

18 September 2018

Thank you Mr. Moderator!

I'm Nuriddin Rizoyi, from Tajikistan.

According to today's topic, **fundamental freedoms**, I want to focus on the **freedom of peaceful assembly and the rule of civil society in the protection of human rights and freedom of movement**.

Political movement Group 24, as a civil society and peaceful assembly organization, existed for developing a democratic society and transforming from an authoritarian regime to a real democratic state in Tajikistan.

But unfortunately, it faced many problems and serious troubles.

Although the Constitution guarantees freedom of assembly, protests are not tolerated by the government. When Group 24 called for peaceful protest in Dushanbe in October 2014, the government blocked hundreds of websites and quickly labeled Group 24 an extremist organization.

In March 2015, the founder of the Group 24, Mr. Umarali Kuwatov was assassinated by the Rahmonov's regime in Istanbul.

Another example is Mr. Maksud Ibragimov – A young member of Group 24 who was extradited illegally from Russia to Tajikistan in January 2015 and sentenced for 17 years in prison.

The movement has many political prisoners in the country which sentenced for a long period.

The dictatorial regime of Rahmonov has not stopped here, it has also used international organizations such as Interpol and Shanghai Cooperation Organization to have opposition members living abroad detained. The leader of Group 24 Mr. Suhrob Zafar was detained in Turkey at the request of the government of Tajikistan in March 2018. He remains in detention awaiting extradition and recently went on hunger strike to protest his unfair detention. He faces the risk of torture and mistreatment if he is returned to Tajikistan.

Recommendation from OSCE member countries:

- Not to believe fabricated charges issued by the Tajik government toward members of the Group 24.
- We kindly request from the Turkish authorities to release Mr. Suhrob Zafar and reveal the assassin identity of Mr. Umarali Kuwatov.
- Also we kindly request from the Russian Federation to investigate in Mr. Maksud Ibragimov's case who had Russian citizenship and release political activists such as Zulfiqahor Kholov, Saidmatzoda Olimjon, Davlatov Shokir, Nuriddin Bafoev, Qamarov Nizomiddin, Kholov Fakhriddin, Sharipov Saidamir etc...
- We kindly request from the international community to pressure the Tajik government to release political prisoners such as Maksud Ibragimov, Umedjon Solikhov, Ekhson Odinaev etc...

Thank you for your attention!