	Sentenced to 5 years
236	Shoimkulov Ruzi		Vahdat			Sentenced to 18 years
237	Saidov Olim		Vahdat			Sentenced to 22 years
238	Abdulloev Shodibek		Vahdat	Member of the IRPT		Sentenced to 8 years

239	Odinaev Safo		<i>Vahdat</i>			<i>Sentenced to 14 years</i>
240	Abdulloev Sharif		<i>Vahdat</i>			<i>Sentenced to 22 years</i>
241	Ashurov Dimon		<i>Khoruq</i>			<i>Sentenced to 12 years</i>
242	Mukamilov Sadriddin		<i>Dushanbe</i>			<i>Sentenced to 20 years</i>
243	Mukamilov Najmiddin		<i>Dushanbe</i>			<i>Sentenced</i>
244	Mukamilov Muborak		<i>Dushanbe</i>			<i>Sentenced</i>
245	Mukamilov Mirzo		<i>Dushanbe</i>			<i>Sentenced</i>
246	Mukamilov Kanoat		<i>Dushanbe</i>			<i>Sentenced</i>
247	Nurov Amrullo		<i>Dushanbe</i>			<i>Sentenced to 24 years</i>
248	Fozilov Sunatullo		<i>Hisor</i>			<i>Sentenced to 24 years</i>
249	Parviz Nazirbekov		<i>Vanj</i>	<i>Supporter of IRPT</i>		<i>Sentenced to 20 years</i>
250	Mahmud Imatov		<i>Vanj</i>	<i>Supporter of IRPT</i>		<i>Sentenced to 20 years</i>
251	Khayriddini Rahmikhudo		<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Supporter of IRPT</i>		<i>Sentenced to 22 years</i>
252	Mirzo Kalandarov		<i>Bokhtar</i>	<i>Supporter of IRPT</i>		<i>Sentenced to 18 years</i>
253	Alisher Khukandi		<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Supporter of IRPT</i>		<i>Sentenced to 8 years, was killed today</i>
254	Ilhomiddin Mahmaduloevich Ibronov	1972		<i>Employee of Ministry of Defense</i>		<i>Sentenced to 22 years</i>
255	Sobir Karimovich Safarov	1965	<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Employee of Ministry of Defense</i>		<i>Killed in prison in 2018</i>
256	Ayubov Fozil			<i>Employee of Ministry of Defense, doctor</i>		<i>Sentenced to 26 years</i>
257	Hayot Amriddinovich Saloev	1983	<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Employee of Ministry of Defense</i>		<i>Sentenced to 26 years</i>
258	Sobirov Tojiddin		<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Employee of Ministry of Defense</i>		<i>Sentenced to 22 years</i>
259	Abdullo Fayzulloev		<i>Dushanbe</i>	<i>Employee of Ministry of Defense</i>		<i>Sentenced to 21 years</i>

Prison Massacre: Government's Questionable Version on the Death of 14 Prisoners during Transportation from Khujand to Dushanbe

According to the Tajik authorities, 14 prisoners have died of poisoning from eating tainted food during transportation from Khujand to Dushanbe on July 7, 2019.

The Justice Ministry said in a statement: "During transportation, one of the prisoners shared three pieces of bread with another 15 inmates in Varzob Valley. Their health deteriorated, when they arrived in Dushanbe."

However, relatives of the dead prisoners refuted the government version of the tragedy, since the bodies had signs of torture, including electric shocks, head wounds, broken limbs and many-days-smells emanating from the bodies.



Intelligence officers demanded that one of the mothers of the victims remove the recorded video of her son's body from her phone. They forcibly seized her phone and deleted the record, after which they put the body to the ground.

An unnamed expert on penitentiaries told Asia-Plus newspaper that "using three prison buses, even if they were the very largest ones, to transport 128 prisoners and guards is something that does not correspond to any imaginable norm."

"Moving such a large quantity of prisoners in road transport creates a huge flight risk," he said. "And if it was absolutely necessary to transport prisoners in vehicles, they should have been fed warm food before departing from Khujand and not on the way."

This is the third case of mass fatalities among the prison population of Tajikistan over the past year.

Observers in social networks noted that the official version is largely contradictory and illogical. In particular, the speed of movement of a convoy of trucks with prisoners on a mountain road for the declared time (as Government version narrates) exceeds all permissible norms and, moreover, excludes stop. Giving products (foods) before

transfer and stop of prisoners' convoy are prohibited on the basis of the prisons' regulations.

There is a logical question: "Where the dead prisoners were before being transported?". It can be said that transportation may have been a way to hide the true number of victims of mass executions of prisoners in the Khujand prison.

Observers also questioned the speed with which the authorities published a list of the dead and announced their version. Intelligence officers demanded that one of the mothers of the victims remove the recorded video of her son's body from her phone. They forcibly seized her phone and deleted the record, after which they put the body to the ground.

There are many questions in this regard. It is the third case of mass executions of prisoners over the past year.

The death toll according to the official Khovar news agency:

1. *Turdiev Yokub Safarmahmadovich*, 01/28/1991, resident of the Khuroson district, Kizilkala village council, Sarband village

2. ***Odinaev Validzhon Darvesovich***, 12/13/1976, resident of the Gissar district, village council Dekhkonobad, the village of Bagalak
3. ***Solikhov Nekkadam Gulmurodovich***, 07/23/1985, resident of the Varzob district
4. ***Nazrulloev Usmonali Burikhonovich***, 03/21/1979, resident of the Yavan district
5. ***Buriev Dalerdzhon Bozorovich***, 09.16.1998, resident of Istaravshan
6. ***Ubaydov Afzalsho Khabibovich***, 02.23.1995, resident of the city of Vahdat
7. ***Sunatulloi Imomali***, 06/05/1989, resident of Dushanbe
8. ***Yusupov Mehrob Akbaralievich***, 07/07/1992, resident of the Varzob district
9. ***Vataniev Makhmasaid Voseevich***, 04/20/1977, resident of the district of Abdurahmoni Jami, village of Hiloli
10. ***Manonov Rajabmurod Alimardonovich***, 05/26/1979, resident of the Faizobad district, village council of Chashmasor, the village of Bungakien
11. ***Khakimov Khasan Nuralievich***, 01/17/1987, resident of the Rudaki region, village of Somoniyon
12. ***Abdurakhmonov Abdurahmon Hasanovich***, 02/10/1997, resident of the Rudaki district, the village council of Chimteppa, village of Gulbutta
13. ***Khaidarov Nekruz Mirzoalievich***, 08/21/1999, resident of the Dangara region, village of Korez
14. ***Kayumov Abdujamil Halilovich***, 10.11.1967, resident of the Mastchokh district, the village of Buston



An unnamed expert on penitentiaries told Asia-Plus newspaper that “using three prison buses, even if they were the very largest ones, to transport 128 prisoners and guards is something that does not correspond to any imaginable norm.”

List of Nazarzoda's Family Members, Who were Killed and Imprisoned Following Bloody September 2015 Events



General Abduhalim Nazarzoda, born in 1964, former Deputy Minister of Defense of Tajikistan, who in response to the provocation of the State Committee of National Security escaped along with several persons to Romit Gorge, where, according to the government, he was killed.



Mirzakarim Nazarov, born in 1961, the older brother of Abduhalim Nazarzoda, who was arrested and then killed in the basement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Abdurakhim Nazarov, born in 1966, the younger brother of Abduhalim Nazarzoda, who was detained without any reason in Dushanbe and killed by the officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Abdurakhim Nazarov, who was injured during the Soviet Union war in Afghanistan, has been a disabled person and suffered from a mental disorder.



Bakhtiyor Nazarov, born in 1987, is the son of Abduhalim Nazarzoda, was sentenced to 22 years on a false accusation.



Mirzahayot Nazarov, born in 1972, the younger brother of Abduhalim Nazarzoda, detained without any reason and then killed in the basement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Jamoliddin Nazarov, born in 1974, the younger brother of Abduhalim Nazarzoda, sentenced to 10.5 years on false accusation.



Rustami Ashurali, the nephew of Abduhalim Nazarzoda arrested without any reason on false accusation and finally killed in prison in 2019.



Goib Nabiyeu, born in 1963, arrested on false and fabricated accusations and killed in the prison.



Kanoat Mukomilov, driver and a relative of Abduhalim Nazarzoda, arrested on false and fabricated accusations and killed in the prison.

List of Family Members of Tajik Activists, being Subjected to Pressure, Interrogation and Torture

1. Mavjuda Sohibnazarova, journalist (1967) says:

- *“My daughter, Khojaeva Farida (1990), on July 13, 2018 was invited to the SCNS department and was subjected to threats, pressure and psychological torture. She is still being threatened.”*

2. Rustamov Iftikhor Mirzomurodovich, born 03.11.1983, a political activist and supporter of IRPT, says:

- *“Rustamov Abumuslim (my brother), born 21.03.1974, on January 2019 was illegally invited for interrogation to the department of security services in Jaihun district. He was subjected to physical and psychological torture.”*
- *“Khojaeva Sabohat (my sister), born 08.04.1969, was illegally invited for interrogation to the department of security services in Jaihun district. He was subjected to physical and psychological torture.”- added Mr. Rustamov.*



Mavjuda Sohibnazarova: “My daughter, Khojaeva Farida (1990), on July 13, 2018 was invited to the SCNS department and was subjected to threats, pressure and psychological torture. She is still being threatened.”

3. Boboev Abdusattor Khojaevich, political activist, the head of NCRPHP, says:

- *“My brother, Boboev Saydahmad, born in 1973, is often invited to the organized crime department (OCD) of the MIA, threatened and pressured.”*
- *“My brother, Boboev Fazliddin, born in 1979, is often invited to the department of SCNS of Dushanbe city, threatened and pressured. On August 18, 2017 following my mother’s burial ceremony, he was arrested by the security services and beaten so much that he was not able to walk properly.”- added Mr. Boboev Abdusattor.*

4. Saidmukhidinov Fatkhuddin Minojovich, born 15.12.1974, an activist, says:

- *“My father, Saidmukhidinov Minoj, born 1.05.1943;*
- *My mother, Odinaeva Bozorgul, born 3.01.1948;*
- *My brother, Saidmukhidinov Hojiburbon, born 7.03.1968;*
- *My brother, Saidmukhidinov Merojiddin, born 2.09.1987, and other family members of ours, have been frequently invited for interrogation twice a week to the department of security services in Dushanbe and were subjected to pressure, psychological torture and harassment, and they are all still under pressure.”*
- *“Kayumov Ikrom, born in 1986, who is our neighbor, was also invited for interrogation by the authorities.”*

5. Humayro Bakhtiyor, born in 1986, journalist, says:

- *“My father, Muminov Bakhtiyor, a teacher, born in 1962, has been often subjected to the authorities’ pressure and interrogations from May 2019 to June 2019. For the first time the*

officials of the SCNS went to my father's workplace and interrogated him there. Next interrogations took place in the SCNS department."

- *"The last time my father was interrogated by the staff of the police criminal department. They forced my father to contact me via their phone. My father contacted me from the SCNS department to convey the authorities' "requests". A lawyer called Behruz from the police department a lawyer spoke with me and told me that I have a criminal case and should return to Tajikistan."- added Ms. Bakhtiyor.*

6. Sharipov Abdurahmon, member of IRPT, says:

- *"My father, Sharipov Ahmad, born in 1966, has been often subjected to pressure and interrogation."*

7. Tessaev Mahmadi, member of IRPT, says:



Khumayro Bakhtiyor: "My father, Muminov Bakhtiyor, a teacher, born in 1962, has been often subjected to the authorities' pressure and interrogations from May 2019 to June 2019. For the first time the officials of the SCNS went to my father's workplace and interrogated him there. Next interrogations took place in the SCNS department."

- *"My brother, Tessaev Sherali, born in 1967, has been frequently subjected to = interrogation by the MIA and SCNS of Dushanbe."*

8. Sadurdinov Muhamadikbol, political activist, says:

- *"My brother, Sadurdinov Sodot, born 21.08.1980, (who was former head of the IRPT chapter in Bokhtar (former Kurghanteppa) from 2005 to 2010) has been invited more than 20 times to the MIA department of Khatlon region and 10 times to the SCNS department of Bokhtar during the years 2016 to 2018. He has been was interrogated and subjected to pressure and psychological torture, every time "invited" by the security services and other authorities."*

9. Maynusov Fayzullo, born 30.01.1974, member of IRPT, and Maynusov Farrukh, born 28.12.1976, supporter of IRPT, say:

- *"Our father, Maynusv Sagdullo, born 05.09.1948, on January 2017 was invited for interrogation to the department of SCNS of Khujand city. He was subjected to physical torture."*
- *"Our brother, Maynusov Jafar, born 29.05.1984, on February 2017 was arrested by the staff of the criminal department of the MIA of Khujand. From there, he was transferred to the department of the SCNS in the district of Bobojon Ghafurov, Sughd province. He was kept in the custody for three days and subjected to physical torture."*

10. Kutbiddin Isoev, member of IRPT, says:

- *"My mother, Isoeva Mavjiniso, born 25.05.1946, has been subjected to pressure and interrogation by the staff of the SCNS and staff of the Bokhtar sixth division since 2016 once per three months."*

11. Muhammadsaad Sirojov, member of IRPT, says:

- *"My eldest brother, Abdumalik Sirojov,"*
- *"And Muhammad Sirojov, another brother of mine, both of them, were interrogated by the security services in Jaihoon district, due to my political activities."*

12. Habibullo Sanginov, supporter of IRPT and political activist, says:

- *"My father, Sanginov R., born 22.03.1964, since 2015, has been subjected to pressure and continuous interrogation, due to my political activities."*

13. Absatorov Abdusamad, born on 01.06.1974, member of IRPT, says:

- *“My brother, Absatorov Abduhalim.”*
- *And Absatorov Abdukahor, another brother of mine, both have been interrogated each September by the authorities of Panj region and in Septembers they are always pursued by the authorities.”*

14. Komilov Jannatulloh, political activist and the IRPT’s representative in Germany, says:

- *“My brother, Komilov Zubaydulloh, born in 1978, resident of Sebiston of Danghara district, has been subjected to interrogation and pressure by the MIA and SCNS of Danghara since 2015. He was forced to record several videos denouncing me and the Tajik opposition. His harvest fields were confiscated.”*
- *“My brother, Komilov Ubaydulloh, born in 1975, resident of Sebiston of Danghara district,*



Relatives of Sayid Abdullo Nuri, whose signature is under the Peace Treaty in Tajikistan, didn't stand aside, too. Since 2015 his children have been subjected to continuous persecution and moral torture.

has been subjected to interrogation and pressure by the MIA and SCNS of Danghara and Dushanbe. He was banned to leave the country.

- *“My brother’s son, Komilov Muhammadjon, born in 1992, resident of Dushanbe, was arrested for one day by the staff of MIA of Danghara for recording my mother’s funeral in 2017 and his recording phone was taken off him.*
- *“My sister’s son, Husayni Turakhon, born in 1998, resident of Sebiston of Danghara district, was also arrested by the MIA officials for one day for recording and capturing the funeral of my mother. After deleting all the pictures captured, they freed him.*
- *“My sister’s son, Dilovar Sharipov, resident of Sebiston of Danghara district, was also arrested for recording the funeral of my mother by the MIA officials. After being subjected to psychological torture and all the pictures being deleted, they freed him also.”*
- *“My sister, Komilova Bahorgul, born in 1967, resident of Dushanbe, was also invited to the department of MIA of Vahdat, a district where she lives with her family, and was interrogated due to my political activities.*
- *“My sister, Komilova Shodigul, born in 1969, has been subjected to pressure and interrogation quarterly since 2015 by the MIA and SCNS authorities in Danghara.”*

15. Amirkhazai Tagay, born 10.01.1993, blogger and political activist, says:

- *My father, Kayumov Tagay, born in 1949, was invited for interrogation to the department of OCD of Dushanbe city in May 2019. He was subjected to pressure and psychological torture. Pressure and torture by the staff of SCNS of Kulob, OCD of Dushanbe and other authorities began in 2015 and has so far continued. He has been invited for interrogation at least once per month.”*
- *“Previously, my father was subjected to pressure for the political activities of my brother, Bobojon Kayumov, who is now spokesman for the IRPT. The authorities saw that my brother was not planning to return to Tajikistan. Therefore, they began to “invite” my father for my political and media activities. Since being active in Facebook, especially discussing issues with the fake accounts attacking the opposition, the authorities have doubled the pressures on my father, who has heart problem.”*

16. Relatives of Sayid Abdullo Nuri, whose signature is under the Peace Treaty in Tajikistan, didn't stand aside, too. Since 2015 his children have been subjected to continuous persecution and moral torture.

List of the family members not allowed to leave Tajikistan

1. Family members of Boboev Abdusattor Khojaevich, head of NCRPHP

- *Boboeva Mohishams Khojaevna (sister of activist Abdusattor Boboev) was taken off the plane by officers of the security services without any reason. She was told that she has not the right to leave Tajikistan.*
- *Boboev Fazliddin Khojaevich (brother of activist Abdusattor Boboev) was prevented from leaving the country, when he wanted to go to Samarkand, Uzbekistan as a tourist. He returned back from the Soghd border.*
- *Yatimov Sayato (Son of activist Abdusattor Boboev's aunt) was going to Samarkand, Uzbekistan through Regar border, but he was stopped by the Tajik authorities in the Tajikistan-*



There are hundreds of activists, whose passports were taken by the Tajik authorities in order to stop them from travelling abroad. But many of them are afraid to inform the media about ban of travelling abroad. Those citizens whose passports were taken by the authorities can be considered as political hostages.

Uzbekistan borders. He was not allowed to leave the country without any reason and he returned back.

2. Family members of the lawyer Jamshed Yorov

- *His wife – Zuhurova Dilbar Nuriddinovna*
- *His four children:*
- *Yorova Dilnoza*
- *Yorova Laylo*
- *Yorova Benazir*
- *Yorova Ganjina*

On February 7, 2017, the Tajik authorities came to know that wife of Jamshed Yorov and his four children have already bought the tickets for travelling abroad. The security services and other district authorities came to her house, locates in Vahdat district, and told them that they would not be allowed to leave the country. Moreover, passports of his wife and his children were taken by the security services.

3. Brother of Jannatulloh Komilov, an activist and the IRPT's representative in Germany

- *Komilov Ubaydulloh (born on 1975), resident of Sebiston of Danghara district, who is brother of Jannatulloh Komilov, an activist and member of the IRPT, was told that he could not leave the country.*

4. Hundreds of activists banned from travelling abroad

There are hundreds of activists, whose passports were taken by the Tajik authorities in order to stop them from travelling abroad. But many of them are afraid to inform the media about ban of travelling abroad. Those citizens whose passports were taken by the authorities can be considered as political hostages.

List of the Tajik Officials, involved in Torture

<i>№</i>	<i>Name and Family</i>	<i>Birthdate and Birthplace</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Ramazon Rahimzoda Hamro</i>	<i>1960-04-25 , Khovaling</i>	<i>Police colonel, General, since 2012 Minister of the Interior of the Tajikistan Republic</i>	<i>Torture of political prisoners. Massacre of prisoners. The abduction and use of force against Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Rahmon Yusuf Ahmadzod</i>	<i>1966-03-22, Vose</i>	<i>Prosecutor General of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>Saimumin Yatimov</i>	<i>1955-07-23, Farkhor</i>	<i>Chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>	<i>Torture of political prisoners. Massacre of prisoners. The abduction and use of force against Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Izatullo Sharifzoda (Sharifov)</i>		<i>Former deputy minister, head of Prisons Administration in Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>	<i>Involved in the killing of prisoners</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Umarov Mansurjon Gafforovich</i>		<i>Head of Prisons Administration, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>	<i>Involved in the killing of prisoners</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Nuriddin Rahmonov</i>		<i>Former Deputy Head of Prisons' Administration in Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>	<i>Involved in torture of Mahmadali Hait</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Rustam Toshtemurov</i>		<i>Former chief of the prisons N: 1</i>	<i>Involved in killing of Khamza Ikromzoda</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>Iskandar Saidov</i>		<i>Head of the prison N: 1</i>	
<i>9</i>	<i>Jamoliddin Khushvakhtzoda</i>		<i>Head of the prison N: 3/4 , (1st Sovetskiy, Dushanbe city)</i>	
<i>10</i>	<i>Dilovar Khushmatov</i>		<i>Former deputy head of the prison N: 3, Khujand city</i>	
<i>11</i>	<i>Ubaid Khujandiev</i>		<i>Chairman of the Yovon Prison</i>	
<i>12</i>	<i>Idibek Mukhtodzod</i>		<i>Official of the Prisons Administration in Justice Ministry of Tajikistan</i>	

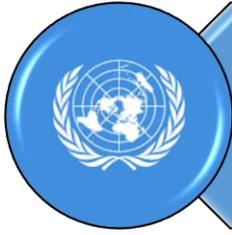
13	Bakhtior Tursunov		<i>Official of the Prisons Administration in Justice Ministry of Tajikistan</i>	
14	Bahodur Ismoilzoda		<i>Head of Dangara Prison No. 2</i>	
15	Mahmud Abdulloev		<i>Official of the Prisons Administration in Justice Ministry of Tajikistan</i>	
16	Dilshod Safarov		<i>Chairman of the Yovon Prison</i>	<i>Involved in torture and mass execution of prisoners</i>
17	Jamshed Boboev		<i>Head of Kulob prison</i>	
18	Halim Abdullo		<i>Official of Kulob Prison</i>	
19	Iskandar Ismatov		<i>Former head of the SIZO N: 1</i>	<i>Involved in the killing of prisoners</i>
20	Sangali Toshev		<i>Deputy head of SIZO N: 1</i>	<i>Involved in torture and killing of prisoners</i>
21	Shodi Khurshed Hafizzoda		<i>Officer of the Department of the Organized Crime Control at the Ministry of Internal Affairs</i>	
22	Safiallo Azizullo Azizullozoda			
23	Davlat Najmiddinzoda		<i>Officer of the Department of the Organized Crime Control at the Ministry of Internal Affairs</i>	
24	Saiburhon Nematov		<i>Officer of the Department of the Organized Crime Control at the Ministry of Internal Affairs</i>	
25	Maruf Shakarov		<i>Officer of the Department of the Organized Crime Control at the Ministry of Internal Affairs</i>	
26	Jamshed Safarov		<i>Officer of Police Department, Khatlon province</i>	
27	Latifjon Yuldoshev		<i>Former Officer of Police Department, Soghd province</i>	
28	Bakhtiyor Nazarov		<i>Deputy Head of General Directorate of Criminal Investigation in Interior Ministry of Tajikistan</i>	<i>Involved in Interrogation of Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
29	Sharif Sharif		<i>Officer of the Department of the Organized Crime Control at the Ministry of Internal Affairs</i>	
30	Farhod Nurkhonov		<i>Deputy Head of General Directorate of Criminal Investigation in Interior</i>	

			<i>Ministry of Tajikistan, Dushanbe city, lieutenant colonel</i>	
31	Avaz Sabzaev		<i>Officer of Interior Ministry, Dushanbe</i>	
32	Ikromiddin Ahliddinov		<i>Officer of Interior Ministry, Dushanbe</i>	
33	Umed Vahobov		<i>Officer of Interior Ministry, Dushanbe</i>	
34	Abdurahmon Alamshozoda (Buzmakov)		<i>Former Head of the Interior Ministry, Deputy Head of the Interior Ministry</i>	<i>Involved in interrogation of Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
35	Abdula Abdulloev		<i>Former officer of the Interior Ministry in Tursunzoda city</i>	
36	Dilshod Sanginov		<i>Officer of OMON (Special Forces) in Interior Ministry</i>	
37	Shuhrat Donaev		<i>Deputy Head of the Interior Ministry in Tursunzoda city</i>	
38	Jamshed Khojaev		<i>Former officer of the Interior Ministry in Tursunzoda city</i>	
39	Rajabali Negmatov		<i>Deputy head of the interior Ministry in Shahrinav city</i>	
40	Nurali Sharipov		<i>Officer of the interior Ministry in Shahrinav city</i>	
41	Rahim Kholov		<i>Officer of the interior Ministry in Shahrinav city</i>	
42	Abdujabor Sattorzoda		<i>Former deputy chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan and now head of the legal guarantees department and employee under supervision of the president's office of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>	<i>Judge Ruled against IRPT Leaders</i>
43	Imomo R. M		<i>Member of the Court</i>	
44	Rajabov N. Kh.		<i>Member of the court</i>	
45	Nurmatov F. M.		<i>State Prosecutor, Prosecutor of the Investigation Department of Highly Dangerous Criminal Cases of the General Prosecutor's Office of Tajikistan</i>	
46	Numonzoda Z.		<i>Prosecutor</i>	

47	Kurbonov A. B.		<i>Senior Prosecutor of the Oversight Office of the Prosecutor General of Tajikistan</i>	
48	Amirbek Beknazarov		<i>Major General of the State Committee for National Security</i>	<i>Involved in interrogation of Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
49	Saidasror Saidov		<i>Officer of the State Committee for National Security</i>	
50	Shodi Turaev		<i>Deputy Head of the State Committee for National Security in Khujand city</i>	
51	Yunus Boev		<i>Head of Security Department in Chortut, Rudaki district</i>	
52	Firdavs Kholikov		<i>Advisor to the Head of the National Security Committee of Tajikistan, Officer in the Tajik Embassy in Turkey</i>	
53	Murodjon Saidzoda		<i>Officer of the Security Services in Tajikistan Embassy in Germany</i>	
54	Firuz Saidov		<i>Head of the Security Services in Zafarobod district</i>	
55	Shoir Sharifov		<i>Former officer of the Security Services in Zafarobod district</i>	
56	Abdukayum Kayumov		<i>Deputy Prosecutor in Asht district</i>	
57	Jamshed Nasriddinov		<i>Officer of the Prosecutor's Office in Rudaki district</i>	
58	Abdusalom Bobokhonzoda		<i>Judge of Buzurgmehr Yorov</i>	
59	Nematullo Davlatov		<i>Head of Religious Affairs in Rudaki district</i>	
60	Faizullo Safarzoda		<i>Head of the Khujand prison</i>	
61	Farhod Sodirov		<i>Head of the Department of the regime of the Khujand prison</i>	
62	Muin Khushkadamov		<i>Warden of the Khujand prison</i>	
63	Lutfiddin Zuhridinov		<i>Warden of the Khujand prison</i>	
64	Oyatullo Bokiev		<i>Warden of the Khujand prison</i>	

65	Hasan Abdullo		<i>Somon Air</i>	<i>Involved in kidnapping of Sharofiddin Gadoev from Russia to Tajikistan</i>
66	Shohrukh Saidzoda (Saidov Shohruch Fattoevich)		<i>Head of the Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, lieutenant colonel</i>	<i>Involved in kidnapping of Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
67	Bakhtiyor Nazarov			
68	Pirov Atamkhon Atoevich		<i>Major General of the State Committee for the National Security</i>	<i>Involved in kidnapping of Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
69	Lidia Isamova		<i>Correspondent of RIA Novosti in Tajikistan</i>	<i>Involved in kidnapping of Sharofiddin Gadoev</i>
70	Zubaidullo Sanginmurodzoda		<i>Head of one of the departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Firdavsi district of Dushanbe</i>	<i>After using torture against Umed Hikoyatov, who remained disabled, he was appointed head of one of the departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Firdavsi district of Dushanbe</i>
71	Safar Dodarov			<i>Involved in torture of Umed Hikoyatov, leading to disability of the victim</i>
72	Behruz Abdumajidzoda		<i>Investigator of prosecutor's office in Aini district</i>	<i>Involved in torture of 68-year-old woman Istad Kurbonova</i>
73	Idiboi Ziyoev		<i>Officer of the Interior Ministry in Aini district</i>	<i>Involved in torture of 68-year-old woman Istad Kurbonova</i>
74	Saidali Arbobov		<i>Officer of the Interior Ministry in Aini district</i>	<i>Involved in torture of 68-year-old woman Istad Kurbonova</i>
75	Abdukodir Ghafforov		<i>Officer of the Interior Ministry in Aini district</i>	<i>Involved in torture of 68-year-old woman Istad Kurbonova</i>
76	Sharif Mirzosharifov		<i>Officer of the Interior Ministry in Aini district</i>	
77	Shuhrat Shamsiddinov		<i>Former police officer in the city of Khujand, Lieutenant Colonel</i>	<i>Sentenced to 13 years for having tortured and bringing to suicide</i>





Report of Tajik NGOs based in Europe on human rights situations in Tajikistan

United Nation Human Rights Committee

Tajikistan

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JOINT SUBMISSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VISION, FOUNDATION, EURASIAN DIALOGUE INSTITUTION AND TAJIK FREETHINKERS FORUM

This report has been prepared by a number of NGOs and civil society activists, both inside and outside Tajikistan. With this report, we aim to provide members of the UN Human Rights Committee and all interested persons with information on the actual situation with the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Tajikistan. We hope that our analysis of legislation, practices and concrete examples of human rights violations will be useful for the members of the Committee and will help to form the most complete and objective opinion on the implementation of civil and political rights in our country. NGOs involved in the preparation of this report. During the preparation of the report were used: reports of international organizations and NGOs, media information, national legislation, and practical experience. The human rights situation in Tajikistan deteriorated significantly during the reporting period:

- The opposition was completely eliminated;
- Hundreds of opposition members were convicted on trumped-up politically motivated charges for long terms including life sentences;
- The independent media has been practically closed down;
- Dozens of journalists left the country because of the threat to their freedom and life;
- Advocacy – as an independent professional group lawyers as an essential element of civil society have come under the control of the Ministry of Justice;
- Several lawyers have been convicted in connection with their attempt to protect members of the opposition.

Content:

Article 5. Prohibition of misuse of restrictions

Article 7. Prohibition of torture

Article 9. Prohibition of arbitrary detention

Article 10. Conditions of detention

Article 12. Freedom of movement

Article 22. The right to freedom of association

Article 5. Prohibition of misuse of restrictions

Since 2010, the government of Tajikistan has restricted or grossly violated the most basic civil and political rights of its citizens, contrary to the Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In places of deprivation of liberty, prisoners have been tortured, denied medical care, visits to relatives provided for by law, and the provision of necessary medicines. There are cases of forced deprivation of life that are not investigated or made public. Relatives of the deceased prisoners are prohibited from examining the bodies and burying them in accordance with religious traditions. Some relatives manage to examine the bodies. (1) There is ample evidence of signs of torture and violent death on the bodies of the dead prisoners.

We believe that this is a deliberate deprivation of the right to life and the unofficial application of the prohibited death penalty to political prisoners sentenced to long and life imprisonment. Political prisoners were deprived of the right to use telephones and radio. In May 2019, a 28-year member of the leadership of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, Rahmatullo Rajab, was ill - treated and placed in a punishment cell after discovering a portable radio receiver.

Head of the government of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon on 12 May 2018 in his television speech violated several articles of the Constitution, the Criminal Code of Tajikistan and the ICCPR. On 15 May 2018, the former representative of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan Kiyomiddin Goziev, who was kidnapped in Saint Petersburg on 30 November 2017 was sentenced to 25 years for "betraying the madhab and moving to Shiism" and "treason", "espionage". (2) Thus, the citizen's right to freedom of thought, belief, and religion was violated, the presumption of innocence was disregarded. Public incitement to religious hatred was carried out against Goziev. Goziev was killed in prison in May 2019, according to the authorities, by fanatics of ISIS allegedly for his transition to Shi'ism.

During the period covered in this report, the Tajik government regularly violated the regulations concerning the due arrest procedure, illegal custody; the right to humane treatment, and fair legal procedure in court. A policy of collective responsibility has applied to Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan members since the party was outlawed in 2015. The prisoners did not have access to lawyers and mass media were restricted in their access to political prisoners. When it came to those opposed to the authorities and their families, the Article 24 of the Tajik Constitution (freedom of movement) was broken, as well as Article 12 of the International Convention of Civil Political Rights. Travel for family members is restricted, leaving the country might be forbidden including traveling for treatment or family reunification.

The official media have been stigmatizing and persecuting religious women. Local police and the activists of the ruling party organize surprise inspections in the streets and at the market places and apply psychologic and physical violence against women wearing hijabs, making them to take off the headwear, detaining them, and humiliating the said women in public places and at police stations. There were also cases of criminal proceedings against social networks users for spreading videos of police violence against the women in hijabs. In numerous cases women patients wearing hijab were refused treatment in public health clinics. Women in hijabs have restricted access or are denied entrance to educational establishments and administrative buildings. Thus, they are discriminated, denied the right for education and other basic civil rights.

The government violates the immunity of private and family life, as well as the principle that separates religion from state. The rites regulation law (*tanzim*) was introduced in 2007. The citizens are persecuted at their homes, in the places of recreation, at cafes and restaurants. The law regulates the possible expenses the number of guests at family and private parties, funerals and memorials. Professional and university parties, school proms etc. are restricted or forbidden by this law. There were cases in which the family were denied access to the body of their relative who perished under unclear circumstances Access to bodies of political prisoners who died in prison may be denied. Sometimes the relatives are denied the right to know if the prisoner is still alive or where he has been buried by the government. People are being humiliated. The virginity of brides is checked prior to wedding.

The Tajik government restricts the citizens' access to information, lead to the closure of uncontrolled mass media (Ozodagon). Reporters who try to be independence of the government are stigmatized in the social networks by numerous trolls who advocate for the government. The reporters are also attacked from the governmental sites.

The access to the internet is routinely restricted, social networks, messengers, independent sites and browsers are blocked.

The Tajik government violate Article 12 of the Constitution (Private property). The authorities break into private homes without the owner's agreement and without a proper warrant from the court. During this year the homes of two leaders of Tajik opposition who now reside as political refugees in Europe - Mirzorakhim Kuzov and Muhiddin Kabiri - were confiscated (the homes of his sons, sister and brother were also confiscated). Even those who bought the houses from the building company owned by Muhiddin Kabiri family had their homes confiscated.

The Tajik government restricts the citizens' access to information, lead to the closure of uncontrolled mass media (Ozodagon). Unloyal reporters are being stigmatized in the social networks by numerous trolls who advocate the government. The reporters are also attacked from the governmental sites. The access to the Internet is routinely restricted, social networks, messengers, independent sites and browsers are blocked.

Civic activists Shakhlo Ibragimova and Dilnoza Mukhiddinov who collected signatures under the petition against the internet tariff escalation in April 2018 have been attacked by the trolls on the social networks. The authorities claim that they have nothing to do with the violation of the constitutional right to access the information. The internet was unblocked for several hours before the President of EU Donald Tusk arrival to Tajikistan in May 2019. (3) However, independent sites Akhbor.com, Asia Plus, TajInfo.org and many others are still blocked. The right for peaceful demonstrations and protest meeting have become almost non-existent. Any attempts of protest result in violence, arrests and criminal proceedings.

Article 7 of the ICCPR. Prohibition of Torture

The use of torture and other ill-treatment and punishment by law enforcement officials, prison officials and military units continues. Since then, more than 200 cases of torture and ill-treatment have been officially reported. Torture was applied not only to men, but also to women and minors. As a result of the use of torture by law enforcement agencies recorded cases of death. (4)

Bullying (hazing) in the army remains a major problem. All allegations of torture and ill-treatment are not investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially. The mechanism of emergency response to the publication of the media about the facts of torture does not work. In most cases, complaints are dismissed on an expedited basis, investigations are delayed or terminated. Under the Istanbul Protocol, there is no independent mechanism for investigating cases of torture.

In 2012, the Criminal Code was amended to include Article 143.1 "torture". Law enforcement agencies are reluctant to investigate cases of torture in their ranks. The punishment is mainly imposed on guilty junior officers, and the heads of institutions where torture occurs are not held accountable. The penalties for the crimes of torture do not correspond to the gravity of the crime. Although Article 143.1 provides for several aggravating circumstances involving torture for which a sentence of up to 15 years' imprisonment may be imposed, in practice the vast majority of penalties are imposed for up to 5 years, and even then these penalties are often reduced or suspended.

There is no legislative mechanism for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, including medical care and psychological rehabilitation. Victims of torture and ill-treatment usually do not receive fair and adequate compensation for the damage caused. The law does not provide for compensation for victims of torture. (5)

Recommendations:

- *Ratify the optional Protocol to the Convention against torture and establish a national preventive mechanism;*
- *Ensure that all detainees have access to legal protection from the moment of detention;*
- *Provide human rights expert groups, representatives of international human rights organizations and lawyers with unrestricted access to places of detention for monitoring without prior notice;*

- *Amend national legislation to exclude perpetrators of torture and other forms of ill-treatment from the list of persons subject to amnesty;*
- *At the legislative level, strengthen criminal liability for torture, as well as to remove non-custodial measures from punishment;*
- *In view of the constant and systematic use of torture and degrading treatment, it is necessary to establish a permanent commission of inquiry into torture;*
- *Establish alternative mechanisms for documenting the traces of torture;*
- *Adopt a law on the medical, social and psychological rehabilitation of victims of torture;*
- *Determine the amount and manner of compensation to victims of torture;*
- *Make a declaration recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider individual communications in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention against Torture.*

Article 9 of the ICCPR. The Right to Liberty and Security of Person. The Prohibition of Arbitrary Detention

Under the pretext of fighting crime, the Tajik authorities began to further restrict and violate the human right to liberty and security of person. There are frequent cases of arbitrary detention of citizens. Law enforcement agencies frequently summon citizens for interrogations, conduct voluntary searches in their homes and offices, restrict their freedom for an indefinite period, and extract documents and other private and official information without any legal grounds or a relevant court decision.

The higher authorities do not properly respond to complaints from citizens and organizations about violations of a kind and in the vast majority of cases ignore them, encouraging their agents to continue using such illegal methods of conducting inquiries and investigations.

On 28 September 2015, officers of the Organized Crime Control Department (Directorate for Combating Organized Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan), without a court order and prior to the commencement of a criminal case, seized the documentation of the *Sipar* RT Bar Association and all legal agreements concluded between lawyers Buzurgmehr Yorov and Jamshed Yorov with their defendants, despite them being a lawyer's secret. (5)

Search and seizure of property are widely used without a proper court decision. Criminal process principles such as competitiveness and equality of parties in court are ignored, so almost all warrants of the inquiry bodies to use arrest as a preventive measure, are granted by the courts without due investigation and presentation of evidence, often without informing the defense side and summoning the attorney to the court. Often, the arrest warrant for a suspect contains only a few words about the gravity of the crime committed. The evidence, that is to be provided according to the Art. 102 -111 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not available to the court.

On September 19, 2015, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan authorized two months arrest for the detained members of the High Council of the IRPT. The trial took place without the participation of detainee's lawyers. The warrants contained confused data as to the proofs and the names of the suspects and no relevant information was submitted to the court to validate the arrest. (6)

To prosecute dissidents outside the country, the Tajik authorities, together with law enforcement agencies of other countries, such as Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, widely use politically motivated requests to Interpol, practicing all forms of deportation, extradition and even kidnapping citizens. During this period, several dissidents were abducted and illegally deported to Tajikistan.

Here are the most well-known cases: (7)

Ehson Odinaev, a blogger wanted by the Tajik Interior Ministry, found via Interpol. He disappeared without a trace on 19 May 2015 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Maksud Ibrahimov, leader of the NGO Youth of Tajikistan for Transformations. He suffered an attempt on his life in Moscow at the end of 2014. He was deprived of the citizenship of the Russian Federation, kidnapped in Moscow 20 January 2015. Convicted in Tajikistan for 17 years in prison.

Abdunazar Sohibnazar, dissident. Abducted in Belarus on 29 July 2017. Convicted in Tajikistan for 20 years in prison.

Abdurahim Vosiev, dissident. 01/17/2017 kidnapped in Russia. Convicted in Tajikistan to 20 years in prison.

Naimjon Sameev, former head of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan. Kidnapped in Grozny on 30 November 2018. Taken to Dushanbe 3 December 2018. In Tajikistan, he made a video statement about his “voluntary” repatriation. Convicted in Tajikistan for 15 years.

Kiyomiddin Goziev, a former activist of the IRPT. In November 2017, abducted in St. Petersburg, Russia. Convicted in Tajikistan in May 2018 to 25 years in prison. He was killed and beheaded under unexplained circumstances on 19 May 2019 during the riots in the correctional colony of Vahdat.

Sharofiddin Gadoev, a political refugee in the Netherlands, leader of the Reforms and Development in Tajikistan movement. Kidnapped on 13 February 2018 in Moscow. Released at the request of the international community.

Amrullo Magzumov, a former activist of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan. Kidnapped in Moscow Airport Vnukovo on 16 May 2019. Illegally was extradited to Tajikistan.

In March 2018, the UN Committee on Unlawful Detentions considered complaints from political prisoners **Zaid Saidov** and **Mahmadali Hayit** and declared their detention unreasonable and conducted in violation of domestic and international norms, and also demanded their immediate release and compensational payment. The authorities of Tajikistan still have not responded properly. (8) On 24 May 2019, a similar decision was published by the UN Committee on Unlawful Detention in relation to the arrested lawyer and political prisoner **Buzurgmehr Yorov**. (9)

The decision insists on unconditional and immediate implementation of the UN Committee recommendations concerning political prisoners **Zaid Saidov**, **Mahmadali Hayit** and **Buzurgmehr Yorov**, who are being tortured. Their lives in custody are threatened with real and increasing danger. (10)

Article 10 of the ICCPR. Conditions of Detention

Although the country has a law “On the Procedure and Conditions of Detention of Suspects and Defendants” from 2011, (with additions dated March 15, 2016, No. 1282; May 14, 2016,

№1312) and the Code of Execution of Criminal Penalties, the conditions of detention of suspects, accused, defendants and convicts still remain a relevant issue, as their practical implementation is still not been made clear to the public.

The penitentiary system is not transparent; representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been denied access to the pre-trial detention centers and other places of detention. There are no means of exercising public control over the observance of human rights in closed institutions. Lawyers cannot easily meet with their clients without the written permission of the investigating authorities or of the head of the penitentiary institution. The institutions do not comply with elementary standards of sanitation and hygiene, therefore, the level of infectious diseases is high.

In the temporary detention centers of the country, prisoners are not fed. Food is brought to them by relatives. In the remand prisons, the food does not meet medical standards. Medical services are not properly provided. There are no specialized doctors, treatment facilities or medicines provided to inmates. Frequently, inmates complaining of illness and discomfort do not only receive any medical care but are also subjected to torture and harassment by wardens when seeking medical help. (11)

Extortion is widespread among the penitentiary system staff. For a bribe, a person can be transferred to a more comfortable cell. The detainees in remand prisons, as well as the prisoners in the correctional facilities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, are forced to make repairs of the cells at their own expense.

Such rights as the right to the correspondence of detainees with relatives or other persons, sending and receiving telegrams, and the right to free food are being denied to them.

There are no televisions and refrigerators in the cells. Often there are not even fans; norms of sanitary space per person in cells are violated, cells are overcrowded, and detainees sometimes sleep on the concrete floor. In violation of international standards of detention, prisoners are forced to work on the grounds of detention centers and prisons. Contrary to their right, prisoners are not asked for their written consent before being filmed, photographed, videoed or interviewed.

The law provides for punishment in the form of restrictions on personal freedom, but, in actual practice no record is kept of such punitive measures. There is no mechanism in the country to oversee execution of such punishment. There are no special institutions like correction centers. Prisoners are widely subjected to torture, especially political prisoners, yet they have no recourse for lodging a direct complaint with the public prosecutor's office or the human rights ombudsman about torture or mistreatment. All prisoner complaints and letters are rigorously censored. There has been no incidence of anyone facing criminal charges for torture directly as a result of any prisoner's statement. Family members do have the right to lodge a complaint about the torture or mistreatment of their relation in detention.

The authorities and investigating bodies are reluctant to prosecute cases of torture in closed institutions. Either the proceedings tend to drag on, or charges are quickly dismissed. In March 2019 the wife of Mahmadali Hayit filed a complaint with the Office of the Prosecutor General about her husband being tortured. (12) The authorities confined their inquiry to hearing a mere oral statement from the head of the Ministry of Justice's Directorate of Correctional Affairs, Mansurjon Umarov, who denied any record of such facts. No criminal charges were brought, and no investigation was carried out. Nothing was reported by the authorities in the media, nor was any information provided about any inquiry.

Over 7-8 November 2018 and on 19 May 2019 there were two violent incidents in Tajik prisons that cost the lives of at least 70 prisoners dead and left at least 200 others injured (13-14). The investigations into what happened have been secret and closed, with the public at large denied any chance of learning about the true causes and results of the revolt in the penal colonies.

Recommendations:

- *Compel the Chief Directorate for the Execution of Criminal Sentences within the Ministry of Justice to restore prisoners' right to unrestricted mobile phone contact with their lawyers, family, and the media;*
- *Bring in unannounced visits to be carried out to closed and semi-closed institutions by monitoring groups under the Human Rights Ombudsman and by independent public bodies;*
- *Set up a mechanism for public monitoring of human rights in closed and semi-closed institutions;*
- *Bring inmates' and detainees' conditions of detention into compliance with recognized international standards;*
- *Set up a public commission of inquiry to look into the deadly riots at the Khujand and Vahdat colonies and publish a full account in the media.*

5. Article 12 of the ICCPR. The right to freedom of movement and to choose one's place of residence

Although the law provides for citizens' right to freedom of movement and the free choice of one's place of residence, as well as to travel outside the republic or travel back to it (Art.24 of the Constitution), in actual point of fact this right is often grossly violated. In the main, it is the family of dissidents or people in the opposition whose rights are infringed upon most frequently. The authorities do not issue them external passports, and block their efforts to leave the country by every means available, including threats and blackmail. Special services resort to deliberately distorted interpretations of the legal provisions to prevent citizens from exercising their right to leave Tajikistan. Appeals and complaints by the injured parties are not dealt with in due and proper fashion. None of those responsible for obstructing people's rights to elect their own place of residence or to travel have been brought to justice.

In 2015 the authorities confiscated essential travel documents from Mizhgona Zainiddinova, fiancé to Islamic Renaissance party of Tajikistan leader Muhiddin Kabiri, and her children. (15) Ibrahim Tillosoda, four-year-old grandson (as of 2018) to the opposition leader, was suffering from Stage III cancer and needed treatment abroad. However, the authorities forcibly detained him and restricted his right to meet with or be reunited with his family, thereby exerting pressure on opposition activists abroad. It was only following a broad public campaign and international intervention that Ibrahim Tillosoda and his mother were finally able to leave the country in late 2018 for treatment. There was another similar case that involved preventing the mother and daughter of Tajik civil society activist Shabham Khudoidodova from leaving the country for over two and a half years. (16) At present, the authorities are still illegally detaining a large group of people related to members of the opposition, virtually holding them hostage as they are banned from leaving the country. Among them are the family of human rights defender and political refugee Jamshed Yorov.

Recommendations:

- *Set up a special working group to examine submissions and complaints by persons whose rights have been denied; conduct due and proper investigations and bring the guilty parties to justice;*
- *Bring the list of persons banned from travel into conformity with international law and the country's constitution concerning limits or bans on travel outside Tajikistan.*

6. Article 22 ICCPR. Right of Association

Despite provisions of the Constitution of the country for the right of association, and despite laws like the statute “On Political Parties”, or “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations”, or “On Non-Governmental Organizations” that re-enforce this right, during the period under review the government has been observed to exert unjustifiable pressure and control over existing non-governmental organizations. Citizens’ rights and freedoms have been curbed as a result of their affiliation with such public associations. This is particularly true of members of opposition parties and of former members of the IRPT. (17)

The government has stepped up its control over how NGO’s are financed. As NGOs have insufficient access to media coverage, their work is predominantly kept out of the public eye. State-backed citizens’ groups like “*Avangard*” have been created by the government to put out propaganda through the state-owned media, urging short shrift for dissident views and fostering ideological, ethnic, and religious strife, as well as calling for violence against activists for the opposition and members of their families. (18)

The government is even cracking down on efforts to set up NGOs that might escape their control outside of Tajikistan’s borders. Representatives of one such Tadjik NGO in Russia by the name of “Tajikistan Youth for Change” were subjected to attempts on their life and abduction.

On 6 April 2013 Zaid Saidov and the group for initiative that he headed announced their intention to create a centrist political party called “New Tajikistan”. However, shortly afterwards Zaid Saidov was arrested and accused by Tajik authorities of committing a series of crimes, including some premeditated and involving corruption while he was still in public service or financial, to do with his business activities. (19) Other members of the same group met with similar treatment, including some journalists: i.e. Temur Varki and Mavjuda Sokhibazarova, who have since emigrated. Some other members of “New Tajikistan” remain under constant surveillance by special services in the country and are unofficially blacklisted from work.

On 16 September 2015 Counsel Buzurgmekhr Yorov announced the creation of a civil society committee to defend the human rights and freedoms of families of detained IRPT activists. (20) Within days, on 28 September, Buzurgmekhr Yorov was arrested on trumped up charges, and in 2017, after three court trials, was sentenced to 29 years in prison. Committee members were interrogated and warned about the dire consequences that would follow any attempt to set up or participate in any association that opposed official government policy or challenged individual civil servants.

On 29 September 2015, in violation of civil court proceedings precepts, the Tajikistan Supreme Court banned the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan activities and declared it an extremist and terrorist organization. (21) Deliberations took place in camera; there was no participation by counsel for the defense or by representatives

of the NGO; no independent media were allowed access; procedural deadlines were ignored; representatives of the organization were not apprised of the proceedings and were thus deprived of the chance to appeal the court's decision. The main leadership of the organization were arrested and subsequently given extended prison sentences, while Mahmatali Hayit and Husainov Saidumar, IRPT deputy heads, were given life sentences. The joint civil judges decision for the Tajik Supreme Court, dated 29 November 2015, found that the IRPT leadership had already been recognized as terrorists and extremists before their criminal trial had begun and before their sentence had acquired legal effect, thus that no guarantee of presumed innocence until proven guilty could apply and they would not be granted a fair trial. (22)

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Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tajikistan

Human Rights Committee

Adopted by the Committee at its 126th session (1 to 26 July 2019)

1. The Committee considered the third periodic report of Tajikistan (CCPR/C/TJK/3) at its 3611th and 3612th meetings (see CCPR/C/SR.3611 and 3612), held on 2 and 3 July 2019. At its 3635th meeting, held on 18 July 2019, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the third periodic report of Tajikistan and the information presented therein. It expresses appreciation for the opportunity to renew its constructive

dialogue with the State party's delegation on the measures taken during the reporting period to implement the provisions of the Covenant. The Committee is grateful to the State party for its written replies (CCPR/C/TJK/Q/3/Add.1) to the list of issues (CCPR/C/TJK/Q/3), which were supplemented by the oral responses provided by the delegation.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the following legislative and policy measures taken by the State party:
 - (a) Amendments of 27 November 2014 to article 479 of the Code of Criminal Procedure prohibiting the extradition of a person if there is information to suggest that he or she may be tortured;
 - (b) The Framework for the Provision of Free Legal Assistance approved on 2 July 2015 and the ongoing implementation of pilot projects and different models for providing free primary and secondary legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable sections of the population;
 - (c) The Constitutional Law on Nationality of 8 August 2015;
 - (d) Amendments of 30 March 2016 to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Act on Procedures and Conditions for the Custody of Suspects, Accused Persons and Defendants.
4. The Committee welcomes the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the State party, on 22 July 2014.

C. Principal matters of concern and recommendations

The Covenant in the domestic legal order

5. While taking note of the direct applicability of the Covenant in the domestic legal order and the Supreme Court's guidelines of 18 November 2013 on the application by courts of ratified international legal instruments, the Committee regrets that the State party was not able to provide any specific examples of application of the Covenant in court judgements, as requested in its previous concluding observations (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 4) (art. 2).
6. **The State party should take appropriate measures to raise awareness of the Covenant and its applicability in domestic law among judges, prosecutors and lawyers, including by providing specific and adequate training on the Covenant and by making the Covenant and the work of the Committee part of legal education.**

Implementation of the Covenant and its Optional Protocol

7. The Committee remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 4) about the State party's continuing failure to implement the Views adopted by the Committee under the Optional Protocol and the lack of effective mechanisms and procedures for authors of communications to seek, in law and in practice, the full implementation of the Views (art. 2).
8. **The Committee recalls its general comment No. 33 (2008) on the obligations of States parties under the Optional Protocol. The State party should take all measures, including legislative, necessary to ensure that mechanisms and appropriate procedures are in place to give full effect to the Views adopted by the Committee so as to guarantee the right of victims to an effective remedy when there has been a violation of the Covenant, in accordance with article 2(3) of the Covenant. It should promptly and fully implement all pending Views issued with respect to it.**

National human rights institution

9. While noting that the mandate and monitoring functions of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) have been expanded in 2014 and 2016, the Committee remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 5) that the Office of the Ombudsman still does not fully comply with the Paris Principles (art. 2).
10. **The State party should step up its efforts to achieve the full compliance of the Commissioner for Human Rights with the Paris Principles, including by strengthening its independence and by**

providing the institution with adequate financial and human resources to enable it to discharge its expanded mandate independently and effectively.

Corruption

11. While noting the measures taken to combat corruption, including the adoption of the procedure to analyse corruption risks in organizations (Government Decision No. 465 of 28 October 2016), the stiffening of sanctions for bribe taking in 2018, and the Plan of Action to implement the recommendations made by the OECD in the framework of the 2018–2019 Istanbul Action Plan, the Committee is concerned about reports that corruption, including bribe-seeking by public officials, is widespread. It is concerned that the full scope of the definition of corruption in accordance with international standards has yet to be reflected in the national criminal legislation, inter alia as regards the inclusion of proposing, demanding, and accepting the promise/offer of unlawful benefits as separate offences, the non-material bribes or benefits, and the criminalization of illicit enrichment or trading in influence, and notes in this regard that the working group established in 2016 to revise the Criminal Code would also consider corruption-related offences. The Committee is also concerned that the main specialized body in charge of detecting and investigating corruption offences, namely the Agency for state financial control and combating corruption, is not sufficiently independent from the executive branch (arts. 2 and 25).
12. **The State should take all the measures necessary to combat corruption effectively, including by revising the Criminal Code to give effect to the OECD recommendations regarding the definition and criminalization of all elements of corruption, providing relevant training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges on detecting, investigating and prosecuting corruption, and strengthening the operational and structural independence and specialization of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors dealing with corruption cases to enable the investigation of complex and high level corruption cases.**

Anti-discrimination framework

13. While noting that article 17 of the Constitution and other legislative acts guarantee equality before the law and the rights of every person without discrimination on several grounds, the Committee is concerned that the existing legal framework does not afford comprehensive protection against discrimination on all the grounds prohibited under the Covenant, and regrets the lack of information inter alia on the prohibition of discrimination in the private sphere and on effective remedies for all forms of discrimination. The Committee notes that a working group was set up in 2018 to prepare a bill on the prohibition of discrimination and regrets that no further details have been provided regarding the bill and the timeline for its adoption (arts. 2 and 26).
14. **The State party should take all the measures necessary, including by adopting a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, to ensure that its legal framework provides adequate and effective substantive and procedural protection against all forms of direct, indirect and multiple discrimination, including in the private sphere, on all the prohibited grounds under the Covenant, including colour, opinion, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity and other status, as well as access to effective and appropriate remedies for victims of discrimination.**

Discrimination and violence on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity

15. The Committee is concerned about reports of deep-rooted discrimination against LGBT individuals, including homophobic and transphobic rhetoric by public officials, violence and harassment, including arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion by law enforcement officials. The Committee is concerned about reports, although denied by the State party, that individuals suspected of being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender were identified following special operations called “Morality” and “Purge” and placed on a registry, which exacerbates their social stigmatization. The Committee is also concerned at the statement made by the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) in January 2019 that international recommendations regarding the protection of LGBT rights would not be followed because they would be contrary to the “moral and ethical norms of relationships among people in the country” (arts. 2, 7, 9, 17 and 26).

16. **The State party should: (a) provide effective protection against all forms of discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, both in law and in practice, and ensure that no such discrimination or violence is tolerated and that such conduct is properly addressed and remedied; (b) combat homophobic and transphobic discourse, including by providing appropriate training on combating discriminatory attitudes towards LGBT individuals to law enforcement and other officials, and by conduct similar awareness-raising activities aimed at the general public; and (c) investigate law enforcement practices to ensure that LGBT individuals are not registered, and end any such practices which unduly interfere with their rights, including to privacy and to liberty and security.**

Equality between men and women

17. While welcoming the measures taken to promote gender equality, including the 2011- 2020 National strategy on promoting the role of women and the Plan of Action for the period 2015–2020, the Committee is concerned that: (a) women continue to be underrepresented in political and public life, including in Parliament, in executive bodies, including local executive and local self-governing bodies, and in the judiciary; (b) despite its prohibition by law, polygamy reportedly persists in practice, including due to large numbers of religious marriages (nikokh) (arts. 2, 3, 25 and 26).
18. **The State party should strengthen the measures aimed at ensuring gender equality, including by: (a) stepping up efforts to achieve within specific time frames an equitable representation of women in political and public life, including in the Parliament, executive bodies at national and local levels and in the judiciary, particularly in decision-making positions, if necessary through appropriate temporary special measures, to give effect to the provisions of the Covenant; and (b) enforcing effectively the legal prohibition of polygamy and conducting targeted community awareness-raising campaigns.**

Violence against women, including domestic violence

19. While welcoming the various measures taken to address violence against women, including domestic violence, such as the State program on prevention of domestic violence for 2014-2023, the Committee remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 7) that domestic violence remains prevalent and is largely underreported, with 80 percent of women addressing domestic violence within the family and only 6 percent approaching law enforcement bodies or seeking the assistance of a lawyer according to the results of the medical-demographic study conducted by the State party in 2017. The Committee is also concerned about the low number of criminal prosecutions compared with the number of reported cases of domestic violence (arts. 2, 3, 7 and 26).
20. **The State party should redouble its efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women effectively, including by:**
- (a) Strengthening preventive measures, including by instituting and conducting awareness-raising and education campaigns about the unacceptability and adverse impact of violence against women, and by systematically informing women of their rights and available avenues to obtain protection, assistance and redress;**
 - (b) Establishing an effective mechanism to encourage the reporting of cases of violence against women;**
 - (c) Ensuring that law enforcement officials, the judiciary, prosecutors and other relevant stakeholders receive appropriate training on gender-sensitive detection, handling and investigation of cases of violence against women;**
 - (d) Ensuring that cases of violence against women are promptly and thoroughly investigated, that perpetrators are brought to justice and that victims have access to effective remedies and means of protection, including sufficient, safe and adequately funded shelters/crisis centres and suitable support services throughout the country.**

States of emergency

21. The Committee is concerned that existing regulations governing states of emergency, including the State of Emergency Act, do not appear to comply with the procedural and substantive requirements of article 4 of the Covenant, and that the State party has reportedly been using emergency powers, including as a counter-terrorism measure on the basis of the Electronic Communications Act and the Counter-Terrorism Act, such as the blocking access to the Internet and mobile communication services, however without a court order and without declaring officially a state of emergency (art. 4).
22. **The State party should bring its regulations and practices governing states of emergency into full compliance with the requirements of article 4 of the Covenant, as interpreted in the Committee's general comment No. 29 (2001) on derogations from provisions of the Covenant during a state of emergency, particularly by ensuring that any derogations from the Covenant rights are limited to those strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, and that no derogations from the non-derogable provisions of the Covenant are permissible.**

Combating terrorism and extremism

23. The Committee is concerned about: (a) the broad and vague definitions of terrorism (Counter-Terrorism Act of 1999), extremism (Anti-Extremism Act of 2003) and public justification of terrorist and extremist activity (amendments to the Criminal Code adopted on 14 November 2016) that may lead in practice to arbitrariness and abuse; (b) the reported misuse of such legislation to limit and repress freedom of expression of political dissidents and religious groups; and (c) the wide powers granted to security services to block access to the Internet and mobile communication during a state of emergency, including in connection with counter-terrorism operations, without court order (pursuant to the Counter-Terrorism Act as amended in 2015 and to article 33 of the Electronic Communications Act). The Committee notes that amendments to the Criminal Code and revised versions of the Counter-Terrorism Act and the Anti-Extremism Act have been prepared (arts. 2, 4, 14, 18 and 19).
24. **The State party should bring its current counter-terrorism and counter-extremism regulations and practices into full compliance with the Covenant, including with the requirements of article 4. Inter alia, it should clarify and narrow the broad definitions of terrorism, public justification of terrorist and extremist activity, and extremism (including by adding a requirement of violence or advocacy of hatred) and ensure that they comply with the principles of legal certainty and predictability and with relevant international standards, and that any limitations of human rights for national security purposes ensuing from the application of such regulations serve legitimate aims, are necessary and proportionate and are subject to appropriate safeguards. The State party should also ensure that any newly adopted counter-terrorism and counter-extremism regulations fully comply with the above principles.**

Accountability for human rights violations in connection with the security operation in Khorugh

25. The Committee regrets that the State party provided no information on the outcome of investigations (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 10) into the killing and injuring of civilians during the security operation in Khorugh city in July 2012, nor on any compensation awarded to victims or their families (arts. 2, 6 and 7).
26. **The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 10). The State party should take expeditious measures to ensure that those responsible for the killing and wounding of civilians during the security operation in Khorugh city are identified, prosecuted and convicted and that victims and their families are provided with full reparation, including adequate compensation.**

Death penalty

27. While welcoming the continued moratorium on executions since 2004 and noting that the social and legal aspects of abolishing the death penalty have been under study by a dedicated working group since 2010, the Committee regrets the lack of progress made towards the abolition of the death penalty de jure and the accession to, or ratification of, the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (art. 6).
28. **The State party should maintain and ensure compliance with the moratorium on executions and**

take concrete steps, within a clear timeframe, towards the abolition of the death penalty and the accession to, or ratification of, the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

Deaths in custody

29. The Committee remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 9) about reports of deaths in custody reportedly caused by torture and ill-treatment and high rates of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS among prisoners, and regrets the lack of precise information on the number of deaths in custody in all places of deprivation of liberty, as opposed to penal institutions only, and on the specific causes of death. It is concerned about the lack of effective investigation and prosecution of such cases, including in the cases of Kurbon Mannonov, Nozimdshon Tashirpov, and Ismonboy Boboev. The Committee is equally concerned about the lack of information on any prompt, independent and impartial investigations into the deaths of 21, and respectively at least 29 prisoners during the prison riots in Khujand (November 2018) and in Vahdat town (May 2019) (arts. 2, 6, 7 and 10).
30. **The State party should abide by its obligation to respect and protect the right to life of individuals in custody by, inter alia, taking effective measures to address the underlying causes of deaths in custody, providing adequate medical care and ensuring prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigations into the circumstances surrounding deaths in custody, keeping victims' families properly informed at all stages of the investigation, bringing responsible persons to justice, where appropriate, and providing victims' families with reparation. Specifically with regard to the loss of lives during the prison riots in Khujand and in Vahdat town, the State party should carry out an investigation satisfying the standards referred to above into all cases of death, prosecuting those responsible for any excessive or disproportionate use of force during the riots, providing reparation to victims' families, and returning the remains to the relatives for burial.**

Torture and ill-treatment

31. While noting the measures taken to combat torture, including legislative reforms such as the amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2016 and the increase in the penalty for torture, the Committee remains concerned about: (a) continued reports of torture or ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, particularly for the purposes of extracting confessions, including against human rights defenders and political opponents, such as in the cases of members of the banned Islamic Renaissance Party Mahmadali Hayit and Rahmatullo Rajab, and of Zaid Saidov; (b) admission of evidence obtained by torture by domestic courts despite it being inadmissible under the law; (c) the absence of an independent mechanism to investigate all allegations of torture or ill-treatment, the low number of investigations and prosecutions (arts. 2 and 7).
32. The State party should take robust measures to eradicate torture and ill-treatment by inter alia:
- (a) **Providing adequate training on torture prevention and on humane treatment of detainees to all law enforcement officials and security forces;**
 - (b) **Ensuring that the inadmissibility of confessions obtained by torture is effectively enforced in practice by law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges;**
 - (c) **Ensuring that all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are promptly and thoroughly investigated by an independent and impartial body, that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, are punished with sanctions commensurate with the severity of the crime, and that victims and, where appropriate, their families, are provided with full reparation, including rehabilitation and adequate compensation.**

Treatment of prisoners

33. While noting the measures taken to improve conditions of detention, the Committee is concerned about: (a) overcrowding, poor material conditions of detention, high incidence of tuberculosis HIV/AIDS among inmates and lack of adequate medical care; (b) the reported use of three secret punishment cells in detention facilities in Dushanbe, Khujand to subject inmates who have violated prison rules to physical abuse and degrading or humiliating treatment; (c) the harsh conditions of detention imposed on prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment through a special prison regime (see CAT/C/TJK/CO/3);

and (d) the reported obstacles and limitations on access by the Monitoring Group under the Ombudsman to all places of deprivation of liberty, and the insufficient efforts to facilitate monitoring of such places by the International Committee of the Red Cross (arts. 7 and 10).

34. The State party should:

- (a) Take effective measures to eliminate overcrowding in places of detention, including by increasing resort to non-custodial alternative measures to detention;**
- (b) Strengthen its efforts to improve the material conditions of detention and the provision of adequate and timely medical care, in accordance with the Covenant and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and bring the special regime for prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment into compliance with the above standards;**
- (c) Abolish the use of secret punishment facilities, including the three secret cells in detention facilities in Dushanbe, Khujand and ensure humane treatment to all prisoners in all circumstances;**
- (d) Ensure that the Monitoring Group enjoys unhindered access to all places of deprivation of liberty and is able to conduct private interviews with any person deprived of liberty, and facilitate the same access and ability to the ICRC.**

Freedom of movement

- 35. The Committee is concerned at allegations of arbitrary travel bans imposed on family members, including young children, of opposition activists abroad in retaliation for their relatives' criticism of State officials and policies (arts. 12 and 19).
- 36. **The State party should ensure that any restrictions on travel abroad is justified under article 12 (3) of the Covenant, end the use of arbitrary travel bans against family members of opposition activists abroad and guarantee full respect for their freedom to leave the country.**

Independence of judiciary and fair trial

- 37. While noting the measures taken to reform the judiciary, including the constitutional amendments of 22 May 2016, the Committee remains concerned (CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 18) that the judiciary is still not fully independent owing inter alia to the role of and influence exerted by the executive and legislative branches; the criteria for selection, appointment, reappointment and dismissal of judges; and the lack of security of tenure of judges. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient independence of prosecutors, owing mainly to the procedure for their appointment and dismissal, and about the extensive powers vested in prosecutors. The Committee is concerned about allegations of unfair trials, including violations of equality of arms between the defense and prosecution; bias in favor of prosecution, violation of the presumption of innocence and extremely low acquittal rate (about 0.1 percent in 2018), unfair trials, closed to the public, in the case of the leaders of the Islamic Renaissance Party, and closed trials in cases not involving national security charges (arts. 2 and 14).
- 38. **The State party should take all measures necessary to safeguard, in law and in practice, the full independence of judges and prosecutors, including by:**
 - (a) Ensuring that procedures for the selection, appointment, reappointment, suspension, removal of and disciplinary action against judges and prosecutors are in compliance with the Covenant and relevant international standards;**
 - (b) Guaranteeing the security of tenure of judges, including by considering providing for the automatic extension of the contract of a judge for a new ten-year term if the judge has performed his duties conscientiously;**
 - (c) Reducing the excessive powers of the Prosecutor's Office;**

- (d) **Ensuring that defendants are in practice afforded all fair trial guarantees regardless of their political affiliation or opinion, including the equality of arms and the presumption of innocence;**
- (e) **Ensuring that any restrictions on the right to a public hearing are construed narrowly and are necessary, proportionate and justified in accordance with the Covenant.**

Access to legal profession and harassment of lawyers

39. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient number of lawyers (1:13,000) reportedly attributed to the dramatic drop in the number of lawyers following the implementation of the amendments of November 2015 to the *Advokatura* and Advocates' Activities Act that introduced additional qualification criteria for entry to the legal profession and the requirement that all lawyers pass the new qualification examinations. The Committee is also concerned at reports of harassment and intimidation of lawyers who take up politically sensitive cases, including harassment of their families, prosecution of such lawyers and often leading to conviction to lengthy prison terms, such as in the case of human rights lawyers Buzurgmekhr Yorov, Nuriddin Makhkamov, Shukhrat Kudratov, Jamshed Yorov and Muazzamakhon Kadirova (arts. 2, 9 and 14).

40. Taking into account the Covenant and the 1990 Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, the State party should take measures necessary to:

- (a) **Increase the number of practicing lawyers to ensure effective access to justice and to independent legal assistance;**
- (b) **Ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place, both in law and in practice, to guarantee the full independence and safety of lawyers and that they are able to carry out their legitimate duties without any harassment, undue interference or fear of arbitrary criminal prosecution and conviction or of other retaliatory measures.**

Surveillance and interception of private communications

41. The Committee is concerned that the amendments to the Operative and Search Activity Act adopted in July 2017 and the presidential decree No. 765 of November 2016, establishing a Single Communications Switching Centre, do not afford sufficient safeguards against arbitrary interference with the privacy of individuals owing inter alia to the wide powers granted to security and law enforcement agencies to monitor the entire internet traffic and access to all users' information and to the interception of communications and retrieving of data without a court order. It is concerned at reports that individuals are subject to surveillance, are fined, punished and even detained or imprisoned for visiting 'undesirable websites' or posting 'inappropriate comments' online – none of which are defined under the above regulations (arts. 17 and 19).

42. **The State party should ensure that: (a) all types of surveillance activities and interference with privacy, including online surveillance, interception of communications and communications data (metadata) and retrieval of data, are governed by appropriate legislation that is in full conformity with the Covenant, in particular articles 17 and 19, including with the principles of legality, proportionality and necessity, and that State practice conforms thereto; (b) surveillance and interception is conducted subject to judicial authorization as well as effective and independent oversight mechanisms; and (c) affected persons have proper access to effective remedies in cases of abuse.**

Freedom of conscience and religious belief

43. The Committee remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 20) that the interference by the State in religious affairs, worship and freedom of religion and the ensuing restrictions, as those set out below, are incompatible with the Covenant: (a) interference with the appointment of imams and the content of their sermons; (b) control over books and other religious materials; (c) the requirement of State permission for receiving religious education abroad; (d) the prohibition of entering a mosque for those under 18 years of age; (e) the regulations regarding the registration of religious organizations; (f) the regulations on wearing clothes during traditional or religious celebrations (2017 amendments to the Act

on Regulating Traditions, Celebrations and Rituals and the guidelines issued by the Committee for Religious Affairs in September 2017) and the prohibition of certain attire in practice, such as the hijab; (g) restrictions imposed on Christian religious minorities, including Jehovah's Witnesses (art. 18).

44. **The State party should guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of religion and belief and freedom to manifest a religion or belief in law and practice. It should revise all relevant laws and practices with a view to removing all restrictions that go beyond the narrowly construed restrictions permitted under article 18 of the Covenant.**

Conscientious objection to military service

45. The Committee, while noting that a working group was created to develop a new draft law on alternative service, remains concerned (CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 21) that the current legislation still does not provide for the right to conscientious objection to compulsory military service (art. 18).
46. **The State party should step up its efforts to adopt the legislation necessary to recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service without discrimination as to the nature of the beliefs (religious or non-religious beliefs grounded in conscience) justifying the objection, and to ensure that alternative service is not punitive or discriminatory in nature or duration by comparison with military service.**

Freedom of expression

47. The Committee remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 22) about restrictions on the freedom of expression in law and in practice that do not [appear to] comply with the Covenant, including:
- (a) Criminalization of insult or libel against the President/Leader of the Nation (art. 137 of the Criminal Code) and insult against other State officials (art. 330 of the Criminal Code);
 - (b) State control over the media resulting in self-censorship by media outlets and journalists;
 - (c) The required registration of all new periodicals and printing houses with the State Committee for National Security pursuant to the regulations adopted in February 2017;
 - (d) Periodical blocking of media platforms such as BBC and CNN and of social media and search platforms such as Facebook and YouTube;
 - (e) The required written official approval for any book that is brought into or taken out of the country;
 - (f) Obstacles to the effective exercise of the right of access to information held by public bodies in practice;
 - (g) The lack of independence of the broadcasting and licensing authority, the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting;
 - (h) Harassment of independent journalists and media workers for critically reporting on State policies and on other matters of public interest, including through intimidation, the use of civil defamation suits and the imposition of disproportionate sanctions as a result, and prosecutions on allegedly trumped-up charges, including fraud, extortion and extremism (arts. 9, 14, and 19).
48. **The State party should revise its laws and practices with a view to guaranteeing the full enjoyment of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by everyone, taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on freedoms of opinion and expression. It should, inter alia:**
- (a) **Consider decriminalizing insult or libel against the President/Leader of the Nation and insult against other State officials;**
 - (b) **Promote plurality of opinions in the media, and ensure that the media and media workers can operate free from undue State interference;**
 - (c) **Repeal or otherwise amend the laws and regulations providing for the restrictions referred to above with a view to bringing them into full compliance with the State party's obligations under the Covenant;**

- (d) **Lift all other undue restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression and ensure that any restrictions comply with the strict requirements of article 19 (3) of the Covenant;**
- (e) **Ensure that the right of access to information held by public bodies can be effectively exercised in practice, including by addressing any practical or administrative obstacles in processing information requests and by ensuring timely responses to such requests;**
- (f) **Take all measures necessary to ensure the independence of the broadcasting and licensing authority;**
- (g) **Ensure the effective protection of independent journalists and media workers against any form of intimidation and refrain from using civil and criminal provisions, including the provisions on extremism, as well as other regulations, as a tool to suppress critical reporting on matters of public interest.**

Peaceful assembly

- 49. The Committee is concerned about undue restrictions on the exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly, including those set out in the Meetings, Rallies, Demonstrations and Processions Act (2014), such as the requirement of prior authorization for holding assemblies (15 days' advance notice), limitation of assemblies to certain areas and hours of the day, the ban on night protests, the ban on persons with a record of certain administrative offences from organizing assemblies, and restrictions on participation of foreign nationals in assemblies (art. 21).
- 50. **The State party should revise its laws, regulations and practices, including the 2014 Meetings, Rallies, Demonstrations and Processions Act, with a view to guaranteeing the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of assembly both in law and in practice and to ensuring that any restrictions on the freedom of assembly comply with the strict requirements of article 21 of the Covenant.**

Freedom of association

- 51. The Committee is concerned at reports of frequent inspections of NGOs resulting in fines or even closure of some NGOs. The Committee is also concerned about the chilling effect on the activities of NGOs as a result of the financial reporting requirements introduced by the amendments to the Public Associations Act effected on 2 January 2019 aimed at preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism through NGOs. The Committee also notes that a working group was set up in May 2019 to draft a new law on non-commercial organizations, and regrets the lack of information on this draft (arts. 19 and 22).
- 52. **The State party should ensure that existing relevant laws, regulations and practices governing public associations/NGOs, including any such future regulations, are in full compliance with the provisions of articles 19 and 22 of the Covenant, including by ensuring that they do not lead in practice to undue control over or interference in the activities of NGOs.**

Participation in public affairs

- 53. The Committee notes with concern that the ban on religious and ethnicity-based political parties, introduced by the constitutional amendments of 2016, raises issues of compatibility with the Covenant. It remains concerned (see CCPR/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 24) about politically motivated harassment of opposition members that undermines genuine political pluralism, and notably about: (a) the harassment and lengthy prison sentences handed down in respect of the leaders of the Islamic Renaissance Party after unfair and closed trials (see para. 37 above) and the imprisonment of party members following the designation of the party in 2015 as 'terrorist' for their alleged involvement in the attempted violent seizure of power; (b) the persecution of members of the opposition movement Group 24 that was declared 'extremist', including prosecutions, convictions and the alleged enforced disappearance of Mr. Ehson Odinaev in 2015; (c) serious harassment, and often imprisonment, of family members of opposition groups or of individuals associated with such groups (arts. 7, 9, 14, 19, 22 and 25).
- 54. The Committee is concerned that the current electoral framework provides for undue limitations on the right to stand for elections owing to strict eligibility requirements, such as those related to language,

education and residency, and on the right to vote owing to the denial of the right to vote to any person declared incompetent by a court or serving a prison sentence, regardless of the severity of the crime. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient independence of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda and about the reported irregularities during the parliamentary elections of 2015, in particular limited or no access to state-run television for opposition politicians and minimal broadcast time to express their political views, and blocking of opposition party websites (arts. 10(3), 19, 25 and 26).

- 55. The State party should bring its electoral regulations and practices into full compliance with the Covenant, including its article 25, inter alia by:**
- (a) Giving full effect to the right of every citizen to genuinely take part in the conduct of public affairs; and fostering a culture of genuine political pluralism;**
 - (b) Refraining from using criminal laws as a tool to harass and exclude opposition members from meaningful participation in public life and electoral processes; and conducting a thorough, credible and impartial investigation into the alleged enforced disappearance of Ehsan Odinaev;**
 - (c) Revising the limitations on the right to stand for election with a view to ensuring their compatibility with the Covenant;**
 - (d) Revising legislation providing for a blanket denial of the right to vote to all convicted prisoners which does not meet the requirements of article 10 (3), read in conjunction with article 25 of the Covenant; and for denial of the right to vote to any person declared incompetent by a court;**
 - (e) Ensuring the full independence of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda;**
 - (f) Implementing equal electoral campaigning conditions for all, including equal access to State-run television.**

Dissemination and follow-up

- 56. The State party should widely disseminate the Covenant, its first Optional Protocol, its third periodic report, the written replies to the Committee's list of issues and the present concluding observations with a view to raising awareness of the rights enshrined in the Covenant among the judicial, legislative and administrative authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations operating in the country, and the general public. The State party should ensure that the periodic report, the written replies and the present concluding observations are translated into the official language of the State party.**
- 57. In accordance with rule 75, paragraph 1, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the State party is requested to provide, by 26 July 2021, information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in paragraphs 42 (Surveillance and interception of private communications), 48 (Freedom of expression) and 55 (Participation in public affairs) above.**
- 58. The Committee requests the State party to submit its next periodic report by 26 July 2025 and to include in that report specific up-to-date information on the implementation of the recommendations made in the present concluding observations and of the Covenant as a whole. The Committee also requests the State party, in preparing the report, to broadly consult civil society and non-governmental organizations operating in the country. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/268, the word limit for the report is 21,200 words. The Committee encourages all States to follow the simplified procedure when submitting their reports. Should the State party wish to follow the simplified reporting procedure for its next report, it is requested to inform the Committee accordingly, within one year of receipt of these concluding observations. The State party's replies to the list of issues prepared by the Committee under the simplified reporting procedure will constitute the next periodic report to be submitted under article 40 of the Covenant.**



Barrister Buzurgmehr Yorov is one of the most famous prisoners of conscience in the world since his imprisonment by the dictatorial regime of Tajikistan's president, Emomali Rahmon, reigning unchanged for 27 years already.

The only fault found with Buzurgmehr Yorov, to imprison him for 28 years, was that he tried to defend the Constitution and laws of Tajikistan. In the fall of 2015, he dared to announce the formation of the Committee for the Protection of Illegally Detained and Slandered IRPT Leaders.

At the trial against him, Buzurgmehr Yorov refused the state lawyer and defended himself. The well-known human rights activist Oinikhol Bobonazarova, the former dean of the Dushanbe University's law faculty, recalls that the way Yorov defended himself caused her professional admiration. With his arguments and questions, Buzurgmehr Yorov puzzled and confused the judges and the Prosecutor and made them ridiculous. Moreover, three of the 28 years, the court added to Buzurgmehr's prison term for citing of Avicenna's verses. In these four poetic lines written in Tajik (Persian) language 1000 years ago by a medieval thinker, the court saw an insult to the court and the president.

Buzurgmehr Yorov was born on July 9, 1971. Married, father of 4 children. Member of the Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan. During the 2000s, as the head of "Sipar" Law Firm, he participated in many high-profile court cases. He was not afraid to protect the interests of persons persecuted by the Tajik government for political reasons. In particular, he represented in the courts the interests of A. Turajonzod, a well-known religious and political figure, as well as the IRPT leader Muhiddin Kabiri, lawyer Fakhridin Zokirov and many others. Arrested in 2015, sentenced to 28 years of strict imprisonment.

On June 3, 2019, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention demanded that the Tajik authorities immediately release Buzurgmehr Yorov and pay him compensation.



The National Committee for the Release of
Political Hostages and Prisoners of

Tajikistan

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