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Working sessions 10: freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights

Contribution of Tajik Centre for Human Rights, Vienna

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

Terrorists kill the innocent people, because the terrorists do not believe in freedom of expression and for them, freedom of expression and the human rights are nothing.

At the same time, there are regimes such as Tajikistan regime block social networks and alternative news channels and pressure on the journalists and activists and their family members in order to stop alternative news. The Tajik government unfortunately uses very restrictive laws, politicized regulation, and extra-legal intimidation and use of the relatives as hostages to curb independent reporting.

Here I give you one example. I was preparing to travel to Warsaw for this conference. My 8-years old son told me: “Papa, you will go to Warsaw, then they will hurt my grandmother”. I replied him: “My son, they hurt not only your grandmother, they hurt grandmothers of many Tajik children.”

My mother, Masnavikhon FAIZRAHMONOVA, is 63 years old. The security services have repeatedly interrogated her, especially during our activities, like participating at HDIM. Once my mother following an interrogation warned: “If they continue to pressure on me, I will set myself on fire.” (See <https://www.rferl.org/pp/28632256/ppt0.html>)

Moreover, all my brothers (Darweshjon, Muhamad Sidiq and Muhammadsafi), except the youngest one (Khuseinjon) have left Tajikistan, following pressures on them. As well as my relatives (for example, Muhammadsad Sirojov, Muhammadtaqi, Muhammadghazoli, etc) left the country for the same reasons.

To be a Tajik activist is not an easy job, but it is very and very dangerous.

Last week the Tajik security services interrogated two brothers of Abdusattor BOBOEV and wife of lawyer Jamshed YOROV, both HDIM 2018 participants, who are now present in this hall.

So, I urge OSCE to condemn this shameful activity publicly and call Tajikistan to stop using relatives as hostages and provide freedom of movement for all citizens.

Thanks for the attention.

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