



Content

<i>“The Committee has been working as actively this year as in previous years” (Interview with Abdusattor Boboev, Chairman of the Committee)..</i>	2
<i>Persecution and torture in Tajik prisons.....</i>	4
<i>Imprisonment of Mahmurod Odinayev.....</i>	8
<i>Oppression and harassment of opposition families.....</i>	11
<i>Shovalizoda's deportation from Austria to Tajikistan</i>	14
<i>“As long as I'm alive, I will fight for my father's rights!”</i>	19
<i>Tajik doctor Mirzoqul Hojimatov.....</i>	25
<i>The Tajik center in Moscow is threatened by the Government.....</i>	29
<i>The disappearance of members of the tajik political opposition in Russia.....</i>	31
<i>“Competent civil society is the society that is aware of laws and demands its fulfillment of their government”</i>	33
<i>Arresting people on trumped-up charges: Muslim Brotherhood.....</i>	35
<i>Murder, abduction and torture of political prisoners in Tajikistan and abroad.....</i>	40
<i>Special school or juvenile prison in Tajikistan?.....</i>	43
<i>Will justice prevail or will the guilty again get away with this?.....</i>	48
<i>Imprisonment of students for “treason”</i>	53
<i>Helping the families of convicts is considered a crime.....</i>	56
<i>The promise of amnesty led to Muhriddin's imprisonment.....</i>	57
<i>Why was a 90-year-old man arrested and imprisoned?.....</i>	59
<i>What happened in Badakhshan?.....</i>	61
<i>Protests in Khorasan.....</i>	70
<i>Arrest and prison terms for “LIKE”</i>	72
<i>Amnesty or business?.....</i>	75



**“The Committee has been working as actively this year as in previous years”
(Interview with Abdusattor Boboev, Chairman of the Committee)**

Abdusattor Boboev, chairman of the Committee for the Civil Rescue of Hostages and Political Prisoners of Tajikistan, said that in the last two years the COVID19 disease has spread all over the world, but despite this, as in other years, we are actively continuing our work.”

Interview with Abdusattor Boboev:

- Hi, please tell us briefly about the activities of the Committee in 2020 and 2021.

- Hello to all defenders, migrants and organizations that help the oppressed and political prisoners.

For the past two years the widespread spread of COVID-19 disease around the world, but despite it our Committee was as active as in previous years, every week we held all meetings online,

and all members of the Committee actively participated. The Committee considered any problems, crimes committed by the regime and by Rahmon’s family members, against prisoners and their families who are hostages of this regime. We analyzed these issues in the Committee, and then made statements, demanding that the country’s law enforcement agencies stop these crimes. We have also sent letters to human rights organizations around the



Abdusattor Boboev, chairman of the Committee for the Civil Rescue of Hostages and Political Prisoners of Tajikistan

world in various languages informing them about the crimes against humanity committed by this inhumane Government and urging them to intervene in the atrocities of the regime. In total, this year we had many significant events, including the preparation of the Committee’s magazine, which was published in previous

years. In this magazine we have collected as many crimes and atrocities of law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan as possible.

- As you said, over these two years, the Committee has

sent letters to international human rights organizations and institutions about political prisoners and their deplorable situation. Have these organizations reacted and taken action to release political prisoners?

- Our committee has been working for more than three years. During this time, we have sent 183 letters to organizations and countries; to such organizations as the UN, the European

Union, the OSCE, Freedom House, Human Rights Watch and others. We keep in touch with them and receive responses from them, and they are always ready to cooperate with us. We have also collected and sent acceptance letters to these countries for asylum seekers and political asylum seekers who wish to travel to countries where they are not in danger, and received 70 percent of these letters from our Committee helping them.

- Please tell us about Bobo Dona, as well as about the Deputy Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan Mahmurod Odinayev and Daler Sharipov. What happened to their cases?

- Fortunately, Donier Nabiyev (Bobo Dona), a 90-year-old man, was released a year later with the help of organizations and especially (the Rescue Committee), who made every effort. Journalist Daler Sharipov was also released a year later.

But Mahmurod Odinaev received an unfair sentence, he is still in prison, and according to

the information we have from prison, he is being tortured by the regime,. The government dictated to him to ask the president for clemency, but Odinaev refused,. He said:” the one who is not guilty should not be asking for forgiveness. I am an innocent political prisoner, and must be released unconditionally and with

your compensation and apologies”.

- What are your plans for the coming days and years?

- We hold an annual meeting at the end of each year. At this meeting, the Chairman

of the Committee and his deputies are re-elected. At this session, we will develop a structure and an annual work program and act accordingly.

About the crimes of the Rahmon’s regime we must inform all organizations, countries and world media. We have a lot of work plans for the coming year, which will be very bad and difficult for this regime, which no longer knows where to go.

About the crimes of the Rahmon’s regime we must inform all organizations, countries and world media. We have a lot of work plans for the coming year, which will be very bad and difficult for this regime, which no longer knows where to go.



Persecution and torture in Tajik prisons

Mavjuda Sohbnazarova, journalist and deputy chairman of the National Committee for the Protection of Political Prisoners and Hostages of Tajikistan



The Tajik government has been reluctant to respond to calls to end torture in the country's prisons following statements by the committee and other human rights groups. Even written appeals from prisoners' relatives to the Ombudsman in Tajikistan remain unanswered, while according to international human rights standards, the Ombudsman is required to respond to citizens' written appeals within three days.

It should be noted that harassment and torture are common among political prisoners: even the UN considered their sentences unfair and

demanding that the government of Tajikistan release them unconditionally, instead the government increased persecution and torture in response to UN demands.

For example, one of the political prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment is Mahmadali Hayit. Six months ago, he turned to the head of the Ministry of Justice, Mansur Umarov, with a request to return his kettle and radio confiscated by prison guards, and also to transfer the killer, who was in the same cell with him, to another place. It is still unknown whether the leadership fulfilled his demand, because after the

expiration of the six-month period, his wife was not given the opportunity to meet with him.

Savrinisso Jurabekova, wife of Mahmadali Hayit, said: *"I am allowed to see my husband once every six months. According to the visiting schedule, on November 24, 2021, I arrived at remand center No 1. Several hours passed while waiting, but I was not given the*

opportunity to see anyone. I approached the duty officer several times and asked. He did not give a definite answer. After much waiting from one officer to another, I was recently told that my

husband had violated prison rules. It was incredible because my husband has been in prison for 6 years and knows the prison rules well. Besides, he knows that we will meet on the 24th. So I was very insistent on bringing evidence. I was told that on November 24 my husband refused to go for a walk during the day and was punished for this under Articles 120 and 122 of the Criminal Code. Believe me, this is the first time I hear about this and everyone I ask is surprised. Should a person be punished for not walking? Maybe it's another secret. I am afraid that my husband was tortured and his



**Savrinisso Jurabekova,
wife of Mahmadali
Hayit**

health was damaged, or he is not registered at all. Therefore, we asked to see him from afar, but our request was denied. I wrote to the Commissioner for Human Rights, and they told me that my letter had been received and would be considered, but there was no hope, we were



**Mahmatali
Hayit**

deceived several times.”

Savrinisso Jurabekova added: *“Back on March 11, 2019, my husband said that he was constantly being tortured, and said that if he died, he would die as a result of torture. My husband was also repeatedly forced to speak out against the IRPT on television, but he refused.”*

She added, *“That's why they torture him under any pretext. Those who say that torture is not used in Tajik prisons are lying. A man who allegedly did not go for a walk was deprived of contact with his family for another six months. Isn't that pressure and torture? Will this torture get worse? At the same time, the prison staff tortured not only Mahmatali Hayit, but also his relatives. I don't know if my husband is alive or not. They didn't even let us see from afar and ease our anxiety. No one can reach us on the phone, and we have to endure half a year with expectation, fear and anxiety.”*

It was a bitter day for only one political prisoner. The situation of other political prisoners is worse, not better.

On September 16, 2021, four political prisoners, high-ranking members of the IRPT Zubaydullo Rozik, Hikmatullo Sayfullozoda, Rahmatullo Rajab and Muhammadali Fayzmuhammad wrote, in the presence of representatives of the organization, international observers, experts and the population of the country, a letter from prison to the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon asking for a review of their sentences in court.

“We firmly declare that we did not commit any crime,” they wrote. Is it a crime to be a party member?

A few days later, Hikmatullo Sayfullozoda, who was in the sanitary block of the prison, was hit on the head with a kettle. The assassination attempt on Sayfullozoda was also committed by some criminal who was outside the medical

unit. How did this person get there?

Prison officials did not respond to a request for comment, but Sayfullozoda was later sent to the punishment isolation cell (SHIZO) for punishment against

the other three authors of the letter. Why and for what sin is such a severe punishment?

Valamati Ibrohimzoda, the wife of Rahmatullo Rajab, spent several days behind bars to get an answer to this question. She wrote a letter to the Commissioner for Human Rights Umed



Hikmatullo Sayfullozoda

Bobozoda, in which she comments: *“Rahmatullo Rajab has been held in a punishment cell from November 8 to the present day. The news about the transfer of my husband and his comrades to the punishment isolation cell was widely covered in Tajik and foreign media. I have repeatedly appealed to the country's authorities to find out the reasons for my husband's transfer to SHIZO, but have not yet received an official response. Unofficially, prison officials told me that the reason for Rahmatullo Rajab's transfer to SHIZO was that he had written a letter to the president without their permission. It is alleged that by writing the letter, my husband and his accomplices violated the internal regulations of the institution.”*

I don't know how they violated the regime, but didn't you advise writing a letter to the President? That is, writing a letter to

the President is not a crime. And this action, that is, writing letters and appeals in accordance with the requirements of Articles 120 and 122 of the Criminal Code, is not considered a violation of the internal rules. Nowhere in the world is a prisoner held in a SHIZO for such action. Is it true that in accordance with Part 3 of Article 16 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, convicts do not have the right to file complaints or make proposals to the appropriate authorities or higher executive bodies, courts and prosecutors, the Commissioner for Juvenile Affairs or other state authorities and local self-government

Interstate bodies and international organizations for the protection of human rights and freedoms?

This brave woman, like the wives of the Decembrists, knocked on the doors of several offices in order to get her husband and his comrade out of the SHIZO. She spoke out against torture and injustice in prisons, but she could not do it alone, as Tajik civil society prefers to remain in a state of ignorance and blindness in the tragedy of political prisoners.

Meanwhile, human rights groups chose to remain neutral for fear of losing their livelihoods. Since society is silent, the families of political prisoners know

nothing about the situation of prisoners. Prison officials do not even consider it necessary to talk to them.

And, unfortunately, torture in prisons in Tajikistan is becoming a tradition, and

families have to deal with it alone. For example, Nilufari Rajab, the daughter of Rahmatullo Rajab, is charged under article 307 of the Criminal Code for media coverage of the transfer of prisoners to the SHIZO. This is the rule of law and justice in Tajikistan. If you protest against injustice, you will be put in jail. The date of Valamati Ibrohimzoda's appeal to the Commissioner for Human Rights Umed Bobozoda is scheduled for November 6, 2021. Although almost a month has passed since the letter, Rajab's relatives do not know anything about his health and mental state and are very upset. So we turned to the media.

Valamati Ibrohimzoda, the wife of Rahmatullo Rajab



This disappointment can be seen in Shuhrati Rahmatullo's letter to his mother: *"Mom, why didn't you tell my father not to write a letter to Emomali Rahmon? Was it not Emomali Rahmon who planted them? You are witnesses, whenever you do not apply to any institution, they answer that the order is from above. Another thing is that Emomali Rahmon is known as a dictator to the citizens of the country and to the international community. Is it legal for him to talk to her?"*

Shuhrat continued: "If you get a chance to contact my father, tell him not to write any letters! This government has ignored the letter from the UN and is now considering a letter from a citizen who is also a prisoner? If the

government were humane, it would not imprison innocent people on false charges."

What can we say? Shuhrat is right.



Shuhrati Rahmatullo

Valamat Ibrohimzoda, according to her husband, said that during the six years of imprisonment they wrote seven letters proving their innocence. This time, Ombudsman Umed Bobozoda himself,

during a meeting with the detainees, suggested that they write a letter. However, during the preparation of the letter, its authors were subjected to considerable torture, and Umed Bobozoda, the Commissioner for Human Rights, ignored everything, as if he knew nothing and did not protect the rights of these prisoners.





Imprisonment of Mahmurod Odinayev

Written by Mavjuda Sohibnazarova



In a January 13, 2021 Human Rights Watch criticized Tajikistan for imprisoning political critics of the government, including opposition activists and journalists, for political reasons. Authorities denied the allegations, stressing the correctness of their work and the lack of political will. Less than two weeks later, on January 28, 2021, a Rudaki district court sentenced Mahmurod Odinayev (one of the active members of Social-Democratic Party of Tajikistan) to 14 years in prison. Mahmurod Odinayev has been sentenced to 14 years in prison on charges of being a social media activist alongside the party's deputy chairman and criticizing the Tajik government's policies.

Judge Saikabir Jalilzoda accused Mahmurod Odinayev of hooliganism and public incitement to forcibly change Tajikistan's constitutional order, but Odinayev denied the verdict.

Along with Odinayev, his son, Habibullo Rizoiev, was on trial. The court sentenced Habibullo Rizoiev to a fine of 58,000 somoni. Father has been sentenced to 14-year-old and his son to pay a large fine, once again proving



the lack of justice in Tajikistan. In the days when the sentence of the father and son was announced by the Rudaki court, another child of the family, Shaikhmusliddin Rizoiev, was in custody awaiting the verdict.

All of this pressure and harassment began when a family's father, Mahmurod Odinayev, posted on his Facebook page a request for a peaceful protest from the mayor of Dushanbe, as well as the speaker of the Majlisi Milli, Emomali Rahmon's son. There was no response

from Rustam Emomali, but within days of the request, Mahmurod Odinayev had disappeared in Dushanbe. He was being held illegally in the GKNB (National

Security Committee) detention center. When Mahmurod Odinayev was brought to court, he could hardly walk on the shoulders of two people and was in a very bad mood. Odinayev told reporters before the verdict was announced that police officers had tortured him during his detention and injured his spine. His son Habibullah, who was with his father, said that before the arrest his father was in good condition, but now his waist and legs are

broken. He did not recognize his son Habibulloh.

The Tajik general prosecutor dismissed the father's and son's allegations as baseless, and said in a statement on February 18 in connection with a statement by the Tajik National Alliance regarding Mahmurod Odinayev's imprisonment that he had investigated the case and found the verdict justified. The prosecutor's office added that Mahmurod Odinayev and his son had been disturbing public order for 30 to 40 minutes in front of the Gissar military registration and enlistment office on October 29, 2021. Insulted officers, threatened them and said that his son will join the army by force. Observers are

skeptical of the prosecutor general's words. If a person is sentenced to 14 years in prison for violating public order and his child is fined 58 thousand somoni, then why not justify such a sentence for the children of officials and people close to their families?

Citizens of Tajikistan are outraged by the brutality of the “golden” children of officials, while they are either imprisoned or fined 58,000 somoni. There are many examples of children of officials breaking the law. Hukumov, the president's son-in-law, was fined

120 somoni when he killed and injured several people in his car, while Hukumov is one of Tajikistan's richest men. Another example, one of the president's relatives in Jamoliddin Balkhi and another in Dangara beat a police officer and another a foreigner and posed a serious health risk, but were not prosecuted. Therefore, both relatives and the opposition say that the charges against Odinayev were premeditated. Mahmurod Odinayev asked the government for permission to hold peaceful protests, thinking he lived in a democratic republic governed by

the rule of law. With Odinayev's imprisonment, the government has once again warned its opponents that it does not like any rallies in the country and will not allow people to speak



up for their rights.

The other accusation against Odinayev is that the only officially registered Social Democrat party, which speaks out against the government and considers Rahmon's election to the presidency illegal, should be punished and expelled from politics. And for this, they have been looking for a suitable time for several years, and as most of their efforts were directed at destroying the IRPT, now is the time for the party to do so. Indeed it is. Odinayev has been known for years as a civil society activist who

has campaigned against torture, but was not taken seriously at the time. Only after the protest was announced did they (current regime in RT) did see him as an opponent. The same happened to Mahmadrusi Iskandarov, Umarali Quvvatov, Sulton Quvvatov, Zayd Saidov, and several others.

When the court sentenced Shaikhmusliddin Rizoiev to six years in prison, he announced that he would be charged with attempted rape along with hooliganism, even though Shaikhmusliddin was a victim. He was attacked near the Hissar restaurant and therefore appealed to the court, but the court changed the case and charged him under Articles 237, part 2 (hooliganism) and 32-138 (attempted rape). Relatives said after the verdict was announced that Sheikhmusliddin had fallen victim to his father's political activities. Although the verdict was announced on February 26th, officials only confirmed it in an interview with RFE / RL on

March 1st. Shaikhmusliddin's mother, Mehrinigor Rizoieva, told RFE / RL on March 1st, that they were not even allowed into the courtroom and that her son had been subjected to severe torture. The case was reported in the media in October 2020. My father was free at the time. His son was a taxi driver and was beaten near a restaurant in Hissar. Mother said that her son was initially listed as a victim, but after his father disappeared, he was arrested and charged.

The hasty prosecution of the family, who did not commit a crime, shocked Tajik civil society and reassured them that Rahmon would do everything in his power to discredit the opposition. Even those who work for this government know this and turn away from justice, saying that it is “a matter of time” to please their master.

Lastly, Mahmurod Odinaev is innocent. There is no justice in Tajikistan, but God exists!





Oppression and harassment of opposition families

Written by **MUHAMMAD ODINABEK**, member of the National Pact of Tajikistan



The harassment and pressure of the families of opposition activists and political prisoners in Tajikistan is a matter of serious concern. The government has opened a criminal case under Article 307, Part 2, against anyone who is abroad, exposing the shortcomings of the current government, treating them as a traitor and a traitor.

This is revenge for those who speak out against the dictatorial, corrupt and family-based government in Tajikistan. Many dissidents now live in refugee camps in European countries and the government does not have access to them. They have found a way to put pressure on the opposition through relatives. In particular, the list of relatives, where they live and work, and how to put pressure in general has been designed and implemented for years.

In Tajik culture, respect for parents and the elderly is a very important cultural behavior, and authorities try to put pressure on opposition through parents, to influence their children.

One way to influence them is to demand that their children do not oppose the state and the government, not to take part in pickets, and return home where they are would be pardoned

by the government. Such stress affects not only the parents but also the children. There are many cases when elderly parents become ill or die from high levels of stress. We have a lot of facts and evidence on this issue that we can refer to international human rights organizations or international courts. Now, we

will briefly present some of them to the readers. This summary covers the period from 2019 to 2021:

1) On November 26, 2019, a 77-year-old father of political activist Fathuddin Saidmuhiddinov, Minhoj Saidmuhiddinov, and his son

were taken from Qubodiyon to Dushanbe for questioning. The reason was Fathuddin's participation in an anti-Rahmon rally in France; 2) On 13 December 2019, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and the European Association for Human Rights called on the Government of Tajikistan to end the harassment and pressure of the families of political activists;

3) On December 18, 2019, Nilufar Rajabova, the daughter of political prisoner Rahmatullo Rajab, was harassed and physically harassed by a law enforcement officer. The reason is

The government has opened a criminal case under Article 307, Part 2, against anyone who is abroad, exposing the shortcomings of the current government, treating them as a traitor and a traitor.

Nilufar's brother's political activities in Europe;

4) On January 13, 2020, the 63-year-old mother of a member of the Tajik National Pact, Mahmudjon Fayzrahmonov, came under further pressure to influence her children to give up their political activities in Europe;

5) On July 2, 2020, Tajik authorities forced the daughter of political prisoner Hikmatullo Saifullozoda, Farzona, to speak out against her father through a camera. The people applauded the Tajik government's action. It is an unheard-of oppression that a Muslim woman was forced to speak out against her father;

6) On July 4, 2020, Gulbarg Saifova, a political refugee in Poland, and Saifov's sister

journalist Mirzo Salimpur and psychological pressure on RFE / RL's Tajik Service Director Salimi Ayubzod;

9) On September 28, 2020, the son of political activist Muhammadzarif Saidov, Muhammadjon Saidov reported in a video message that it was precisely because of his father's activities that he was placed in a school for disadvantaged children and not even allowed to visit his mother on weekends;

10) On November 18, 2020, pressure spread over Muhammadiqbol Sadriddin and his threat to confiscate his home;

11) On May 12, 2021, Bakhtovar Jumayev, a Russian-based lawyer, told the media that his family and five activists of the Tajik Center in



Boboev Saidishak (a political refugee in Poland) was detained in Dushanbe for two months in 2015 and subjected to physical torture. One of these tortures was that he was electrocuted three times, then he sold his house and was released on \$ 30,000 bail.

Hikmatullo. Her brother Saifov Hikmatullo and her two sons, Jamshed Narzulloev and Rahmatulloev Mahmadali, had been forcibly filmed, in a documentary "Treason." Under pressure they spoke against PMT chairman Muhiddin Kabiri and the IRPT. He added that lives of his brother and sons were in danger of death;

7) On July 5, 2020, Dangara security authorities took 13 members of Janatullah Komil's family living in Germany to the security office and detained them from morning to evening. Among the detainees were 2-month-old and 3-year-old children;

8) On July 9, 2020, the National Alliance of Tajikistan reported pressure on the family of

Russia had come under pressure from Russian Security forces.

12) Boboev Saidahmad Khojaevich, Boboev Fazliddin Khojaevich, Boboev Qutbiddin Khojaevich and other members of his family and relatives have been interrogated and tortured by the GKNB in Dushanbe. In the Vose region as well, since September 2015 for their political activities. As a result of which Boboev Qutbiddin died on 8.07.21.

Boboeva Mohishams and Nuriddinova Mamlakat are both sisters and mother of Boboev Abdusattor, who have been repeatedly summoned in the Dushanbe and subjected to harassment and pressure. Unable to withstand

the pressure, 67-year-old Mamlakat Nuriddinova died in August 2017.

Boboev Saidishak (a political refugee in Poland) was detained in Dushanbe for two months in 2015 and subjected to physical torture. One of these tortures was that he was electrocuted three times, then he sold his house and was released on \$ 30,000 bail.

13) Mavluda Ghafurova, a 65-year-old mother of political activist Salmon Sultonzoda, was interrogated and tortured by the Tajik Interior

Ministry's Zafarobod District Department on 8.01.21 and 31.01.21, threatening to deprive her son of his political activities. And told her that otherwise, they will persecute her and force him to return to Tajikistan from Europe.

14) Absatorov Abdukakhor, brother of a politically active IRPT member Absatorov Abdusamad, has been subjected to monthly psychological harassment and interrogation by law enforcement officers in the Panj district, since 2016.



On January 13, 2020, the 63-year-old mother of a member of the Tajik National Pact, Mahmudjon Fayzrahmonov, came under further pressure to influence her children to give up their political activities in Europe.



Shovalizoda's deportation from Austria to Tajikistan



Written by Mahmudjon Fayzrahmon, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Tajik National Pact

The deportation of Hizbollo Shovalizoda, a Tajik citizen and activist from Austria to Tajikistan is a stigma attached to democracy and freedom in Europe. Despite strong warnings from human rights groups he was deported. After being deported from Austria to Tajikistan, Mr. Shovalizoda was sentenced to 20 years in prison behind closed doors on trumped-up charges, including treason.

Regarding the outcomes and consequences, the Austrian government was warned by Human

Rights Groups, including the Civil Committee for the Rescue of Hostages and Political Prisoners of Tajikistan (CCPR).

Austria, one of Europe's most advanced democracies, extradited Tajik activist Hizbollo Shovalizoda to Tajikistan a year ago. However, an Austrian court later ruled that his extradition to Tajikistan was illegal and that Shovalizoda had the right to reside in the country, but it was too late. By this time, Shovalizoda was already in a corner of Tajikistan's prisons, serving a 20-year sentence.

Why did Austria extradite him?

Hizbullo Shovalizoda, a young Tajik born in Abdurahmoni Jomi district, on January 27, 1991. Applied for asylum in Austria on March 21, 2019. However, due to the fact that the young man was wanted by the Tajik government on terrorism charges like other Tajik activists, his asylum application was rejected by the Austrian immigration authorities. His case then went to

trial in Austria. Following the hearing, an Austrian federal court ruled to extradite him to Tajikistan, which

drew strong criticism from Human rights organizations and activists. Those familiar with Shovalizoda's case say the Tajik embassy in Vienna has made every effort to extradite him in order to gain political advantage alongside his opponents. For nearly 30 years, Emomali Rahmon's government has used various means to repatriate dissidents from around the world, particularly from the former Soviet republics (mostly from Russia and Kazakhstan) and including Turkey and other European countries.

After being deported from Austria to Tajikistan, Mr. Shovalizoda was sentenced to 20 years in prison behind closed doors on trumped-up charges, including treason.

The British-based independent website “Open Democracy” wrote that a study had found that the extremist allegations against Shovalizoda were politically motivated. An article on the website said the Tajik general prosecutor had issued a statement thanking the Austrian government for extraditing “one extremist”.

The authoritative London-based magazine *The Economist* wrote in an article entitled “*Border Violence: Repressive Regimes Tighten Control over Its Citizens Abroad*”: “*Austria's Supreme Court has overturned his extradition, but he is currently on trial. Spends 20 years in prison for extremism. Autocratic regimes have long maintained an Interpol blacklist to trap their opponents abroad.*”

Reactions follow Shovalizoda's extradition decision

When an Austrian court ruled in favor of his extradition to Tajikistan, international human rights organizations, activists and political groups strongly criticized the Austrian authorities' decision, warning of dire consequences and serious human rights abuses.

“*It's horrible,*” wrote John Heathershaw, a professor of international relations at the University of Exeter in England. “*Shoalozoda is an activist, a member of a party and represents a minority group (from Yazghulom region) who has*

been targeted. The Austrian authorities must be aware of the risk of repatriation and their obligations under international law. Other EU countries are reluctant to deport Tajikistan for this reason.”

Two days before his extradition to Tajikistan, Tajik activists in Austria, including Abdusattor Boboev and Shohnaim Karim, a relative of Shoalozoda and a native of the Yazgulom region, staged a protest outside a police extradition center in Vienna. The activists called on the Austrian government to overturn Shoalozoda's extradition

order, as he would be tortured and detained in Tajikistan. Vaysiddin Odinayev, another Tajik activist, told RFE / RL that Shoalozoda had sought asylum in Austria, but that Austria would hand him over to the Tajik



government instead.

Another Tajik activist posted a statement on Twitter addressing Austrian Prime Minister Sebastian Kurtz and the Austrian government, saying Shoalozoda would soon be deported despite the risks of torture and imprisonment. He added: “*I guarantee that in case of extradition, he will definitely be subjected to torture and long-term detention ... This is a truly humane matter.*” Vaysiddin Odinayev, an independent Tajik activist whose brother Ehson Odinayev

disappeared from Moscow for political reasons several years ago, said: *“We urge the Austrian authorities to prevent the deportation of H. Shovalizoda, otherwise his life will be in great danger. Rakhmonov's regime is cruel to its opponents.”*

How was Shovalizoda deported?

A few days before Shovalizoda's extradition, Tajik activists in Austria hired a lawyer to prevent his extradition to Tajikistan, but this needed more time.

Tajik activists in Austria then sent letters to various Austrian authorities seeking a review of his extradition decision, but to no avail. Two days before his deportation, on March 2, 2020, Tajik activists staged a protest at a deportation police station in Vienna, urging Austrian authorities and the international community to extradite him. is subjected to torture and detention in Tajikistan.

Despite warnings and warnings from human rights defenders, on

March 4, 2020, Shovalizoda was flown from Vienna International Airport, first to Turkey and then to Tajikistan.

It should be recalled that on the same day of Shovalizoda's extradition (March 4, 2020), the European Court of Human Rights sent a response to the letter to review and prevent deportation and

upheld the decision of the Austrian Supreme Court.

The government's “happiness” and the opposition's concern. On March 5, 2020, a day after Shovalizoda's deportation, the Tajik Prosecutor-General's Office issued a statement announcing his extradition, praising his *“cooperation with the Austrian authorities.”*

In a statement, the Tajik general prosecutor called

... on European countries to repatriate the opposition, and at the end of the statement *“expressed his gratitude to them (EU countries) in the fight against international terrorism.”*

Following the same style of hostility and blackmail of the opposition, the Prosecutor General's Office declared him a member of the IRPT, while IRPT officials repeatedly said he was not a member of the IRPT, but they said he supported the opposition. the government will search for him and identify him as a terrorist. Authorities in

Tajikistan have placed Shovalizoda on a blacklist of anti-terrorism cooperation published in 2020, which includes Muhiddin Kabiri and other opposition figures, at number 820, *“Shovalizoda Hezbollah Abdullo, 27.01.1991.”*

However, in response to the Tajik Prosecutor-General's Office's allegations, the IRP issued a statement stating that Shovalizoda had never been



we ask the #Austrian authorities to stop the deportation Kh.Shovalizoda, otherwise his life #will be in great danger! Rakhmonov's #regime is merciless to his opponents! @MFA_Austria @oscepolis @AUT_OSCE @Refugees @mahmudjan



2:45 AM · Feb 27, 2020 · Twitter for Android

a member of the IRP but a supporter of the opposition. The party said his deportation was *“an act contrary to international norms and human rights, as Tajikistan is one of the countries where human rights are not respected, the judiciary is not independent, torture is carried out in prisons and under investigation.”*

The trial is behind closed doors and a 20-year prison sentence

One of the strongest arguments for the government's allegations against Shovalizoda is that his trial was held behind closed doors and that his family was not allowed to attend. If the government claims that Shovalizoda is a terrorist and *“intends to commit terrorist acts,”* then why was his trial held behind closed doors and in the presence of civil society and relatives?

On June 12, three months after his deportation, his trial was held behind closed doors and he was sentenced to 20 years in prison on trumped-up charges of membership in the IRPT and “treason.”

His relatives told RFE / RL that authorities called them and informed them. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Authorities did not inform them from the time of his trial that it was illegal.

The State Department, in its 2020 annual report on human rights, criticized the trials behind

closed doors. Tajik authorities declined to comment on the case because it was confidential. In Tajikistan, almost all politically motivated trials are kept secret so that the public is not exposed to the details of the government's fabricated allegations. Shovalizoda's 20-year sentence drew strong criticism from Rahmon's authoritarian government, but international organizations and human rights activists and political activists had long expected him to be sentenced, and have always warned Austria that if extradited, Shovalizoda will be tortured and

arrested. But the Austrian government, which was in the hands of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and had an anti-immigration policy, ignored the warnings.

Strong criticism of Austria and European countries for deporting

On June 12, three months after his deportation, his trial was held behind closed doors and he was sentenced to 20 years in prison on trumped-up charges of membership in the IRPT and “treason.”

the opposition

Although four months after Shovalizoda's deportation and 25 days after Shovalizoda's sentence, an Austrian federal court ruled on his deportation on July 7, 2020, it was too late. At the time of the Austrian court's ruling, Shovalizoda was serving a 20-year prison sentence in a corner of Tajikistan. Nadezhda Ataeva, chairwoman of the Central Asian Human Rights Association, told RFE / RL: *“Austrian lawyers have provided detailed information on the Hizbollo case”*. It turns out that the Austrian judicial authorities in

the investigation of his case were treated unfairly. We also saw a cold attitude from the country's immigration officials.

In Austria itself, the government has been criticized. On July 17, 2020, DerStandard, an influential Austrian newspaper, published an analytical report on Shovalizoda's case under the headline “*Austria must return an extradited Tajik*,” and sharply criticized the government. The article goes on to say: “*This Tajik has said that he is being persecuted and harassed in his homeland because he is a Yazgulami. He is also accused (by the government) of belonging to the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan. The party, which has been banned by authoritarian President Emomali Rahmon, is based on data from human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch.*”

“*According to the data, President Rahmon has almost all the power and controls the executive, the legislature and the judiciary,*” the article said. *When it comes to fighting terrorism, Tajikistan's legislative system does not distinguish between non-violent and violent extremism. These heinous crimes are also being used to suppress the opposition.*”

Is Austria obliged to return Shovalizoda?

Austria, one of Europe's leading democracies, has come under fire for ignoring warnings from human rights groups and human rights activists about the deportation of the Tajik opposition. The influential Austrian newspaper DerStandard

writes that Austria is obliged to take measures to bring Shovalizoda back to Austria. Human Rights Watch says Austria is at least committed to making diplomatic efforts to ensure its safety in prison.

But the Tajik government has a different view. The same government, which thanked Austria for its cooperation in repatriating Shovalizoda, said: “*The decision of the Austrian court does not apply in Tajikistan.*” In other words, the Tajik government is cooperating illegally in the deportation of its opponents to Tajikistan, but the extradition of the targeted individuals to Tajikistan will not be co-operated by the other government.

However, the Central Asian Human Rights Association says it will now submit documents related to Hizbollo's case to the EU Commissioner for Human Rights and to the UN Human Rights Committee, and is considering the possibility of his return. In addition, Shovalizoda's lawyer, Gregor Klammer, called on Austria to admit that it is responsible for the mistakes of its employees. He added that the overall pressure on the country's authorities has increased. Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia's director of Human Rights Watch, also strongly criticized the Tajik government, as well as the Austrian government, which caused a man to remain in prison for 20 years to be corrected. The support of the European Union (in this case) is also important.



“As long as I'm alive, I will fight for my father's rights!”

The Tajik authorities have filed a criminal case on extremism against Nilufar Radjabova. Nilufar, with her two disabled children, has faced threats and injustice because she is the daughter of a political prisoner and the sister of a political migrant. Nilufar wears a hijab, which is disapproved by the Tajik authorities. Currently, she is in one of the European countries, and we believe that it is necessary to tell her story, all about what have happened to her in Tajikistan.

- Nilufar, now you are in Europe, but a case of extremism has been filed against you in Tajikistan, wasn't that enough what they did to you when you were back home?

- The Tajik authorities have filed a case against me for allegedly joining the opposition in Europe. I was accused of joining the Azdo TV and Payom.net channels. These sites are considered oppositional.

The State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan filed a criminal case against me (It

was particularly the Committee for National Security that wasn't allowing her and her children to leave the country for several years). They banned her from leaving the country.

Both of her children have a severe form of disability - Osteogenesis imperfecta also called: brittle bone disease. Because of the ban, she could

not travel outside Tajikistan, she couldn't take her children outside Tajikistan for treatment.

- Were you informed about the ban on traveling abroad?

- Yes. It was 2016. After my father's arrest, the entire family was banned from traveling outside the country. My brother and sister repeatedly requested the authorities to allow them to go

abroad for work to Russia.

We were facing financial difficulties.

The family needed money

After my father's arrest, the entire family was banned from traveling outside the country. My brother and sister repeatedly requested the authorities to allow them to go abroad for work to Russia. We were facing financial difficulties.

but we were not allowed to leave the country. We couldn't find a job or leave the country. After my father was arrested, it seemed as if the whole family was in prison. We were the prisoners of Rahman's regime. People were afraid to communicate with us. They took away my both disabled children's passports. And that was a year after my father was imprisoned. They kept saying



every time that we would leave the country anyways. If we wanted to leave the country, we would have done it before our father was arrested, but we did not want to abandon our father in the prison and leave the country.

I realized one thing - our voices weren't heard. At that point my daughter was only 1.5 years old and it was very painful to see her suffering from a disease. On one hand, the authorities did not allow the adults to leave the country, but they had no compassion towards disable kids. My children's health condition worsened day by day. I requested the authorities to grant permission to take the children for treatment outside the country. And the response was always the same *"you are lying, your children are healthy!"*

There was a time when I received a call from the kindergarten, a very troubling voice on the one line asking me to come to the kindergarten immediately, stating that something happened to my son.

I don't even know how I reached kindergarten. My son's white shirt was all covered in blood, blood was gushing from his nose. Without wasting time, I quickly grabbed my son and ran towards the National Security Committee. People in the hallways looked at me with fear in their eyes, they thought the child was dead. When I got to the National Security committee building, I

started screaming from the top of my lungs, that was the scream of a crying mother with a helpless child in her arms. It's always painful remembering that day, I stood there breathing heavily, I could feel the sympathy and compassion of complete strangers passing by. Surprisingly, the employees and members of the Committee were watching me without any hesitation and any concern from the windows of their offices. They had no human compassion.

I didn't have enough money to keep my children under constant medical supervision. I worked, worked hard day and night, and tried to earn enough money for treatment. It costs more than 800-1000 somoni per month for the treatment, the

disability assistance for both kids was only 540 somoni. Sometimes I wasn't even able to receive the assistance because I was the daughter of a convict, and my brother was wanted by the government. It was



miserable to live like this. So I got admitted to the hospital with my son, to get some treatment. My kids spend most of their time in the hospital, if my son feels a little better then my daughter's condition will worsen, if my daughter recovers a little then my son's condition worsens. Every time when I was hospitalized with my kids, security forces would always keep a watch in the hospital wearing civilian clothes, they would

never leave me alone. Constant monitoring had a negative impact on my mental health. The doctors were complaining that because of me they were under pressure as well. The committee required the doctors to provide a confirmation letter that my children were really ill.

- Despite numerous psychological pressures and persecution, how did you manage to go to India with your child for treatment?

- For three months, every day I would go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Security Committee. Like a soccer ball, they threw me from one office to another. The National Security Committee said, “who am I to lift my ban”? I would go to the passport office which was located near our house several times a day, begging to give me back my passport. The world is not without good people, there were people who really wanted to help my kids. There was someone in that office that had accidentally slip



of tongue stating that there's a strict order from the National Security Committee not to return our passports. When one of the department's employees was taking me to the Head of the department for a meeting, there was a file in her

hands that accidentally fell on the floor. I was helping her to pick up the scattered papers from the floor and literally saw the ban from traveling for me and my kids. You could clearly see three different stamps on the paper: a green, a blue and a red.

After so many persecutions and persistence, I finally managed to meet with the Chairman of the Committee, Yatimov. I told him that if you don't lift the ban of travel for me and my kids, then I will have to speak with the Media and Press and will tell the world the way I was mistreated by the

government, I will tell the world that you have waged a war against disable and helpless children. I told him that they can punish me but why are they punishing my children? What do my children have to do with all of this? You may consider me the daughter of a traitor, but the children...have some mercy on the children. Eventually I managed to get the permission. I met with one of the

committee officers near the shopping complex Sadbarg, he gave me back my documents and said that for the treatment I will take my son only, that my daughter will remain in Tajikistan. Eventually we went to India under surveillance, one of the

officers was traveling with us. My son went through three major and serious surgeries. We were under constant surveillance in the Indian hospital. Indian doctors were very compassionate and felt sorry for me and my family. The doctors said that even though we're not from the same country but they really felt bad for me, they said this is very cruel and inhumane. The treatment was over, we were supposed to fly back home. And again there were some issues with the flight, we did not make it on time and we missed the flight. At the airport I was told that me and my son will travel in two different flights. At that point my son started crying hysterically, I didn't know what to do. He had fragile bones and I

was afraid to send him alone, without me. Turns out, we were not able to take that flight either. The lady, from the Committee who accompanied us, returned her ticket. I did not have a stroller/wheelchair for my son, and because I was carrying my son all that time for long hours, I developed a spinal hernia.

- Did your husband help in any way?

-What should I say, when all this happened to my family, my husband turned his back on us. I have

three children, and thankfully my oldest son is healthy. Instead of helping his kids, my husband was pressuring us. I don't know, but maybe the authorities ask him to put pressure on us. When I sued my husband, the court verdict was in his favor.

- Did you have other family members under control or under pressure?

- Yes, two surveillance cameras were installed outside our house. Anyone who would come to

our house would be questioned. My kids are registered under the treatment sanatorium for disabled children in Varzob and I could feel I was under surveillance even there where I would take my kids for treatment once a year. You



Every time when we would visit our father in prison, we would find some evidence of torture on his face, he used to hide it from us. One time, during the visit I took off his cap and saw bruises on his head and back of his head. Then I pulled up his shirt and saw more bruises from torture.

must have heard about Avangard? When the walls of my house and the entrance gate were pelted with eggs and apples, I filed a complaint to the National Security Committee and to the Ministry of internal Affairs, but no action was taken. The next day after that incident, my mom and I took public transport. There was this program broadcasting on the radio, interviewing the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ramazon Rahimzoda. The journalist asked him a question,

if the law enforcement took any action against those who pelted my house with eggs and apples. The minister replied that no one from that family has ever filed anything about the incident or addressed an issue. As soon as we heard his reply, we got off of the bus and headed towards the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We asked questions, we asked them why would the Minister make such a statement, why didn't you file our case when we filed a complaint the first time, they just kicked us out. The case was closed after three months, in the statement it said that no one had attacked our house, they also added that the initiators of that protest were three women and they have already been fined 200 Somoni.

- Can you please tell me about your father?

- Every time when we would visit our father in prison, we would find some evidence of torture on his face, he used to hide it from us. One time, during the visit I took off his cap and saw bruises on his head and back of his head. Then I pulled up his shirt and saw more bruises from torture. I

couldn't hold back my anger and went to see Mukhtodzoda. I asked them why would they torture my father? Why is my father placed in PKT? I will contact certain organizations and will complain against you. Mukhtodjzoda sarcastically replied that the PKT is an excellent place, that they feed the prisoners with bananas

and pineapple there. There were two more women next to me who were visiting their relatives, they didn't understand the sarcasm and were happy about what Mukhtodzoda said, they literally thanked him and left. I insisted on visitation with my father and spoke with Umarov. I asked him to move my father from PKT but he was mocking me. He said: see how easy it is to break you down, it's as simple as two plus two. They threatened my father that out of fifteen people that were placed in PKT, - two of them have been "broken", now it's your turn.

- When you visited your father, did he confirm that prisoners are tortured?

- Yes, my father mentioned a story of Abdukahar Davlatov. My father said Abdukahar sent my

father a message and wanted to meet and was waiting behind the door. The moment my father was stepping towards the door, the doors suddenly opened and the prison guards dragged Abdukahor inside. The guards told my father that he was breaking the rules and now they will

punish them both, my father and Abdukodiri Davlat. They threatened my father that if your wife will speak with the press, don't blame us. When seven members of our family along with Zubaidullo Roziq went visiting their family members in prison, they kept threatening us by saying that we came to the prison to protest. Now

For three months, every day I would go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Security Committee. Like a soccer ball, they threw me from one office to another. The National Security Committee said, "who am I to lift my ban"? I would go to the passport office which was located near our house several times a day, begging to give me back my passport. The world is not without good people, there were people who really wanted to help my kids.

that I am here, they keep threatening my mother by saying that you better think about your daughters.

-A criminal charges have been initiated against you, what are you going to do?

- It's been three months since I've lived away from Tajikistan. I had to run from my own country. Now my kids are under medical supervision. But I am very worried about my father and his condition. As long as I live, I will defend my father's rights and the rights of other prisoners. All rights are correlated and are equally important. Is there any law that states to defend your father's rights is forbidden? A criminal charge has been filed against me under article 2/307 . This article has been initiated against majority Tajik citizens who left Tajikistan to Europe and other countries. I don't consider myself guilty, I am just trying to tell the world what's happening inside the prisons of Tajikistan.

My father mentioned a story of Abdukahar Davlatov. My father said Abdukahar sent my father a message and wanted to meet and was waiting behind the door. The moment my father was stepping towards the door, the doors suddenly opened and the prison guards dragged Abdukahor inside. The guards told my father that he was breaking the rules and now they will punish them both, my father and Abdukodiri Davlat. They threatened my father that if your wife will speak with the press, don't blame us. When seven members of our family along with Zubaidullo Roziq went visiting their family members in prison, they kept threatening us by saying that we came to the prison to protest. Now that I am here, they keep threatening my mother by saying that you better think about your daughters.





Tajik doctor Mirzoqul Hojimatov

Written by Mahmudjon Fayzrahmon, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Tajik National Pact



Tajik doctor Mirzoqul Hojimatov (known as Mirzo Hojimuhammad) has been sentenced to five years in prison on trumped-up charges for posting on Facebook and exposing the pandemic situation in Tajikistan. He, a Russian citizen living and working as a doctor in Russia's Tyumen region, was arrested on May 22, 2021, in his native Asht district (Sugh Region, Tajikistan), and arrested eight days later. On June 1, 2021, on charges of membership in an extremist organization (Article 307). (Appendix 3 of the Criminal Code), i.e. membership in the IRPT, was sentenced to 5 years in prison. This is despite the fact that the IRPT says he left the party in 2015 and has no political affiliation.

Mirzoqul jailed for revealing COVID-19 situation?

Most media outlets and analysts attribute the arrest and imprisonment of Mirzo Hojimuhammad to his Facebook activities, but a closer look reveals that he was imprisoned for

exposing the Tajik government's misguided policy toward the coronavirus. While the government has pursued a policy of secrecy about the coronavirus, Dr. Mirzo Hojimuhammad was one of the few Tajik doctors to expose the government's misguided policies on social media.



His actions and revelations, while living and working in Russia's Tyumen region, upset the Tajik government, which eventually led to his imprisonment.

For example, while the Tajik government vehemently denied the existence of coronavirus cases in Tajikistan from February 2020 (reports of coronavirus outbreaks were reported in almost all countries around the World) until May 2020. Mirzo Hojimuhammad on April 27, 2020, against this secret policy of the government. He wrote by republishing the article "The Golden Country" or discussing the absence of COVID-19 in Tajikistan: "*Such analysis and issues are for the benefit of the nation and the country, even the authorities. Praise and praise are no longer a pain in the ass.*" He wrote: "*Diseases have*

spread, Tajikistan is a very small part of the world, we do not have any privileges.”

In April 2020, the issue of the absence of the coronavirus divided Tajik society into two groups. Facebook posts of Mirza Haji Mohammad upset by the government. In one of his posts, he even indirectly complained about the pressure and hostility of the government's fakes: *“The media accuses journalists or social media activists of treason, panic and incitement.”* So it turns out that he, as a doctor, was attacked by fakes close to the government for his revelations.

The creation of the Facebook group has attracted more government attention

On May 7, 2020, he founded the Facebook group “Doctor's Recommendations Mirzo Hajimuhammad”, and over time, more than

4,000 people joined the group. His actions drew the government's attention to him.

While the Tajik authorities have been insisting since January 2021 that the country is free of the coronavirus, Mirzo Hajimuhammad's January 2021 writings show that he does not agree with the government's policy and insistence. In a post on the same Facebook group, he questioned the *“sudden drop in the number of people suffering from COVID-19.”* On January 28, 2021, Mirzo Hajimuhammad in a post republished an article in the Asia-Plus news agency entitled *“Research: Deaths Rise in 2020”*. Why did 4,000 Tajik

citizens die? wrote: *“The analysis of death statistics in the Republic of Tajikistan, introduced by Asia-Plus, is really interesting.”* Under the same post, he called the official statistics of coronavirus infections and deaths a superficial and superficial conclusion.

Travel to Tajikistan, Prohibition, Detention and Imprisonment

Mirzoi Hojimuhammad, according to his relatives, left Russia for Tajikistan on February 4, 2021 to visit his sick mother. Although he had a return ticket to Russia on February 19, Tajik authorities did not allow him to leave the country

and told him that a case had been opened against him. After leaving for Tajikistan for the first time on April 29, he wrote a post about the government's policies and praising peace and

progress. Claiming that it had been written on someone else's phone. In this post, he wrote: *“Thank God, I saw my homeland peaceful and prosperous, and I did not see any signs of disease.”* It should be noted that the government insisted from January 2021 to June 2021 that no cases of coronavirus infection were registered and the country was free of coronavirus. The allegations, which have been questioned by experts and international organizations, and doctors have confirmed the government's claims. If Mirzo Hajimuhammad's writings are researched and followed on Facebook, every sane



person will realize that the tone of his writings after his return to Tajikistan in February 2021 is very different from his previous posts, which contains more propaganda. For example, on May 7, 2021, he wrote in another post: *“Thank God, this plague left our country, was defeated, destroyed”*. Under the same post, a facebook user asked him: *“How come COVID didn't go away all over the world, and is on the rise, but it's gone in our country, and it's infected with 13,000 people?”* He replied: *“First of all, thanks to the heroic work of medical staff and successful measures of government agencies, this result has become available to our people.”*

Therefore, some of Mirzo Hajimuhammad's relatives and friends believe that he was under strict surveillance

after his return in February 2021 until his arrest in May 2021, and that he was no longer allowed to leave Tajikistan. Unfortunately, there is not enough information on how the authorities treated him from the day he returned to Tajikistan (February 4, 2021) until his arrest (June 22), which lasted more than three months. Since his return an investigation into his case has been launched in Tajikistan.

The risk of returning to Tajikistan and the false promise of amnesty by the authorities

Mirzo Hajimuhammad returned to Tajikistan to visit his elderly mother and relatives. Many ask

why he took such a risk despite the possibility of arrest for his political and Facebook activities?

There are a number of factors that have convinced him that he will not be detained if he returns home.

One of these factors, he believed in the promise of amnesty by the authorities. Although he was expelled from the IRP in 2015 and worked as a doctor, according to his son. He wrote in 2019 that he had no political affiliation, he was arrested and charged with membership in the IRP. was sent to prison. Tajik activists and opposition

Mirzoi Hojimuhammad, according to his relatives, left Russia for Tajikistan on February 4, 2021 to visit his sick mother. Although he had a return ticket to Russia on February 19, Tajik authorities did not allow him to leave the country and told him that a case had been opened against him.

figures have repeatedly said that people should not believe the Tajik authorities' promises of amnesty and refrain from returning to their homeland at the slightest risk. But some believe these false promises of the authorities and as a

result pay the price for this optimism.

Farhod Hojimatov, Mirzoqul Hojimatov's son, told RFE / RL's Tajik Service that his father had had no problems with the authorities since 2015. *“Several years ago, they went for amnesty. They left at the time of their brother's death last year. It wasn't a problem.”*

Another factor may be that he was a Russian citizen and worked in a Russian hospital. In addition, his life (63 years old) has reached a point where he wanted to visit his elderly and sick mother. Several Tajik activists with Russian citizenship, including Izzat Amonu and Karomat Sharipov were forcibly returned to Tajikistan.

The IRPT issued a statement following the arrest of Mirza Hajimohammad urging all former members, supporters and opponents in general abroad not to “*believe the promises of the authorities and not to travel to the country.*”

Facebook, and his background in the IRP

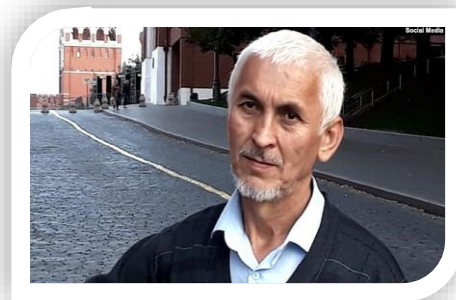
As previously reported, his writings on the coronavirus on Facebook and the creation of the Facebook group “*Doctor's Recommendations Mirzo Hojimuhammad*”, which did not agree with some government policies, attracted the attention of the Tajik security services. In addition, perhaps because he lived and worked in Russia as a doctor and had Russian citizenship, he thought that writing on Facebook would not be a headache for him in Tajikistan, even before the coronavirus. According to his relatives, the main argument against him was

one of his posts on Facebook, but it is not clear which one he wrote. His verdict is also not available. Another important factor in his imprisonment was his background in the IRPT.

Mirzo Hajimuhammad is 63 years old and prior to 2015, he served as deputy chairman of the IRPT in Sughd province and was a member of the IRPT's executive board. He thought that after five years of shutting down the IRPT and not engaging in political activities, the government would not take revenge on him. Had he not worked for the IRPT, he probably would not have been sentenced to five years in prison. The government

has repeatedly shown that it does not fully forgive those who once were politically active and then returned to non-political activities. The IRPT called his arrest “*a form of revenge against former IRPT members.*” As with other politically motivated cases, the trial of M.A. Hojimuhammad was held on June 1, 2021, in Khujand's No. 2 Detention Facility, apparently without the company of his relatives and without the media. Authorities also did not provide further details on the case or the charges against him.

Lastly, at a time when the world is suffering from the COVID-19 and doctors continue to be appreciated around the world, but the Tajik government has imprisoned a Tajik doctor, Mirzo Hojimuhammad. Last year, when the pandemic of the



coronavirus began, this doctor opened a page on Facebook, posting information, giving advice and answering people's questions around the clock. A review of users' posts on his page shows that thousands of people have benefited from his advice and their questions have been answered. The fate of this Tajik doctor, who has a long history of political activity, has once again shown that the Tajik authorities are not committed to the promise of amnesty for political activists and do not tolerate dissent. Being dissident is not an easy task in Tajikistan and requires a heavy price, such as torture and imprisonment.



The Tajik center in Moscow is threatened by the Government

Written by Amrullah Nizam, a journalist and political activist



The Tajik center in Moscow closed, but its employees face arrest and extradition to Tajikistan. After the arrest of the director of the center Izzat Amon and his extradition to Tajikistan, his employees and families in Tajikistan were subjected to pressure and harassment.

The center was created by a group of Tajik lawyers and human rights defenders.

Izzat Amon, a well-known defender of the rights of migrants, was sentenced to nine years in prison. His activities were like “thorns in the eyes” for the regime. Currently, this center could solve not only the problems of migrants, but also its own problems and remain helpless. They are also awaiting a sentence of extradition to Tajikistan. Shuhrat Qudratov and Bakhtovar Juraev reported on their Facebook pages that pressure had increased on them and that they could be extradited to Tajikistan.

A year ago Russian Security forces entered the central office at the address Volgogradsky Prospekt 28 building 1. That time Izzat Amon

was in the Russian Federation. Security forces couldn't find anything. Accusations that some interested parties spread religious ideas about the members of this center was refuted. The center



had provided not only legal assistance to migrants, but also financial and food assistance during the outbreak of the COVID 19 in Russia. The Tajik government ignored it's own citizens abroad nor helped them. When

they saw a strong opposition in the person of Izzat Amon, the Tajik government tried to sabotage this center.

On March 4, 2021, the Tverskoy District court of Moscow found that the head of the Tajik Center, Izzat Amon, guilty of “illegal activities”. The sentence placed him under threat of deportation from Russia. The sentence was pronounced and carried out on March 16, 2021.

On March 25, 2021, his disappearance was reported by colleagues of Izzat Amon. On the same day, a video of Izzat Amon's was published

on social networks. On that video Izzat claimed that he had been a Russian citizen since 1996, but a few days ago (March 16) his passport was declared invalid.

On March 26, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan filed forgery charges. This accusation was announced after his extradition and detention in Dushanbe.

Colleagues of Izzat Amon, said that he was threatened by the Tajik security services and law enforcement officials. Bakhtovar Juraev, a colleague of Izzat Amon and his assistant at the center, was one of the first to say that there is a risk of arrest and extradition of employees of the Tajik center. Later, Bakhtovar Juraev announced on his Facebook page that he had won the case and that he would no longer be extradited to Tajikistan. Optimistically, he is no longer in danger. It

should be noted that many Tajiks have won in Russian courts in recent years, but then somehow they were abducted and found in Tajikistan. Today, this factor causes deep concern of the opposition both in Russia and in Europe.

Izzat Amon's colleagues see the reason for his imprisonment as the result of expressed criticism that the Embassy and Consulate of Tajikistan in Russia cannot help migrants in any way.

This harsh criticism, and in other many cases of criticism and their popularity among tajik migrants alarmed the Tajik authorities. Emomali Rahmon's autocratic regime has been ruling for almost 30 years, the regime used every opportunity to kill his political opponents, imprisonment or forcing them to leave their homeland.

Employees of the Tajik Center in Moscow, all educated, sympathetic to the Motherland and defending the rights of migrants, have the opportunity to lead and manage the state and the crisis. On the other hand, some of their political statements indicated that they could be nominated for president in the future, the authorities, and especially Emomali Rahmon, were well aware of this and took measures.

Employees of the Tajik Center in Moscow, all educated, sympathetic to the Motherland and defending the rights of migrants, have the opportunity to lead and manage the state and the crisis. On the other hand, some of their political statements indicated that they could be nominated for president in the future, the authorities, and especially Emomali Rahmon, were well aware of this and took measures.

Employees of the Tajik Center in Moscow do not plan to leave Russia, but despite the closure of the center and violations of the rights of migrants, there are fears that at any moment they may be detained and extradited to Tajikistan. But they will not turn back from the chosen path.



The disappearance of members of the tajik political opposition in Russia

Written by Salim Sultonzoda, Board member of the Freethinking Forum of Tajikistan (FTS)



Shobuddin Badalov, a member of the political movement “Group 24” who temporarily resided in Russia, disappeared in September 2020, and was later sentenced by a court in Tajikistan to seven years in prison. The reason for the disappearance of Shobuddin Badalov is that he was very active on social networks and criticized the shortcomings of the Tajik government.



During the visit of the President of Tajikistan to Moscow in the summer of 2020, Shobuddin Badalov with other members of the political movement “Group 24” Rakhmatjon Mahmadjon, staged a protest on Red Square in Moscow. There is information that before his disappearance he had the status of a political refugee in Russia. After the disappearance of Shobuddin Badalov, another member of Group 24, Rakhmatjon Makhmadjonov, who was picketing with Badalov, had the same problem. According to media reports, he was also abducted in Russia and later appeared in

Tajikistan. The Dushanbe court behind closed doors sentenced the man to 20 years in prison.

This is not the first time that Tajik oppositionists have been kidnapped in Russia and then found in Tajikistan. There is a free-

visa regime between Russia and Tajikistan and many people who have problems with the Tajik government seek asylum in this country. But in recent years, corrupt Tajik officials with

their Russian counterparts, have kidnapped and handed over to Tajikistan these political activists, disadvantageous to the Rahmon regime.

Tens of active and former Tajik opposition members have previously disappeared in Russia. For example: Mahmadrusi Iskandarov, former chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan; Ehson Odinaev Tajik blogger; Maksud Ibrohimov political activist and leader of the Tajik youth movement; Karomat Sharipov human rights activist; Naimjon Samiev former IRPT member; Izzat Amon is a

Tajik labor rights activist and many of others who were prosecuted in Tajikistan for their political activities and then smuggled into Tajikistan from Russia.

While this material was being prepared, members of the Tajik Center in Moscow, Bakhtovar Dzhumaev and Shukhrat Kudratov, who provided legal assistance to migrant workers, received threats of extradition and abduction. The repeated appeals of the European Tajik opposition to the Russian authorities with a request to end such abuses and violations of human rights, but unfortunately, it did not give positive results, on the contrary, the Tajik authorities began to act arrogantly, increasing the number of

kidnappings in Russia and thereby intimidate labor migrants.

Disappearance of dissidents in Russia and then their appearance in Tajik prisons is against the international human rights standards. But since European countries turn a blind eye to Rahmon's activities, this becomes the reason that those abducted from Russia are kept behind closed doors for a long time. There are facts that the detained political activists are not only imprisoned by the authorities of Tajikistan, but are also subjected to torture and ill-treatment on a daily basis. Some detainees disappear altogether and their relatives have no information where their relatives are now.



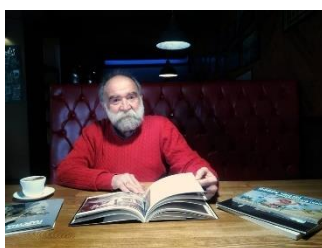


“Competent civil society is the society that is aware of laws and demands its fulfillment of their government”

The Civil Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Political Prisoners and Hostages of Tajikistan, which is based in Poland, asked the well-known human rights activist, journalist and writer, Professor Oleg Panfilov to evaluate the work of the committee and give advice for improving the human rights activities of the committee.

Salim SULTONZODA: How do you rate the work of the committee, what do you see as the pros and cons of its work, and what advice would you give to improve the quality of the committee's work?

OLEG PANFILOV: 29 years ago it was my dream when I graduated from the International School of Human Rights in Warsaw and wanted to create the first human rights organization in Tajikistan, something like the Helsinki Committee, but war broke out and I, like many of my friends and colleagues, was forced to leave. What your committee is doing now outside Tajikistan is very important and necessary work. Because, unfortunately, all human rights organizations inside Tajikistan are under control, under very strict supervision, and for the most part, in my opinion, they are completely ineffective. They are happy to receive grants, they make the appearance of work, the authorities do not touch them, because they think that it is more profitable for the image of the dictator. In fact, they are not really doing anything to change the situation. Regarding the activities of the committee itself, of course, human rights work needs to be



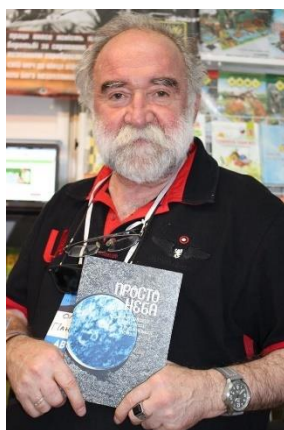
studied, and it takes a long time to learn. But the main thing that the committee is doing now and what is its merit is collecting information about people who are being persecuted, arrested, imprisoned ... But there is a lack of clear methodology and tactics for the dissemination of this information. Because in every work of a

human rights organization, it is very important to disseminate information, publish all the facts that human rights defenders collect. Well, I think the committee will

learn how to do this work as well.

Salim SULTONZODA: What do you think about the current human rights situation in Tajikistan? As we know, the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon recently visited Europe in Brussels and Paris. A high-ranking EU official also visited Dushanbe. But as it became known during these visits, the problem of human rights was not discussed. In your opinion, why did this happen? Before, the European Union paid attention to this problem, but recently everyone has closed their eyes and this issue has not been discussed at the highest level?

OLEG PANFILOV: One very important thing to remember is that international organizations or other countries will never interfere in the internal affairs of another country, no matter how dictatorial it may be, unless a civil society is created and operates inside the country. The fact that international organizations are silent about the gross violations of human rights in Tajikistan. Firstly, is the poor work of human rights organizations inside Tajikistan, it once again confirms that they are under strict control of the authorities. Secondly, it is the poor information work of the committee for the protection of political prisoners. Because the main thing in the work of a human rights organization is the constant dissemination of information. Information in the form of statements, appeals, press releases should come from the committee every day, and then international organizations and governments of other countries will have to pay attention. Another very important detail, which in my opinion should be kept in mind, is the dissemination of information in the languages used by the international community. The fact that the committee distributes information in Russian is mostly meaningless work. Because the authorities of Russia and other countries that use the Russian language, they support the dictator and they do not pay attention to your work. Therefore, the main thing now is to focus on the dissemination of information in international languages, this is primarily English, Arabic and Persian as a native



language, and then the work of the committee will be more effective.

Salim SULTONZODA: **Tajik society itself pays little attention to violations of its rights, the rights of others and the problem of political prisoners. What do you think and how should we do so that society itself begins to demand respect for its rights?**

OLEG PANFILOV: Unfortunately, this is the situation in all totalitarian, dictatorial countries, where the government controls absolutely everything, and especially since Tajikistan has experienced a terrible war and therefore people are afraid to speak out in someone's defense.

But in order to correct the situation, there is only one way out, this is an explanation, clarification, improvement of legal education. That is, the most important thing that people need to explain is what laws are, how they work and how to demand compliance with these laws. This is the only way, and everything

else is a revolution, or God forbid clashes again, these are extreme measures. A competent civil society is a society that knows the laws and demands their implementation from its authorities. Since the population is illiterate, the authorities use it, which is why this situation has developed. So the main direction of your committee is not only the dissemination of information, but also teaching people the laws, it is an explanation of what is written in the Constitution, the main power in the state is the people, so the people should know and be able to dispose of this power.



Arresting people on trumped-up charges: Muslim Brotherhood

Muhammadsaid Rizoi, political activist and board member of the National Alliance of Tajikistan



For several years now, the government of Tajikistan has announced his enemy as any person who is capable and has a good reputation among the people. In recent years, more precisely, after the so-called “court decision to ban the IRPT”, a number of politicians, political scientists, journalists, lawyers, business leaders and freethinkers have been subjected to pressure, and some of them received long prison terms and some, in order not to end up in prison, were forced to leave homeland.

Everyone knows that the authorities in Tajikistan for decades, without any evidence and on trumped-up cases, have been jailing everyone who opposes the actions of the dictatorship of the current president.

Since January 2020, Tajik law enforcement authorities have detained hundreds of Tajik citizens on charges of being members of the Muslim Brotherhood, including dozens of university professors, imams, writers and journalists. And this despite the fact that, according to relatives and lawyers representing

the detainees, most of the detainees do not know at all whether the Muslim Brotherhood is a group, party or organization!

In January, Tajikistan's Prosecutor General's Office confirmed for the first time that it had arrested 113 people on suspicion of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood and opened

criminal proceedings against them.

Yusuf Rahmon, Tajikistan's prosecutor general, denied arrests of “hundreds” but confirmed that local detainees included



university officials, many university professors and others. Official statistics put the number at 314, but civil society estimates put the number at over 1,000.

On July 7, the Supreme Court of Tajikistan began considering the case of the Muslim Brotherhood in closed pre-trial detention center No. 1, in which 116 people were detained - 114 citizens of Tajikistan and 2 citizens of Egypt. Among them was a high-ranking official from the Mayor's Office of the city of Isfara and more than 20 university professors, several students, as well as teachers from language centers.

Charges were brought against them mainly under Article 4 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, such as Article 179 Part 2 (financial assistance to organizations with extremist activities).

Article 307: Public incitement to carry out extremist activities and mass justification of extremism).

Article 307, part 2, (Organization of an extremist union (extremism).

Article 307, part 3 (Organization of activities of an extremist organization).

On July 14, the Tajik Prosecutor General's Office announced at a press conference that the case of a large group of Muslim Brotherhood members had been completed at the Tajik Prosecutor General's Office and sent to the Supreme Court for confirmation. Another 73 people hiding from the investigation have been put on the wanted list.

These arrests are, on the one hand, a widespread fear in the minds of people and, on the other hand, a source of income for a special group close to the authorities and the judiciary. Corruption in state institutions is rampant in Tajikistan, with dozens of detainees selling their homes, cars and valuables, bribing officials and fleeing the country for Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Europe.

Unfortunately, the people who fled do not want to publicly tell how much they paid a bribe, to which authorities they paid, and how they left Tajikistan, since they were threatened with persecution of family members who remained in their homeland.

And in most cases, no one, not even the lawyers of the accused, know how the trial is going on,

since all the sentences of the detainees are carried out behind closed doors and partly in closed territories.

Another point about the arrest by the Tajik authorities and the mass imprisonment of political opponents is that to date there is no clear, generally accepted definition of terrorism in the UN. Today, the generally accepted norm is that “*terrorism is the use of violence or threat*

On July 7, the Supreme Court of Tajikistan began considering the case of the Muslim Brotherhood in closed pre-trial detention center No. 1, in which 116 people were detained - 114 citizens of Tajikistan and 2 citizens of Egypt. Among them was a high-ranking official from the Mayor's Office of the city of Isfara and more than 20 university professors, several students, as well as teachers from language centers.

to achieve political, religious or ideological goals.”

Tajikistan overthrows all political opponents, journalists, businessmen, free thinkers and even lawyers who want to protect their interests, calling them “terrorists” and imprisoning them for long periods and in many cases to life imprisonment.

Tajik lawyers say: “*The case of the Muslim Brotherhood is an ideological matter, that is, the authorities believe that the detainees have “alien beliefs”, which the accused themselves do not understand and do not recognize. According to the Supreme Court: “The*

organization is prohibited in Tajikistan and, therefore, participation in it is a crime.”

Lawyers for the suspects refused to speak to the media, saying only that the case was considered “confidential” and that they were not authorized to provide information.

Relatives of many of the defendants also do not want to talk, but one of them, Nusratullo Aliyev from Bokhtar, said that he was not provided with information about his son's accusation of anything. *“I still don't know why he was detained. I often bring food to him in prison, but I have never been able to see him yet. Our lawyer barely talks to us.”* The man added that his son taught English at the Islamic University and was arrested in February.

This is how the authorities of the current regime in Tajikistan every

year arrest and imprison hundreds and sometimes thousands of innocent people on trumped-up charges.

It is not realistic to compile a full list of prisoners in the case of the Muslim Brotherhood, because, as always, the authorities have labeled these criminal cases as “top secret”. We could collect the information that became available thanks to civil society and the efforts of individuals and the information that got into the media and compiled an incomplete list, which is given below:



1. Sattorov Ikromshoh, senior lecturer at the Institute of Languages, former head of the department in the faculty of Eurasia, a native of the Dangara region.

2. Safarov Merojiddin, Doctor of Philology, radio employee, from Faizabad region.

3. Tojiddin Yakubov, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Head of the Department of the Tajik National University.

4. Abdulvahhob Abdumannon, doctoral student of TNU, former lecturer at the Islamic Institute named after Imam Abu Hanifah. A native of the Vose region.

5. Firdavs Rahimi, head of the administration of Isfara, former mayor of Shurab village, former head of Jamaat Chorkuh. A native of Isfara.

6. Kahhorov Ismoil (Mulla Ismoil, son-in-law of the family of famous theologians Turajonzoda), theologian, poet, member of the Union of Writers of Tajikistan, author of several poetry collections, including “Nasimnom”. A native of the city of Vahdat.

7. Mulla Kurbonali, grandson of the famous late theologian Mulla Safarali, former imam cathedral mosque in the city of Bokhtar. He was detained with about 25 students.

8. Amonulloh Abdurozik, head of the “Dusti” language learning center. A native of the Rudaki region.

9. Amriddin Asliddin, teacher. A native of the Farkhor region.

10. Ubaidullo, teacher. A native of the Nurabad region.

11. Abdughaffor, university lecturer. A native of the city of Istaravshan.

12. Ahliddin Halimov, resident of Jalilov Street, Bokhtar. The nephew of Said Abdullo Nuri.

13. Khasanov Abdukholik, resident of Dushanbe.

14. Taghoev Komil Sidmurodovich, born in 1981, resident of Guliston street of Puli Sangin Jamaat, Nurek.

15. Abdulloev Muslihiddin Otamurodovich, born in 1983, a native of Tutkavul jamaat near the city of Nurek.

16. Kori, grandson of Abdullo-Siyohak, born in 1991, native of Tutkavul jamaat near the city of Nurek.

17. Muhammadjoni Ibrohim, head of the Center for Medical Expertise “Ruhafzo” in the hospital Karabolo, Dushanbe.

18. Aliyorov Muhammadyunus, lecturer at the Institute of Languages, Arabic.

19. Domullo Abdulaziz is a native of Kolkhozobod.

20. Ahliddin Salimov, a native of Vakhsh.

21. Boymuhammad, former imam khatib of the Zafarabad district.

22. Rahimov Maruf, former teacher of Madras. A native of Vahdat.

23. Fayzulloev Zinnatullo, studied in Egypt (Al-Azhar), a native of Istaravshan.

24. Latipov Abdusamad, studied in Egypt (Al-Azhar), a native of Istaravshan.

25. Nodir, chairman of the football federation in Isfara.

26. Habibullo, a businessman born in Isfara.

27. Fathullo Latifi, teacher, native of Ayni district.

28. Khairiddin Abdulloh (Khairiddin Dostakov) preacher, human rights activist for migrants, native of Dushanbe (released after 1.5 years in prison).

29. Fayzulloev Ruhullo, a native of the city of Istaravshan.

30. Habibullo is a native of the city of Istaravshan.

Yusuf Rahmon, Tajikistan's prosecutor general, denied arrests of “hundreds” but confirmed that local detainees included university officials, many university professors and others. Official statistics put the number at 314, but civil society estimates put the number at over 1,000.

31. Domullo Safarkhoja, the former imam khatib of the Vakhsh district, died after interrogation and torture.

32. Abdukholik Hamroev, a native of the Kumsangir district.

33. Mahmudjon Latifi, teacher of Arabic, Tajik National University. Former candidate in parliament (2010). A native of Vahdat.

34. Naimjon Latifi (son of Mahmudjon Latifi) Arabic teacher. Tajik National University.

35. Sayfullo, a native of Istaravshan.

36. Mujohid Kahorov (son of Ismoil Kahorov), Vahdat.

37. Kori Karimjon, a native of Konibodom.

38. Hasanov Subhiddin, IRPT member, former deputy party in Hissar region.

39. Hasanov Muhammadikbol (brother of Hasanov Subhiddin), a native of the Hissar region.

40. Sharipov Daler, journalist, native of Dushanbe. (Released after 1 year in prison).

41. Hikmatshoh Homidiyon, teacher of Arabic, Khujand State University, candidate of philological sciences. A native of the Macho district.

42. Turaev Ziyodali, teacher of the Tajik State University, faculty of political sciences, a native of the Devashtich district.

43. Jabborov Khayrullo Abdurazokovich. Physician, MD, studied at Medical Institute of Khartoum, Sudan, native of Norak.

44. Sharipov Hikmatullo, a native of the city of Norak.

45. Sharipov Khayriddin, a native of the city of Norak.

46. Sharipov Munis, a native of the city of Norak.

47. Sharipov Abduhalim, a native of the city of Norak.

48. Idrisi Murod, studied in Sudan, a native of Norak

49. Khizmati Murod, a native of the city of Norak.



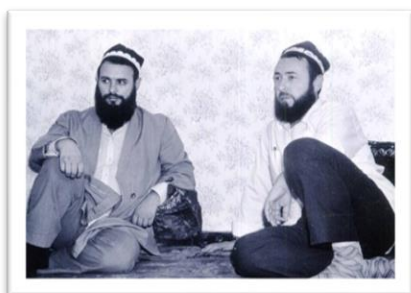


Murder, abduction and torture of political prisoners in Tajikistan and abroad

Muhammadjon Nuri, political activist and board member of the the Islamic Renaissance Party



After the signing of the agreement on the establishment of Peace in Tajikistan, the other side, that is, the Government headed by E. Rahmon, does not comply with the provisions of this agreement. But over the past two decades, the government



has repeatedly violated the basic principles of the agreement. Pressure on the opposition continues, independent media are being shut down, dissent is being persecuted at home and abroad. In addition, after pseudo-revelatory articles and reports by the authorities, as well as the murder of political prisoners in prisons in Tajikistan, escape of political activists, human rights defenders and independent journalists from the country increased. The Government has not yet given any moral or legal assessment to all this bacchanalia.

This article is about the murders, kidnappings and torture of political prisoners by Tajik security forces in recent years:

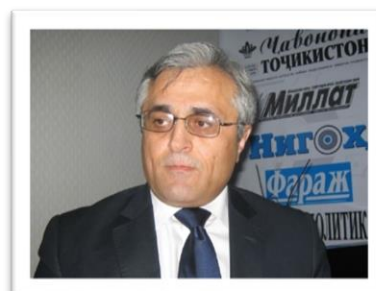
a) Murder of two Islamic Renaissance Party members:

Poisoning of the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, Said Abdullo Nuri (1947-2006).

Poisoning of a member of the Islamic Renaissance Party, Muhammadsharif Himmatzoda (1951-2010).

We have repeatedly talked about these murders, but the government has not yet given satisfactory answers to the questions raised. Which leads to different arguments.

b) Murder committed in a generally dangerous way (poisoning):



Suhrob Sharipov (1963-2015), Doctor of Political Sciences; Director of the Center for Strategic Studies.



Fayzinisso Vohidova (1963-2019), with the same traces of poisoning was discovered, she was actively criticizing the authorities.

c) Murder of Umarali Quvvatov, founder and head of the “GURUHI 24” movement:



There is a political motive in his murder. For example, the head of the “GURUHI 24” movement, Umarali Quvvatov (1968-2015), was repeatedly warned, and was also told to stop his political activities. After his refusal on March 15, 2015 in Istanbul, he was poisoned. He and his family were poisoned, after which he was killed.

d) The murder of political prisoners, as well as the abduction of a number of political activists:

In the last two decades, many political activists, both inside and outside the country, have been forcibly abducted or killed.

Shamsiddin Shamsiddinov, Deputy Chairman of the IRPT.



Qurbon Manonov, the leader of the IRPT in the city of Nurek.

Ismoil Talbakov, Leader of the Communist Party of Tajikistan.

Akbarali Sattorov, Chairman of the Union of Journalists of Tajikistan.

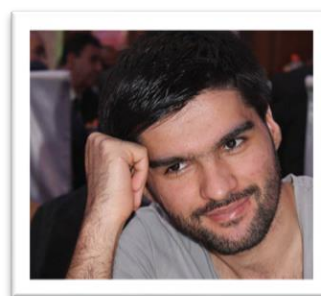
Zainiddin Rizvonov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Ground Forces of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Karomat Sharipov, human rights defender of migrant workers in Russia.

Umedjon Tojiev, IRPT activist.

Hamza Ikromzoda, Umar Bobojonov and dozens of others.

e) The abduction of Ehson Odinaev and his subsequent fate:



Ehson Odinaev, a political activist, lived in Russia. On June 16, 2015, he left the house and disappeared without a trace. He has repeatedly criticized the current government of Tajikistan. Odinaev disappeared after repeated demands by the authorities to stop criticism of the authorities.

f) The murder of Sabzali Mamadrizoev:



During a mass protest in the city of Khorog, the chairman of the IRPT branch in Khorog. After his speech to the protesters, he was brutally

killed during a special operation. Footage of the murder can still be seen on social networks.

g) The murder of General Mirzo Ziyoyev, under the pseudonym “JAGA”:



In 2010, Mirzo Ziyoyev was killed, his murder has not yet been carried out or investigated. During the special operation Mirzo was an intermediary in negotiations with the rebels. But he was killed by government forces, his murders were not properly investigated.

h) The assassination of General Abdul Halim Nazarzod and his associates:

In 2015, during special operations, Abdulhalim Nazarzoda and some members of his family



were killed. In the same year, the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan was closed. The brothers of General Nazarzod were introduced to the public of the Republic through government TV stations. But they were also found dead with their brother General Nazarzoda in the Romit mountains.

i) Abduction and extradition of Maqsud Ibrohimov, Izzat Amon, Hizbullo Shovalizoda, Abdurahim Vose and others.

Extradition to Tajikistan, through abduction. Dozens of civil society activists were abducted in Russia and extradited from the country. In



Tajikistan, they received long prison sentences. Vivid examples: Izzat Amon, Maqsud Ibrohimov, Hizbullo Shovalizoda, Abdurahim Vose and others. Despite the fact that some of those listed had Russian citizenship, their citizenship was revoked before being extradited to Tajikistan.

j) Murder of political prisoners, Karimov Sattor, Saidqiemiddini Ghazi and Saidmuhtaram Sattarov:

In May 2019, the murder of Karimov Sattor, Saidqiyomiddini Gazi and Saidmuhtaram Sattarov took place in the prison of the city of



Vahdat. Karimov Sattor under the pseudonym “Makhdumi Sattor”, as well as Saidqiemiddini Gazi were members of the IRPT. Saidmukhtor Sattarov under the pseudonym “Shaikh Timur ” was also killed. At the moment, the fate of the supporters of the IRPT, as well as 13 members of the Supreme Council of the IRPT remain unknown in prisons. They face death every day.



Special school or juvenile prison in Tajikistan?

Written by Mavjuda Sohibnazarova



“Dad, don’t write anything, and don’t say anything, otherwise they torture me here, mock me and don’t let me go home.” This is part of a telephone conversation between a 15-year-old teenager, Muhammadjon from Tajikistan, and his father, a political emigrant in one of the European states, Muhammadzarif. Muhammadjon has been living away from his parents' home for more than 8 months, warm hugs and care from his mother and relatives, and is in a special school for children who have committed serious crimes such as murder, robbery, and so on. In other words, this is a real prison for juvenile lawbreakers.

In this article, we want to tell how Muhammadjon got here without committing any crime. What did he do so badly that they put him here, depriving him of his freedom?

As we have already said, Muhammadjon is the son of the Tajik opposition leader Muhammadzarif Saidov. This boy studied in

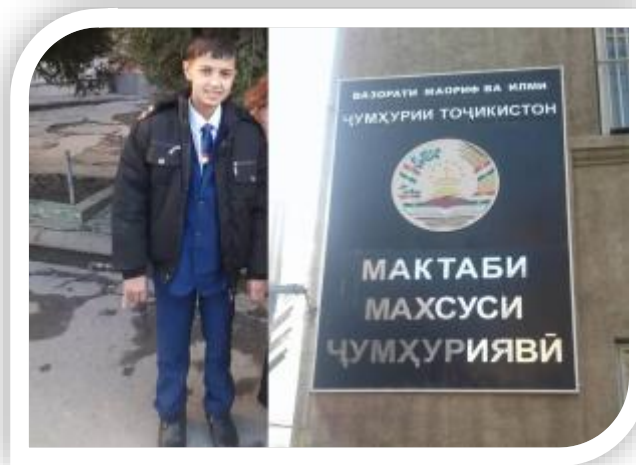
the madrasah of the city of Dhaka - the Republic of Bangladesh. The main direction of study in this madrasah is the Quran, and natural sciences along with it. Muhammadjon's passport expired and he needed to return to his

homeland to get a new one.

For this purpose, he arrived in the city of Dubai - UAE in March 2019. But he was detained there by the state security officers of Tajikistan and

returned to his homeland. According to Muhammadjon's mother, from the first days of returning to his homeland, a 13-year-old child felt all the torments of hell. Every day they were called to the State Security Department and asked various questions until midnight, demanded an answer, pressured the child to make a video appeal.

The child, out of fear, did not know what to do, and even more so, he did not have an answer to the strange questions. As a result of such treatment, the child's psyche was disturbed, and



he was mostly silent. In a conversation with his mother, he complained that he could not remember what they wanted from him because he was worried about a headache.

This is how it went on for several months. Muhammadjon's mother says that during this time she tried to get her son into school, but everywhere she was refused, referring to the fact that the child did not have documents. The district department of education, too, was refused. Employees of the State Security authorities constantly told her not to worry -

they would give him to the Presidential School.

She waited for more than a year, and in despair agreed with the teacher, and began to study at home, so that the child would remember his native language and continue his studies without problems. All the same, the son wanted to go to school like all normal children. Every day when his older brother got ready for school, he cried that he wanted to go with him.

One day, employees of the State Security Service

called me and said that a school had been found for my son. We were very happy and went there. But alas... The son was crying that he did not want not to study, and even more so to remain in this school. And I had a shock.

She waited for more than a year, and in despair agreed with the teacher, and began to study at home, so that the child would remember his native language and continue his studies without problems. All the same, the son wanted to go to school like all normal children. Every day when his older brother got ready for school, he cried that he wanted to go with him.

One day, employees of the State Security Service called me and said that a school had been found for my son. We were very happy and went there. But alas... The son was crying that he did not want not to study, and even more so to remain in this school.

And I had a shock.

And any other mother would be in such a state - this is hopelessness. The worst thing is that it was as if the decision was made at my request.

Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan, court of Rudaki district, dated April 16, 2020:

1. You are provided with a copy of the decision of the court of Rudaki district, dated April 3, 2020. On the recommendation of the local commission for the protection of the rights of the child of the Rudaki district, to determine the minor Saidov Muhammadjon Muhammadzaripovich, and send him to the

republican special school. Judge Niyozzoda S.D.

2. Underage Saidov M.M. to be placed in a special school in the city of Dushanbe.

3. We ask the principal of the school to assist in the implementation of the court decision and provide the child with all the conditions of the educational process. Responsible for the decision of the court, to appoint the chief specialist on the rights of the child of the Rudaki district - Saidmurodzoda

S.A. Chairman of the commission F. Kamolzoda. S. Saidmurodzoda, Chief Specialist on Children's Rights of the State Committee of the Rudaki District.

In 2015, the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan adopted a law (resolution) on “Protection of the Rights of the Child”. It was the first to adopt a law after 25 years of independence in Tajikistan, where children make up 35% of the population.

And at the moment, in order to somehow protect this part, there is no law, except for June 1 (Children's Day, since the times of the USSR), and a small number of societies and organizations whose activities are based on foreign grants. Based on this, we can say that our children's rights have been trampled on even before they are born (There are cases that in maternity hospitals, a mother with a newborn child is not allowed to go home until they pay for the services of doctors). And this can continue until kindergarten and school. Children at every step become hostages of the situation, and everyone maintains “peace and tranquility.”

Leafing through the law, you can make sure that in the case of beating children, no punishment is provided. Taking advantage of this, the “law enforcement” officers called the boy every day, and without the presence of a psychologist, they put pressure on him to repeat what they want in front of the camera like a parrot. This innocent child, who on his return counted on the warmth of his mother's embrace and the warmth of his native land, in a short time at every step experienced insults, humiliation and endless torment, just because his father sent him to a

religious school. And also because the Government of Tajikistan sees terrorists and extremists on the face of each such student.

A special program has even been developed to return these students to their homeland. Only after returning, the fate of Muhammadjon Saidov awaits everyone. Muhammadjon's peers are now enjoying their childhood, but the Tajik government declared him a terrorist and an extremist. If at first he was accused of studying in a madrasah, then they added the son of an “enemy of the people.”

Muhammadjon's mother says that when she asked why the child was being forcibly taken



A political emigrant in one of the European states, Muhammadzarif.

away, the employees of the State Security Service and the OCD (UBOP) told her that his father was an “enemy of the people” and that she should not ask “unnecessary” questions. When I called and

wanted to know at least something about my son, about his well-being, no one picked up the phone. In the modern world, such an attitude is not allowed even for the most dangerous criminals, which was allowed in Tajikistan in relation to an innocent child, only because his father is an opposition supporter. He is just a normal kid like everyone else.

He also wants to live a normal life and dream about something: about studying at a prestigious school (the same religious one), and in the future to become a good specialist (or an expert on the Quran).

At a press conference that took place on July 16 this year, the Tajik ombudsman was asked what fate awaits children who returned from Syria and other hot spots in the world. To which he replied: There are people who want to take them into the family and raise them as their own, and that he gladly welcomes such an initiative of his fellow citizens. So why then cannot Muhammadjon live in his own house, with his mother, grandparents?

This child did not commit any crime. Studying in a madrasah is not a crime, and a son should not be responsible for his father, an opponent of Rahmon's regime. Strange though, a crime. Don't you think? It is customary in court to provide protection even to the most dangerous criminals, but nobody granted this right to Muhammadjon Saidov and his mother. The Supreme Court made a decision, pronounced a verdict, and

handed it to a poor, defenseless, lonely mother in her troubles - identifying her son in a special school as a real criminal.

And in the court decision it is written that such a decision was made at the request of the mother. Here is part of the court decision:

The mother of a minor child, Muhammajon Saidov, Saidova Dilkho Zaydulloevna, said that her husband, Saidov M., sent his son Saidov M.M. to study abroad in March 2019. At the

initiative of the law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan, he was returned back from the city of Dubai, UAE. His mother asked the commission to help him get him into school.

This document states that his return took place in 2019, and during this time he did not attend any school. And why then Muhammadjon's right to study was not protected by either the Supreme Court, or the Ombudsman, or anyone else? The mother complains that her son was

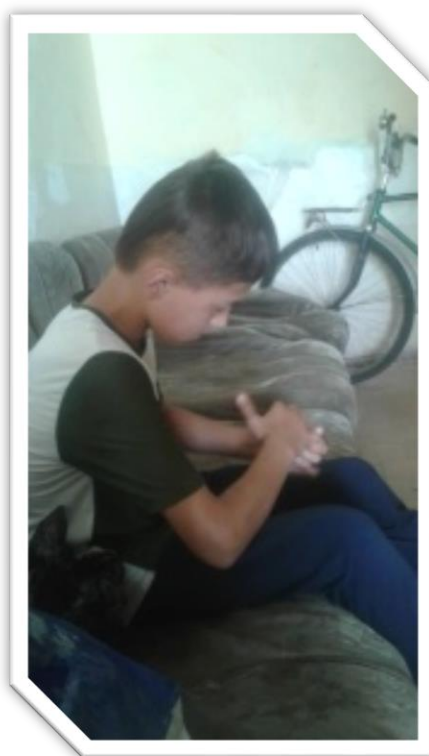
placed in a special school by deceit.

Before that, I applied to the Ministry of Education. Wasted two months there. Then one woman judged (apparently regretted) and prepared the documents.

The employees of the authorities themselves received the documents and the signature, and sent my son to a special school as a criminal. I am a mother and I am able to influence my child, to understand, to direct in the right way - and what is

important, at his age, he still needs me. Unfortunately, I was deprived of this opportunity, and of course the right.

I was deprived of the opportunity to raise my son in the family, take care of him, give him a good upbringing and a quality education. Threats and pressure are already affecting his health and have a negative impact. It looks smaller in many ways. Every time my grandfather or I visit him, he has the same



question - when will he finally get out of here? He begs me: - Please, Mommy, take me away from here. Then one boy says that I still have three whole years left. I don't want to stay in this horrible place, I want to go home.

The poor mother adds: When I talked with the teachers, they said that it was hard for him, he did not communicate with anyone. I went to the director, asked to be allowed to go home for a few days, so that I could stay at home for a while. Received a refusal: he can be released, but you need to bring a court decision. And this is due to the fact that he had not been judged before. Every time they see me off with empty promises, “they feed me

breakfast.” Life has turned into a “Walk through the torments”, between the court and the special school.

Nerves on edge - I feel very bad, no strength. But the next morning, when

you realize that your child is in trouble, the mother's heart does not understand where and how it draws strength, and I again leave the house in the hope of at least changing something. I'm calling those who put my child in this hell. They say that your son was abroad and therefore must be there. Since when is studying abroad considered a crime? In its reports to the UN, the Government of Tajikistan writes that it fulfills all the conditions of international law, but the reality is completely different.

The state, in order to defeat the opposition, violates not only the rights of children, but also

unfairly punishes them. No child should be responsible for their parents, let alone be punished. The state should take care of children regardless of who their parents are. In our case, unfortunately, all the rights of M. Saidov were violated.

23 years ago, the Government of Tajikistan signed a declaration on the rights of the child, which states that pressure, threats and violence against children are prohibited. And what is the result? Muhammadjon was forcibly taken away from his mother, placed in a special school, not allowed to see his relatives and eventually lived at home. At least in some other states, studying

abroad is considered an entry? To the numerous questions of a poor, defenseless, lonely woman, the answer is the same: do not ask unnecessary questions, “your husband is an enemy of the people,” and they hang up.

After returning, the son was in excellent health and psychological condition in accordance with his age. Instead of the 8th grade, he was sent to the 4th grade. The mother said in court that she had always been and remains against her son being placed in a special school.

After returning, the son was in excellent health and psychological condition in accordance with his age. Instead of the 8th grade, he was sent to the 4th grade. The mother said in court that she had always been and remains against her son being placed in a special school. Muhammadjon was deceived into the place of the promised Presidential School in a children's correctional colony.

P.S. *What can we ordinary citizens say in this situation: “Long live our court, the most humane court in the world” - and, in addition, clap like fools from a famous Soviet comedy.*



Will justice prevail or will the guilty again get away with this?

Mavjuda Sohbnazarova - journalist, deputy chairman of the Civil Committee for the Protection of Political Hostages and Prisoners of Tajikistan



In Tajikistan, anyone who speaks about the lack of power, bribery and corruption is branded a traitor and accused of extremism and terrorism. At the same time, they use law enforcement methods of persecution and pressure on relatives and friends to intimidate other citizens so that they also do not have a desire to criticize the

those citizens who openly oppose injustice in the country and the observance of their constitutional rights.

We have in our hands a lot of evidence of violations of the rights of citizens by the authorities, but in this article we will focus only on the example of one family that suffered a lot from the arbitrariness of the regime.



However, Junaydullo Khudoyorov stated that at the beginning of the detention, there was no talk of extremism. The reason for his detention, judging by the interrogations, was his posts in social media criticizing local authorities.

authorities and lose any interest in interfering in politics. This method of intimidation is used not only by the police, but the president of the country personally spoke on this topic more than once in his speech. In one of his speeches, he stated in plain text in a threatening tone: *“You are free to pray and fast, but if one of you interferes in politics and state affairs, he will be held accountable.”*

Long-term imprisonment on trumped-up charges indicates that in Tajikistan, in a country that is mentioned in international documents and the Constitution as a democratic and rule of law state, people do not know elementary democratic values. They consider criminals

On January 15, 2018, after 15 days of administrative arrest, Farhod Khudoyorov, the chairman of the SDP in the Rasht region, was released. After his release, Farhod Khudoyorov told Radio Liberty that his real “guilt” was that he had texted the head of the district about some problems in the region.

After the release of Farhod, his brother Junaydullo Khudoyorov, who had recently returned from Russia, was detained. Farhod was released on January 15, and already on the morning of January 22, his brother was detained by officers of the Rasht District Department of Internal Affairs and on the same day was taken to the Department of Internal

Affairs of Dushanbe. He was placed in the temporary detention center of the Internal Affairs Directorate, which is located in the Firdavsi district of Dushanbe.

An employee of the Rasht District Department of Internal Affairs told Radio Liberty that Junaydullo Khudoyorov was taken to the police department of Dushanbe city this morning, January 22, and is currently being held in the city temporary detention facility. In connection with the detention of Khudoyorov, a source said that he had “misunderstood” (befahmi) and was taken to the police station. The Rasht district police officer declined to comment further.

In connection with his brother's case, Farhod Khudoyorov said that over the past week his brother had been summoned four

times to the district police station for interrogations. He was asked about his posts on Facebook and his other online social media pages. Farhod Khudoyorov noted that from the conversation with the police, it was clear that they wanted to accuse Junaydullo of collaborating with the movements of Salafiya and Group 24, which are banned in Tajikistan. Actually, this is how it all happened. A citizen who wanted to expose the shortcomings of the local authorities was taken to the police station and asked: “On what basis did you criticize the head of the coal mine in the Rasht region and

the head of the education department for his initiative to collect nuts from schoolchildren? Based on what facts did you criticize the district tax department?”

If a similar incident were to take place in Singapore or any other similar country, he would no doubt be commended for not being indifferent to the wrongs existing in his country.

To our great regret, in Tajikistan, a criminal case was fabricated against Junaydullo Khudoyorov accusing him of extremism instead of expressing gratitude. The



Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in its decision of January 30, 2018, stated: “Citizen Junaydullo Khudoyorov, during his stay in the Russian

Federation and upon returning to his homeland in the village of Yashmi, Rasht region, called on local youth to join the Salafiya religious movement and incite religious hatred” .

However, Junaydullo Khudoyorov stated that at the beginning of the detention, there was no talk of extremism. The reason for his detention, judging by the interrogations, was his posts in social media criticizing local authorities.

“In the summer of 2017, I returned to Tajikistan from Russia. Having noticed shortcomings and injustices on the part of local authorities, I wanted to make them public so that the

authorities of the country would learn about these violations and take the necessary measures,” he told the media.

He, who just wanted to prevent violations of the law by representatives of the law and bring to the attention of the highest authorities about injustice in local authorities, was sentenced to 5 years in prison.

But his family still believed that there was justice in the judiciary of Tajikistan. Mavjigul Gharibova, the mother of Junaydullo Khudoyorov, on the morning of June 26, 2019, tried to meet with the President of Tajikistan

door of the police station until the president left the area. Only then were they allowed to leave.

On October 31, 2018, in a video message presented to the Civil Committee for the Protection of Political Hostages and Prisoners in Tajikistan, Junaydullo Khudoyorov’s mother, addressing activists on social media, said: *“Junaydullo is a brave and honest person. He could not tolerate lawlessness and injustice. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison just because he left comments on social media about violations of the law among employees of local authorities.”* She also addressed the president



Emomali Rahmon, who was at that time on a working visit to the Rasht region.

Because of this, the poor woman was detained and spent 6 hours behind bars.

Mavjigul said that when she was standing among the women, three people from among the close associates and relatives of Kanoat Loikzoda, the former head of the Rasht region, noticed her and detained her with the help of the police. Also, her sister and son-in-law were pushed into the car by force and taken to the police station. These same people, so that their illegal act would not be revealed, stood at the

with the words: *“Janobi oli (your majesty) and the court! I ask you not to rush into the consideration of my son's case and to pronounce a fair verdict. Release my son so he can return to his children.”* However, despite the mother's pleas, the court's decision remained unchanged and on October 27, 2019, Junaydullo Khudoyorov, after serving 1 year and 10 months in prison, was released under the amnesty law.

Farhod Khudoyorov was the first to announce the release of Junaydullo Khudoyorov on his Facebook page: *“Today our dear brother,*

Junaydullo Khudoyorov, who had been in prison on false charges for 22 months, was released. Congratulations on your release, dear brother. I thank all the brothers and sisters who did not leave us at this difficult moment and fought side by side with us for the triumph of justice.”

Relatives and friends of Junaydullo Khudoyorov were happy that he fell under an amnesty and was released from prison, not suspecting that their troubles would not end there. Those who were criticized by Junaydullo Khudoyorov were waiting for revenge. They did not calm down and tried with all their efforts to inflict psychological pressure on this family.

Few people in this region have the courage like Junaydullo Khudoyorov.



People calmly tolerate any arbitrariness on the part of the authorities.

And it's time for brutal revenge. On July 13, 2021, the 21-year-old nephew of Junaydullo Khudoyorov, a student of Rasht University, Alirizo Khudoyorov, was buried, who died a violent death. Junaydullo Khudoyorov, who was in labor migration to the Russian Federation after his release, urgently returned to Tajikistan. He told the media that his nephew was the victim of a personal feud, and those involved in the murder had previously testified against Junaydullo in court. Investigators of the General Prosecutor's Office of Tajikistan

initiated a criminal case against two suspects in the murder. But Khudoyorov's relatives said the incident was “premeditated” and “the work of at least five people.”

Initially, the case was investigated by the prosecutor's office of the Rasht region. However, after the relatives of Alirizo Khudoyorov appealed to the Presidential Administration and Majlisi Milli, the investigation was transferred to the General Prosecutor's office. It is worth noting that the chairmen of the above state bodies are the children of the president. The case was under investigation, but the investigation dragged on

and the Khudoyorov family were dissatisfied with the progress of the case.

Meanwhile, the media report on the initiation of a

criminal case by the Rasht District Department of Internal Affairs against social media activist Junaydullo Khudoyorov on suspicion of hooliganism. Khudoyorov himself reported this to Asia-Plus. He said that he was accused of clashes with the families of the suspects in the murder of his nephew, Alirizo Khudoyorov.

They stated that Junaydullo Khudoyorov attacked them with an ax. But Khudoyorov himself denied these accusations. He described the October 27 incident as follows: “On October 27, my mother was returning from my sister. On the way home, Alisher Nasriddin, a family member of the suspect in my nephew's

murder, stabs my mother. The mother's spine was damaged. During this time I was chopping wood. After hearing about this incident, I handed the ax to my son and ran to the scene of the fight and settled the conflict without using force.”

At the same time, the parties to the conflict were not sure whether Junaydullo Khudoyorov had an ax in his hands. “That day was the funeral of my uncle, 73-year-old Mansur Homidov. We were standing near the village mosque. The mother of Junaydullo Khudoyorov was passing by and Alisher jokingly said that she was happy about the death of our uncle. In response, she said: *“It would be better if the one who stabbed my grandson died.”*

On this basis, a conflict occurred. Junaydullo ran and began to threaten, but we don't

remember whether he had an axe in his hands or not, “the relatives of the suspects in the murder of Alirizo Khudoyorov said. Meanwhile, not only Junaydullo Khudoyorov, but also his 65-year-old mother is suspected of hooliganism. Allegedly, she hit a stone on the head of one of the relatives of the suspects. A criminal case was initiated against Mavjigul Gharibova article 237 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan - hooliganism. However, Mavjigul's relatives claim that it was she who was physically harmed.

Thus, the case of the murder of a young man, 21-year-old Alirizo Khudoyorov, in which the detained suspects pleaded guilty, has dragged on too long. And then the question arises: Will justice prevail this time or will the guilty again get away with this?





Imprisonment of students for “treason”

Sayidmahmud Burhonov, politician



The Tajik government has detained and imprisoned a number of Tajik students studying in Iran under the pretext of “high treason”; they were charged with charges which the students vehemently deny, especially charges of “treason”. A Tajik

Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) and says that one of the main conditions for the normalization of relations may be the termination of the support of the IRPT. Students were imprisoned despite the fact that they were not members of this party. The report



court has sentenced several Iranian university students to life imprisonment on charges of “high treason” (Article 305 of the Criminal Code of Tajikistan) and violating the rules for using a computer system or network (Article 304).

However, the reality is that the imprisonment of these students was political, experts point out. The arrest and sentencing of dozens of Tajik students studying in Iran comes at a time when relations between Tajikistan and Iran have been strained for at least the past five years. Dushanbe accuses Iran of supporting the

also states: “Iran alleges that Bobaki Zanjoni, an Iranian billionaire convicted of stealing oil money, hid more than two billion euros from the sale of oil in Tajikistan, and that Dushanbe must return this money without any reservations.”

The trial of the students took place secretly and behind closed doors, without lawyers.

Although the exact number of detained students is not known, the National Committee for the Rescue of Political Prisoners and Hostages of Tajikistan managed to obtain the names of some of them:



1) Muhammad Sohobnazar: son of the late Saidzakariyo Ibrohimi, from the Vose region, father of 3 children, sentenced to 6 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

2) Khayrullo Sharipov: born in 1978, native of the Hamadoni district, has 3 children, graduated from the Faculty of Law, returned to Tajikistan in 2015, sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was also held in secret;



3) Salohuddin Nuriddinov: born in 1984, from the Dangara region, has 3 children, returned to Tajikistan in 2017, doctoral student of Islamic knowledge (mysticism), sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

4) Saidmurod Obidov, son of Saidnuriddin, born in 1970, from the Kulob region, has 4 children, received a doctorate in the Quran and hadith, returned to Tajikistan in 2018, sentenced to 14 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;



5) Mustafu Amrullo: born in 1992, from the Hisor region, has 2 children, graduated in philosophy, returned to Tajikistan in 2016, sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was also held in secret;

6) Muhiddin Karimov: has 3 children, received the degree of Doctor of Hadith, sentenced to 14 years in prison, the trial was held in secret;



7) Zafar Ghafurov: from the Farkhor region, has 4 children, received a doctorate in the Quran, was sentenced to 14 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

8) Rahim Ibrohimov: from the Vose region, has 6 children, senior specialist in Islamic philosophy, sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;



9) Bahruddin Kurbon: the son of Muhammadrajab, from the Dangara region, has 3 children, was sentenced to 6 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

10) Ruhulloh Kalandarov - father of 4 children, senior specialist in Quranic sciences, sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;



11) Abdulvohid Mirzoev: father of 2 children, graduate of the Quranic faculty, sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

12) Abdurrahmon Kholisov: has 4 children, has a higher education in Islamic philosophy with knowledge of the Persian language and literature and a specialist in Islamic medicine, sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;



13) Muhammad Tuychizod: sentenced to 12 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

14) Umed Kurbonov: his trial was held in secret;



15) Zainulobidin Shamsuddinov: sentenced to 6 years in prison, his trial was held in secret;

16) Sayyid Hasan Khozi: son of Eshoni Qiyomiddin Khozi, sentenced to 11 years in prison, his trial was held in secret.

His father, Eshoni Qiyomiddin Khozi, was also sentenced to 25 years in prison for “high treason”. Killed on May 19, 2019 during an ISIS uprising in the Vahdat prison.





Helping the families of convicts is considered a crime

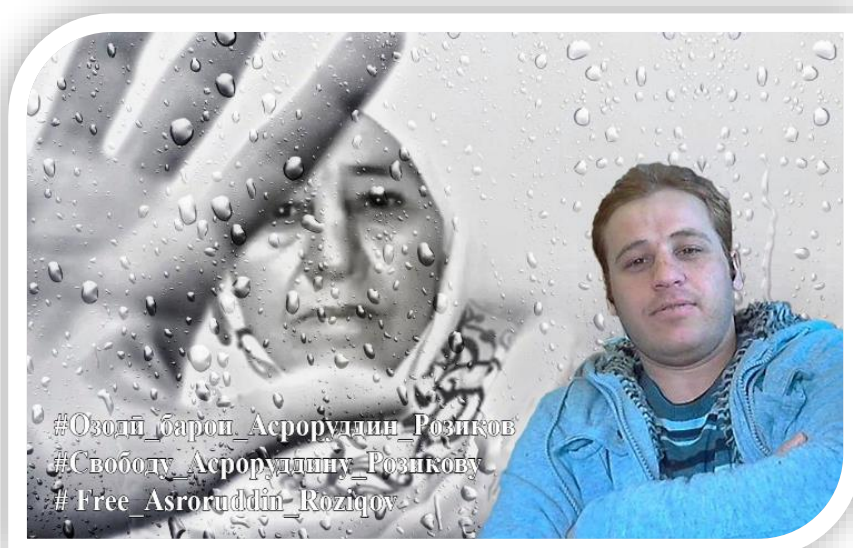
Saidisok Boboev, politician



Rozikov Asroriddin, born August 8, 1982, was sentenced by the Rahmonov regime to five years in prison under Article 307 of the Criminal Code on charges of collaborating with banned groups in 2020.

The main reason for his detention by the

sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2016. Rozikov Asroriddin is currently being held in a prison in the city of Khujand. In other countries, those who serve and help the poor and needy are recognized and rewarded with various awards for their merits by public organizations. An example is Mother Teresa, who was



Rahmonov regime was financial assistance from migrants and well-wishers to the families of political prisoners in Tajikistan. Asroriddin has done nothing but “good” for those in need, and all the accusations against him by the regime are baseless, biased and slanderous.

Asroriddin, the son of Zubaydullo Rozik, one of the IRPT political prisoners, a well-known imam and journalist, was arrested by the State Committee for National Security in 2015 and

awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but in Tajikistan such people are subjected to the most severe torture and imprisonment under the dictatorship regime of Emomali Rahmon.

We hope that justice will soon prevail in Tajikistan and the oppressors will be punished for their actions and will answer before the law and the people.

Exile is if your friends forget you!



The promise of amnesty led to Muhridin's imprisonment

Written by Muhammadrajab Shahnaimi, a political activist



The names of Muhridin Emomov and his brother Saifiddin Emomov, residents of the Vakhsh Valley in Khatlon Province, appeared in the media in 2016 when the media reported that family banned to travel to Turkey, saying that Tajik authorities would not allow their relatives to travel to Turkey.

In February 2017, after the publication of a video appeal by Muhridin's son and his brother Saifiddin Emomov, the authorities

allowed his wife, children, their mother and sister to travel to Turkey.

Muhridin was living as a refugee in Turkey until the Tajik government requested his detention in the country. He was arrested and sentenced to 11 months in prison, but was released after the charges against him were not substantiated. Later, Muhridin Emomov, a former senior lieutenant in the Tajik Interior Ministry's Drug Control Agency, returned home, believing the authorities' promises. More precisely, he returned to Tajikistan in February 2020 with the promise of an amnesty from Turkey. Instead of being promised amnesty, he

was later sentenced to six years in prison for extremism. The verdict was handed down behind closed doors, and on the morning of November 20, 2020, he called his family to say that his sentence would be read today, but the trial was over when they arrived in Dushanbe from Vakhsh.

Maidabi Khudoyorova, mother of Muhridin

Emomov, who lives in Istanbul with one of her sons, Saifuddin, expressed frustration with the sentence. Saying that her son had returned



with an amnesty promise, but that the authorities did not keep it. According to relatives, Muhridin was initially wanted on suspicion of membership in extremist groups, but was later pardoned in 2019. After returning to Tajikistan, he set up a restaurant in his hometown and ran a business until authorities discovered a theft and sued Muhridin. However, Muhridin's mother considers the authorities' actions to be premeditated and asks for help in a fair investigation. Khatlon security officials have not yet commented on how he was detained or charged. It is unknown for what crime he is held up in prison. Muhridin

Emomov's sister, Robiya Emomova, told RFE / RL on July 26 that she had gone to the detention center to meet with her brother, but had been denied entry due to the absence of an investigator.

In 2014, the Tajik government changed the country's criminal code to promise amnesty to those suspected of terrorism and extremism but living abroad. Authorities say the amnesty will be granted only if the suspects have had no criminal record and have expressed remorse. Several suspected members of banned organizations have returned to Tajikistan, but not all have been pardoned.

sentence Muhridin to seven years and six months in prison for publishing extremist material on the Internet, but the judge sentenced him to six years.

Fayzali Muzaffarov, a lawyer, said that a prosecutor had not provided any evidence to convict him. At the time of his sentencing, Muhridin asked the prosecutor to show him the videos he had posted on social media and prove his guilt, but the prosecutor could not offer anything. He has not pleaded guilty, the lawyer said. Muhridin's sister, Robiya Emomova, told reporters after her brother's sentence was announced her brother had been



Defense lawyer Muhridin Emomov called his sentence illegal and appealed to a higher court, but court officials said the verdict was in line with the current law. A criminal case has been filed against him under Article 307, Part 2 (public incitement through the use of mass media or the Internet). According to the source, the state prosecutor had asked the court to

tortured. He could not open one eye and his hands were shaking.

The media coverage of the sentencing, Muhridin Emomov's imprisonment sparked a wave of protests from Tajik civil society, with officials promising to pardon young people. However, sending them to long prison terms on trumped-up charges.



Why was a 90-year-old man arrested and imprisoned?

Ilhomjon Yoqubov, Head of the Association of Migrants of Central Asia



Doniyor Nabiyeu, 87, is from one of the largest districts in Tajikistan, Rudaki. He always tried to help those in need and distributed his modest savings to the families of political prisoners.

For several years, he provided monthly food and sometimes money to relatives of prisoners of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, which the authorities declared a terrorist organization without conclusive evidence and banned in 2015.

Nabiyeu himself was once a member of the IRPT, worked in one of the primary organizations of this party in the Rudaki region and personally knew many political prisoners who received long prison terms.

Doniyor Nabiteu twice took money from children and relatives of political prisoners who went abroad to work, and transferred them to prison for food.

That is why the State Committee for National Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs arrested him on August 27, 2020, during the

Covid-19 pandemic, on charges of participating in the activities of a banned organization.

The statement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan states:

“He received money from special services through money transfers from third countries and used them to spread extremist ideas,

purchase, publish and distribute extremist literature, recruit and mobilize youth into jihadist groups;

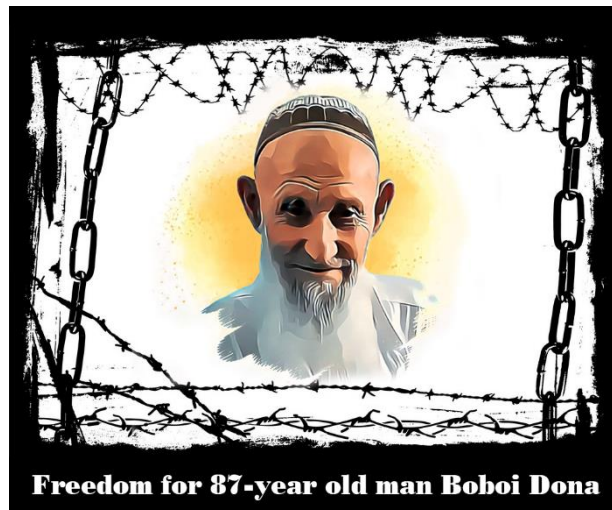
- Transferred a certain amount of funds through the Panj district of the Khatlon region to the Islamic Republic of

Afghanistan with the financial support of members of the military wing of the former terrorist organization Jamaat Ansarullah;

- The rest of the funds were used for personal purposes.”

On December 28, the Ismoili Somoni district court in Dushanbe sentenced him to seven years in prison on charges of “providing material support” to relatives of convicted IRPT members in Tajikistan.

Doniyor Nabiyeu is on a long list of more than 1,000 victims of political repression, which



began the current human rights crisis seven years ago.

His case once again proves that the authorities of Tajikistan do not neglect anything for the sake of persecuting their political opponents.

From the first day after the arrest of Doniyor Nabiyeu, the Civil Committee for the Rescue of Hostages and Political Prisoners in Tajikistan began an investigation into the case of Nabiyeu and, first of all, informed all international organizations, including the UN, the European Union and the OSCE Embassy in Tajikistan. He called on the Tajik government to immediately release Nabiyeu. For its part, Human Rights Watch said in a statement and message to the Tajik authorities:

“Doniyor Nabiyeu should not go to jail because of helping the families of political prisoners. He should be released first, at least due to the dangers associated with COVID-19, as well as for humanitarian reasons.”

Doniyor Nabiyeu was kept in appalling conditions in the pre-trial detention center from the first day, where his health deteriorated. He had previously suffered from tuberculosis and had been in the Karabolo hospital in the last months before his arrest.

Doniyor Nabiyeu, a sick and elderly man, was released from the Vahdat strict regime colony on April 23, 2021 after a long period of physical and mental torture.





What happened in Badakhshan?

On February 25, exactly three months had passed since the Tajik government blocked access to the Internet in one of Tajikistan's largest regions, the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province, with a population of about 300,000 people. For the third month, the residents of my region have been deprived of the right to access information and communication with the outside world, left alone with their problem.

The absence of the Internet had a negative impact on almost all sectors of infrastructure in the region. Thousands of people cannot get

in touch with their relatives; schoolchildren, students, employees of government agencies and international organizations suffer.

Mobile communications and the Internet were cut off after a rally began in the provincial capital of Khorog over the brutal murder of Gulbiddin Ziyebekov, a 29-year-old resident of Tavdem village in Roshtkala district, who was shot by security forces while in custody.

When Ziyebekov was detained, one of his relatives tried to intervene in the situation, but was also shot. The coffins with the bodies of Gulbiddin Ziyebekov and Tutisho Amrshoev

were brought by their relatives directly to the regional administration building, where the protesters were joined by residents of Khorog and other districts of the province. Hundreds of protesters said that Gulbiddin had been killed groundlessly and demanded that those responsible be punished. However, the authorities instead, in an ultimatum, demanded that the protesters disperse; when they refused,

the police opened fire on the unarmed protesters.

As a result, another young man, Gulnazar Murodbekov, was killed and many were injured. The



protest ended only on the fourth day after the authorities promised to conduct an objective investigation into Gulbiddin's murder and punish those responsible for his murder, remove roadblocks and restore communications. They also promised that they would not prosecute the protesters.

However, at the end of three months, the authorities have failed to fulfill any of these requirements.

It should be emphasized that law enforcement atrocities in my region over the past 10 years are becoming commonplace. The largest

special operation against the civilian population with the use of military equipment was carried out back in 2012, when the Tajik government deployed troops to the small town of Khorog. As a result of this punitive operation, 30 civilians were killed.

Many experts explain what is happening in the Pamirs. In the last 10 years, the authorities have been looking for an excuse to eliminate the most famous and influential people of Gorno-Badakhshan; they also want to pacify the Pamiri population, which is the only region of Tajikistan that still dares to raise its voice and

claim its rights and fight against corruption, permissiveness of the authorities and injustice.

The authorities want to

subjugate Badakhshan and limit our autonomy at any cost. Each time they take up arms against their own people, the Tajik government accuses innocent individuals of cooperating with a non-existent organized criminal group (OCG), illegal possession of weapons, and other alleged crimes.

This time, the law enforcers declared Gulbiddin Ziebekov a criminal without trial and treated him brutally. On the day of the murder, Gulbiddin was in his native village near a store, and he could not even imagine that in a few moments his young, innocent life would be cut

short and another plot to destabilize the situation in the Pamirs would begin. He did not know that the authorities had not yet fed up with the blood of his countrymen, that it was not enough for them to cede more than a thousand square kilometers of GBAO territory to China and place a Chinese military base on our territory; it is not enough that today the Chinese are in charge of the Murghab border (the region bordering on the PRC).

He also didn't know that, judging by numerous rumors, the Tajik government wants to lease GBAO to China and needs a reason to

destabilize the situation.

Gulbiddin did not know that he had already been sentenced to death without trial.

The fact is that the Tajik



government, showing its “humanity” before the international community, declared a moratorium on the death penalty. In fact, behind the scenes, innocent people who do not please the authorities are shot and killed just because their views and opinions do not coincide with those of the authorities.

Olim Shayukov, a resident of Tavdem village, told Radio Liberty that on that day, January 25, Gulbiddin was standing in front of a gas station with several other people. At about 11.20 a.m. a white car arrived and stopped in front of the

station, and more than ten guerrillas, all with masks and guns, got out of the bus.

Dilovar Khurramov, a witness, told Radio Liberty that Gulbiddin could not put up a resistance because he had no weapons.

“I saw the moment when Gulbiddin was shot. He was already running on the bridge when the shots rang out. He fell down once and got up. He wanted to move on, but another shot rang out. He fell down on his side and held onto the railing of the bridge with his hands very tightly. At that time, seven armed persons approached him. He was still alive when they approached

him. They wanted to lift him up, he was clinging to the bars of the bridge with both hands”, he said.

Gulbiddin Ziyebekov was dragged on the ground to the car, and then an

hour later his body was taken to the morgue in the city of Khorog. According to the conclusions of the forensic medical expertise, Gulbiddin Ziyebekov had nine gunshot wounds, four of the bullets hit his legs, the rest were in the stomach, head, and heart. The video footage published on the Internet shows the brutal way in which the law enforcers dealt with an unarmed man, wounding him and then torturing him. Even a beast is not capable of such cruelty.

From this video, it becomes clear that the purpose of this prearranged special operation was not the detention, but the physical destruction of Gulbiddin. All witnesses of this crime are ready to testify about Gulbiddin's innocence. This raises the question of why the law enforcers, having accused Gulbiddin of possessing weapons, did not accept the weapons as physical evidence immediately after they removed the body from the crime scene and why did they not take a cameraman with them to film the operation, as they usually do?



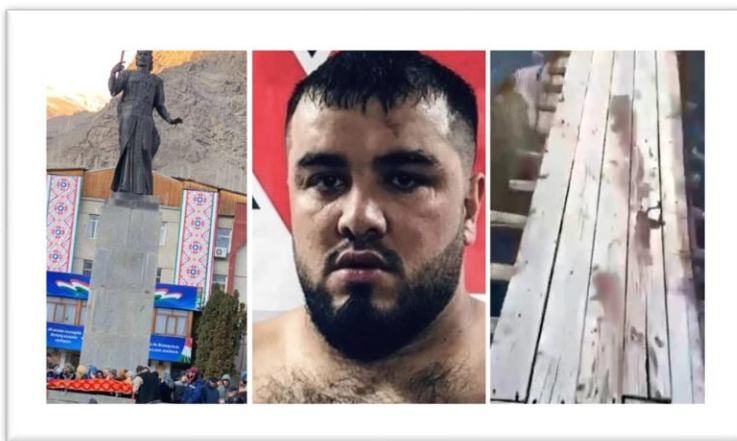
Why did the Makarov pistol appear at the scene of the crime only 40 minutes after the arrest? It is obvious that according to the initial scenario, there was no pistol during the

arrest and it was only later that the law enforcers, realizing their mistake, planted the weapon there and forced villagers as eyewitnesses to sign a paper saying that Gulbiddin was armed. He was still alive when they dragged him along the ground, and experts say it is quite possible that the weapon was placed in his hand so that his fingerprints would remain on it.

According to Gulbiddin's brother Intizor Ziyebekov, he counted seven bullet wounds on his brother's body, four on his leg and three

more in his heart, eyes and stomach. *“At first we went to the hospital to get our brother, but there we were told he was in the morgue. The doctor told us that when they brought him in, he was already dead. We took his body and decided to go to the square in front of the regional administration building so that the authorities could answer – why he was killed.”*

Gulbiddin Pevistamo Abdulmuminov's mother wonders why an entire submachine gun car arrived at the village to arrest her unarmed son. Why was it allowed to carry out an operation with weapons in a village with women, children and old people? There was a school very close to the place of the incident, and at that time, the children were in school; when they heard gunfire, which is not at all typical of a



peaceful village, not only the children but also the adults were frightened. Gulbiddin's mother said that if her son was guilty, then let him be punished according to the law and an investigation carried out.

These questions from Gulbiddin Pevistamo Abdulmuminov's mother remain unanswered. She stood steadfastly with the body of her son on Somoni Square for two days, but the regional authorities never came to them.

At the same time, Fayzmakhmad, a 73-year-old resident of the village of Tavdem, stressed that the police forced him and another old man to sign a paper saying that they had allegedly seen

weapons with Gulbiddin. We were forced to sign the statement for fear of being killed. Pevistami Abdulmuminova swears that her son did not even serve in the army and he does not even know how to use a gun.

I would like to note that the protests in Khorog ended only after the regional leadership met with the protesters and promised a thorough investigation into Ziyobekov's death. A “Commission 44” was established to jointly resolve the situation in GBAO. The authorities promised to restore Internet access as soon as the protest rally in Khorog ended.

Protesters also demanded that the authorities remove military checkpoints from the city and restore Internet access in the region. In addition, the authorities and commissioners

agreed that neither side would divulge the secrets of the investigation or give a one-sided assessment until the incident is fully investigated.

Representatives of the protesters accepted this condition, but on the next day at the meeting of the regional government the chairman of the State Security Committee, Mr. Yatimzoda violated his contractual obligations. Without waiting for the court decision he came up with his own version of “what happened”, calling Gulbiddin a criminal and a member of a non-existent organized criminal group. A few days later a video called “The Power of the Word”

was shown on state TV channels, in which the security forces called the gunned down Gulbiddin Ziebekov, Tutisho Amirshoev and Gulnazar Murodbekov “criminals”, “members of an organized criminal group”; peaceful unarmed demonstrators were called “bandits”, contrary to all international human rights norms.

Gulbiddin Ziebekov stood up for the honor of his relative, who was the victim of a sexual maniac, Abdusattor Abirzoda – a public official, the assistant prosecutor of the Roshtkala district. For this attempt, the authorities

called him an “extremist”

and noted in that video that he was a wanted man.

Meanwhile, a few days ago, Radio Liberty reported that

the GBAO law enforcement officers detained Dilovar Khurramov, one of the main witnesses of the special operation in the village of Tavdem, during which Gulbiddin Ziyobekov died. A source in the law enforcement agencies reports that *“Dilovar Khurramov allegedly insulted the head of the Roshkala district police department and threatened him with death”*. The GBAO prosecutor's office opened a criminal case against Khurramov under Article 328 part 2 (use of violence dangerous to life and health against a government official) of the Tajik Criminal Code, the Radio Liberty source



added. Now it's clear that the authorities won't stop there, and are prepared to destroy anyone who dares to oppose them or who makes it clear in any way that the so-called accusations of non-existent organized groups are nothing but a hoax.

I would like to point out several points that prove that the so-called “fight against terrorism and crime” is in fact the persecution of dissidents and political opponents through brutal murder, torture, and extrajudicial executions of civilians.

First, I want to clarify the very concept of an

organized

criminal

group, under

which the

security forces

like to put all

dissenters.

Without going

too far, let us

look at

Wikipedia,

which says that OCG is a form of crime, which is characterized by sustainable criminal activity, carried out by criminal organizations that have a hierarchical structure, material and financial base and connections with government agencies, based on corrupt mechanisms.

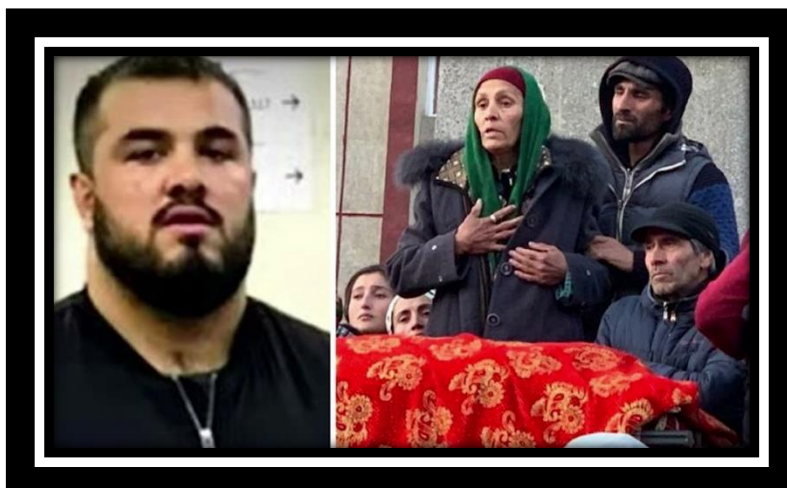
What do we see in the example of OCG in the Pamirs. Why don't the authorities say where the material and financial base of this group is connected, what bank accounts this group has, what real estate they can use in their criminal schemes, what connections they have with

representatives of state structures, what corruption schemes they develop. Moreover, the law enforcement authorities do not say what crimes have been committed by the OCG members in Pamir or in Tajikistan in general, what the group members are engaged in - murder, grand theft, drug trafficking, etc.

It turns out – none of the above. There is no evidence of the existence of such a group. It turns out that all this is a fiction of the law enforcement agencies. The question arises: if there is an OCG in the Pamirs, why has not a single resident of GBAO joined ISIS or other groups

operating abroad?

Even if we just assume that Gulbiddin Ziebekov was a criminal and a wanted man, as the law enforcers



claim, then how can we explain the fact that he came to town every day in his car and practiced boxing in the gym, which was located in the vicinity of the city police station. How could he be wanted if he was personally present at several meetings with the former head of the region, Yedgor Faizov, in the building of the regional administration. Why didn't anyone detain him? Why did the head of the region calmly host the “criminal and bandit. Why was he detained in his native village and why was he killed with such brutality without trial and then declared “a criminal”?

Civil society activists from “Commission 44” called on the authorities to put an end to one-sided coverage of the issue and demanded that such talk shows stop being shown on the state channel. According to Shokirjon Khakimov, a well-known Tajik lawyer, while the joint team is investigating the case, showing all kinds of films could be regarded as direct interference in the investigation. If law enforcement agencies have a record or information about the details of the incident, they should provide it to the same investigation team and not advertise it in the media; otherwise there will be doubts about

the transparent investigation and it will change public opinion,” he said.

At the same time, representatives of “Commission

44” told Radio Liberty that the law enforcement officers in the region are currently investigating the felling of trees by the protesters, which they cut down to cover the road from military equipment, but are not investigating the murder of Gulbiddin Ziyobekov and two other local residents, as well as the wounding of several other people. In other words, a log for the investigators is more expensive than a human life in the Pamirs.

Hujamri Pirnazarov, a spokesman for “Commission 44”, told Radio Liberty that investigators from Tajikistan's military

prosecutor's office returned to Khorog and were supposed to investigate Gulbiddin Ziyobekov's death, but they did not.

There is an impression that the authorities have been looking for a reason to eliminate the most famous and influential people of Gorno-Badakhshan. The only fault of these people is that they stand up for their fellow countrymen and do not allow the authorities to commit corrupt practices, violate the rights and freedoms of residents. In this information campaign, the Pamiri leaders are called bandits and members of the

OCG. Among them is Mamadbokir

Mamadbokirov, a retired colonel of the National Security Committee's border troops. Mamadbokirov was offered by the law enforcement agencies to surrender to the authorities. He said in response that he is

ready to surrender if the authorities find and punish those responsible for the deaths of Gulbiddin Ziyobekov, Tutisho Amirshoev and Gulnazar Murodbekov.

The authorities announced their intention to conduct a special operation against Mamadbokirov and his closest associates.

An even worse act was committed against an innocent athlete and one of the public activists, Amriddin Alovatshoev. He was kidnapped in Russia and handed over to the Tajik authorities on January 11 of this year.

For almost three weeks, relatives and friends tried to find information about Alovatshoev's location. It was not until 20 days later that the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Tajik General Prosecutor's Office officially confirmed that the athlete was being held in the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs pretrial detention facility.

During all this time Alovatshoev did not have a lawyer, and relatives were not allowed to see him. The authorities then distributed a video where Amriddin Alovatshoev confesses in a

“committed crime”, but experts are certain that he is being tortured, otherwise why do the authorities refuse to conduct an open, transparent investigation?

Article 19 of the Constitution states that “*No one shall be subjected to detention or arrest without legal*

grounds. From the moment of detention a person has the right to use the services of a lawyer”. In the case of Amriddin, there is a gross violation of the basic national law. Moreover, kidnapping and illegal extradition of Amriddin and the video with confession are also considered a heinous violation of human rights under international law. However, Tajikistan has its own methods and actions that are alien to human law.

Meanwhile, since the murder of Gulbiddin Ziyobekov, the security forces have taken full



control of the regional television in Badakhshan. Even inside the building, there are soldiers with automatic weapons; fences have been set up around the TV station; unprecedented security measures are being taken. The security services are afraid of people's anger, as they have been terrorizing the locals for three months in every possible way, even including dismissal and opening criminal cases if they don't speak out against the participants of the rally in Khorog. Many people are forced to give interviews and read texts prepared in advance for them because they are afraid of losing their jobs. Representatives of local authorities and employees of the State Security Committee also pay visits to educational institutions of Pamir and hold so-called "prophylactic talks" with teachers and schoolchildren, warning them about criminal responsibility for participation in the protests.

The Tajik authorities have staged an unprecedented action of intimidation of GBAO residents," said representatives of Commission 44.

Residents of GBAO from all regions, women, the elderly, labor veterans, teachers, activists, students, pensioners every day address the President of the country Emomali Rahmon, the Chairman of the Upper Chamber of Parliament with video appeals asking to pay attention to

the arbitrariness of law enforcement agencies in GBAO. They demand objective investigation of deaths of Gulbiddin Ziebekov, Tutisho Amirshoev, Gulnazar Murodbekov, as well as investigation of circumstances of illegal detention of Amriddin Alovatshoev, Chorshanbe Chorshanbaev and other GBAO residents who are subject to illegal prosecution by law enforcement and security agencies.

The events in GBAO had a great resonance not only in the region but also abroad. Residents of Badakhshan living in Russia, in European

countries, and in the US gathered at the embassies of Tajikistan in these countries and expressed solidarity with their relatives, brothers and sisters in Badakhshan.

The international human rights organization Human Rights Watch issued a statement in early February. The organization called on

the Tajik authorities to immediately restore access to the Internet in GBAO and investigate the case of Amriddin Alovatshoev, one of the activists of Badakhshani youth in Moscow.

Human Rights Watch called on Tajik authorities to disclose his location and give him access to a lawyer. "Blocking communications in GBAO not only violates the right to freedom of expression, but also makes life difficult and even dangerous for the residents," the statement said.



At the end, I would like to point out once again how colossal the damage caused by the Internet shutdown has been for Gorno-Badakhshan. This region is one of the poorest (although rich in natural resources) in Tajikistan. Many projects of international organizations in the fields of transport, tourism, economy and water resources are frozen or postponed indefinitely, according to experts. The reputation of the region has been undermined, and all this, judging by widespread rumors, is being done deliberately. According to one version, the Tajik authorities intend to lease the GBAO territory, from Murghab to Rushan, to China for one hundred years. But in order to do this, they must deprive the region of its autonomy status, remove all dissent and destroy all those who can oppose them, namely the leaders of GBAO to whose words very many Pamiris listen. That is why the most influential Pamiri leaders have been persecuted for 10 years. The authorities

have been chasing them, incriminating them with various criminal cases.

In a few days spring will come. According to the Muslim calendar, a new year comes on 24-th of March. The Pamiris are looking forward to spring, waiting for warmth and hoping that this new spring will give hope for the resolution of many issues, that many things will be resolved, that the authorities will finally answer to the mothers who lost their children and punish those responsible for terrible crimes, that access the Internet will be available and people will be able to communicate with their relatives, that the Pamiris will be given the opportunity to use their autonomy for their benefit. Most importantly, the Pamiris hope that the genocide against the Badakhshani peoples will stop. The most important thing for them is to preserve their land, their autonomy and their honor, the honor of their women, and if they have to give their lives for this, they are ready to do it.





Protests in Khorasan

Written by Mavjuda Sohibnazarova



On May 14, 2020, a flood destroyed the houses of residents of the village of Asadulloh Rahmon, Khuroson district. Two villagers died in the natural disaster. Dozens of houses were flooded. Great damage was done to agricultural crops. The already devastated population of the region was in a deplorable state, and the government was slow to provide assistance to the victims, and solve their problems as soon as possible.

On the same day, many protesters insisted that only the negligence of the authorities brought them to the protest. However, the police quickly dispersed the protesters.

On the same day, many protesters insisted that only the negligence of the authorities brought them to the protest. However, the police quickly dispersed the protesters. Many protesters said that only the negligence of the authorities brought them to the protest. The authorities said that people are rushing (rushing) to the road because of the risk of another flood.

The chairman of the Khuroson region, Rahmatullo Safarzoda, also said that people were asking for the restoration of their homes and clearing the land. Since this was their right, and the protesters did not put forward any political demands, they only asked for help to

eliminate the consequences of the flood, they were accused of violating public order.

The media reported that 6 people who were involved in a mass protest were detained. According to the media, the Prosecutor General's Office accused six residents of Khuroson. They are accused of calling for mass

protests. Asadullo, Khuroson district, who were sentenced to 1.6 years in prison. It is known that in Tajikistan the property of persons is not insured and the vast majority will not be

able to receive assistance due to corruption in all directions. In addition, all humanitarian aid is in the hands of the “family”.

According to the study, even donations from charities do not always reach those in need.

In the case of Khuroson, the same thing happened. The residents demanded from the authorities what belongs to them by law. However, when six Khuroson residents were imprisoned, family members and close relatives not only lost their breadwinners but also their trust in the government. Other families were also poor and really needed help. These families were fined 5,800 somoni.

For the homeless person, 5800 somoni is a huge amount. Tajikistan has the lowest wage in all of Central Asia (approximately \$140). Many families are now leaving for Russia in order to somehow survive. Well, what did the government do in such a situation?

The pressure of their own people to put him in a humiliating position has become a habit of the Rahmon government.

participating in the protests were also fined. In total, 10 residents were arrested for periods of 5 to 10 days for participating in an unauthorized rally. Instead of helping residents rebuild their homes, they were cruelly and unfairly punished. With this, the regime issued a verdict, each person in Tajikistan, those who demand justice will be punished! On November 26, 2020, the court announced the verdict to the protesters,



The government intended that with the detention of these six, instill fear in the masses, with the aim of undivided sole rule of the country.

The arrest of these people shows the death of justice and democratic values in Tajikistan. The press service of the Supreme Court of Tajikistan also stated that the three women

but only on February 9, 2021 this was announced at a press conference. In fact, judges in Tajikistan pass behind closed doors and secrecy and secrecy are proof that until the power is changed justice will not prevail. But we will hope that justice will prevail!

Arrest and prison terms for “LIKE”

Muhammadiqboli Saddriddin, politician, founder, and editor-in-chief of the “Isloh” Information website



The Tajik government headed by Emomali Rahmon restricts access to the Internet. This action is aimed to ensure that citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan do not have access to the opposition's web resources. Such restrictions once again prove that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan restricts the right of citizens to freely express their will, and more and more comes up with more sophisticated methods to restrict access to the Internet. Now the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan suffer not only because they have relatives/neighbors/friends in the opposition, but because they watch video materials or read and put “LIKE” to these materials in social networks. The citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan, who committed this action receive long prison terms.

example, a minor child of a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan, during a game with his father's mobile phone, accidentally presses the “LIKE” button on several social pages of opposition. For this action of a minor child, the father of this child was sentenced to seven years. For cooperation with opposition groups, although this citizen denied any cooperation with opposition groups. There are plenty of such examples, below we will give some of them. These examples are proof that pseudo-democratic principles operate in the country. Mahmadsodiq Saidov, 28-year-old chief imam of the Hoji Abdulgaffor Mosque, Nonvoyi Poen district of Kulob. Among them, Abdughaffor Rajabov and Aslamhon Karimov are residents of the same city. All of them were checked by the Communication Service, this service



The editorial board of “Isloh” conducts its activities with a high standard, which meets all international standards on freedom of speech.

The letters that come to the editorial office of “Isloh” show that day by day the right of citizens to freedom of speech in the Republic of Tajikistan is deteriorating. Moreover, international organizations that operate in the Republic are completely ignored by the authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan. For

revealed that the listed citizens collaborated with the editorial office of “Isloh”. All the listed citizens were sentenced under Article 307 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan for 5 years, with a stay in a high-security colony. Mahmadsodiq is the son of Domullo Kholmurodov, a prominent religious figure in

the city of Kulob. Since 2016, he has been an active member of the above-mentioned mosque. The law enforcement agencies of the Republic accused him of allegedly handing over materials prepared by the Committee on Religion of the Republic of Tajikistan to the editorial office of “Isloh”. The absurdity of the situation lies in the fact that not only the editorial board of “Isloh”, but also the ordinary person on the street knows that the main imams of mosques are distributing propaganda information prepared by the State Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan. More precisely, without the transfer of information from someone to our editorial office “Isloh”. After the speech of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in the assemblies, a week later, Friday prayers are held on the topics that the President of the Republic of Tajikistan spoke about in his speech.

The Isloh News Agency has an extensive audience. We receive numerous letters from different parts of Tajikistan. Based on these letters, we conduct our journalistic investigations. Until today, we have not disclosed our sources and we are not going to disclose them in the future. The editorial board of “Isloh” conducts its activities with a high standard, which meets all international standards on freedom of speech. Despite all these prison sentences, the authoritarian regime of Emomali Rahmon shows that they are afraid of the truth. All the restrictions and keeping the people in fear plays into the hands of the

opposition. Because people are just beginning to understand that they really live in a state headed by a dictator. The media within the country serve the interests of one family. The fear and hatred of the authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan towards the editorial office of “Isloh” reaches the point of absurdity that now the authorities are detaining state employees on false charges.

For example, a Military Court sentenced Abdusattor Mirzoev for 7 years. He worked as a prison guard, he was also accused of collaborating with the editorial office of “Isloh”. He had sympathies with the Islamic

Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, and that he was directly connected with Muhammadiqboli Sadriddin, as well as Hussein Ashurov. The Military Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Tajikistan reported at the end of July

that a criminal case was opened against Abdusattor Mirzoev on the basis of a denunciation by colleagues. He was accused of allegedly contacting Muhammadiqbol Sadriddin and Hussein Ashurov during the night shift after the departure of his colleagues. Through the mobile Internet, he contacted members of the opposition, as if Abdusattor expressed his claims regarding the policy of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. They also accused him of receiving instructions on how to change the constitutional order of the Republic. Also, as if the listed oppositionists instructed Abdusattor how to behave during a

The fear and hatred of the authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan towards the editorial office of “Isloh” reaches the point of absurdity that now the authorities are detaining state employees on false charges.

riot in prison, disconnecting the means of communication and electricity. Abdusattor Mirzoev was the manager of the warehouse “*Communication and Engineering Protection Department*”, in military unit number 6593.

The editorial board of “Isloh” has assumed the responsibility to inform about the shortcomings of the aforementioned institution. In previous years, the different security agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan contacted relatives and friends of dissidents, and put pressure on them. Friends and relatives of dissidents abroad spoke

against dissidents, accused them of betraying the motherland, and also called on them to stop their activities outside of the country. Moreover, under the recording of video cameras, they, relatives and friends of dissidents urged them to return, and that the Leader of the Nation (title of

President of Tajikistan) would forgive them and grant amnesty.

The law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan detained rural teacher Suraj Nazarov. He is accused of distributing Sharofiddin Gadoev's

video message among his surroundings. Also, he cooperates with the editorial board of “Isloh”. In other democratic countries the action of a rural teacher is an indicator of freedom of speech. However, in the Republic of Tajikistan this action is a violation and sometimes a guilty verdict is passed without any court proceedings. Moreover, the family of the accused is under pressure from the local authorities and is labeled “Enemy of the State”. It should be noted that the cup of patience of the people is overflowing.



Moreover, under the recording of video cameras, they, relatives and friends of dissidents urged them to return, and that the Leader of the Nation (title of President of Tajikistan) would forgive them and grant amnesty. The law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan detained rural teacher Suraj Nazarov.

The current situation in the Republic of Tajikistan resembles the 1937 year of the last century. The times of the Great Terror. But some political scientists emphasize that in those days the country's system was different. The Government of Tajikistan, which positions itself as a democratic, secular

country, has signed many international agreements, does not think that it will ever be held accountable. Now people, citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan are afraid and are trying to achieve justice.

Amnesty or business?

By Jamshed Yorov, human rights activist and civil activist



It's no secret that Tajikistan is a corrupt country. Corruption, like a creeper, has spread its roots and branches to all spheres of the country's public life. The main factor of such systemic corruption is that it is "family-based". Even the fact that Tajikistan is in the ranking of the most corrupt countries in the world does not in any way confuse the existing dictatorial regime. The regime is trying to get more and more profit, without looking at the methods and their legality.

For example, for many years the authorities have announced the adoption of an amnesty law in honor of some public holidays. Thus, the authorities want to show themselves as merciful and just. And although this amnesty, like others, is mainly a source of corruption, people still hope that this time everything will be in accordance with the law and justice will prevail.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the independence of Tajikistan, in September 2021, the authorities announced the adoption of a new amnesty, nicknamed the "Golden Amnesty". And according to the reports of the authorities, more than 30,000 people were subject to amnesty, some were to be released, some had to

have their sentences shortened, the criminal case dropped, and so on. The people behind the bars, tried a certain hope for the so-called golden amnesty. The wait was long. The authorities did not give any comments and avoided questions from journalists. Hopes did not come true, but a few days before the

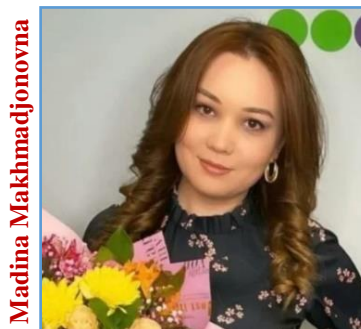
celebration of Independence Day, information appeared in the media that the Amnesty Law had nevertheless been adopted.

This time, taking advantage of the legal illiteracy of the population of Tajikistan in the

implementation of the Amnesty Law, corruption and extortion have significantly increased. Now even citizens were openly offering huge sums of money to apply amnesty to their loved ones. And law enforcement officials openly and fearlessly extorted them.

An example is the case of Madina Makhmadjonovna, whom a citizen Aziza Davlatova inflicted grievous bodily injuries from which she died. Aziza Davlatova was amnestied.

There are many such examples. Apparently, the adoption of the law on amnesty serves mainly to exempt from criminal liability those close to the highest echelons of power. To give the



Madina Makhmadjonovna

appearance of the rule of law and justice, such people are imprisoned or detained for some time, and with the adoption of the law they are released in the first place. However, innocent persons convicted on trumped-up charges are

It should be noted that in the course of implementing the previous amnesty laws, recognizing and taking into account the existence of such problems, the authorities announced the creation of an interdepartmental



held in harsher conditions and are not subject to amnesty.

For example, the Tajik journalist Makhmadyusupov, who was sentenced to a long prison term on false charges, this time also lost all hope of being released. Under the amnesty, his sentence was shortened by only three months.

Tajik political prisoners, whom the authorities do not recognize as political prisoners, did not fall under the amnesty this time either. On the contrary, they are subjected to further torture and ill-treatment.

The adoption of the law on amnesty and the exclusion of political prisoners from the number of persons who fell under this law showed once again that the government ignored the UN recommendations on the unconditional release of political prisoners and grossly violated international human rights standards.

commission signed by the president himself. However, as always, it is impossible to get information about this commission, it is not known who is included in it, what institutions they belong to, where and how one can get acquainted with the results of its work.

Despite public announcements by the authorities about the fight against corruption during the implementation of the amnesty law, there is a lot of information in the media about extortion and bribery.

Amnesty laws or other legislation that mitigates or exonerates individuals is one of the main sources of bribery among law enforcement, judiciary and prosecutors. The government not only does not want to seriously deal with this problem, on the contrary, it uses it and even secretly supports it.