

Statement of Political Movement “Group 24”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Husain Ashurov, deputy to head of Political Movement “Group 24”.
And official representative in the kingdom of Sweden.

Let me start by defining Democracy. It is not all about a form of government. As President John F. Kennedy once said,” Democracy is a government of the people; by the people and for the people.

Democracy means that you not only have the right to be heard but being listened to. There is democracy when you are given the right to choose or decide on decisions that directly affects us. To go further in its meaning, it is a way of thinking, a responsibility. Without democracy, society feel pain. On the other hand, where countries or nations have dictatorships, there is no freedom of thought or creativity. A country cannot succeed if others ideas are not appreciated. With only one idea adhered to, the country will be death.

This is well reflected or shown by our country, Tajikistan, which remains the poorest country in ex-soviet unions. Based on dependable statistical data, democracy has been declining very fast in our country, Tajikistan. Our country has become a one-party state with Ehmomali Rahmon as President. Being a one-party State, the government of Tajikistan for the last 24 years has violated several human rights and today he has buried democracy whiles the people today need it like oxygen.

These rights not only are about extra judicial killings but, extremely, it has forced our people’s culture and religious beliefs to change.

In this light, we, Group 24, suggest to all concerned authorities the current issue needs your serious attention, as we call for honest and clear elections. Elections are a central eye of democracy. For elections to express the will of the electorate, they must be 'free and fair'.

'Free' means that all those entitled to vote have the right to be registered and to vote and must be free to make their choice. An election is considered 'free' when you can decide whether to vote and vote freely for the candidate or party of your choice without fear, coercion nor intimidation.

'Fair' means that all registered political parties have an equal right to contest the elections, campaign for voter support and hold meetings and rallies. This gives them a fair chance to convince voters to vote for them. A fair election is also one in which all voters have an equal opportunity to register, where all votes are counted, and where the announced results reflect the actual vote totals.

Finally, we need a change, a change of regime and a transformation from Dictatorial to Democracy. We need good governance, we need freedom, we need self-respect, and we need all fundamental rights equally as citizens of Tajikistan. Therefore, we will continue to struggle for the good cause in our capacity and would take any action that is required to bring down Emamali's regime and restore democratic system of governance which is responsible for people. We also would continue our resistance by non-violent means to achieve justice with the full support of the international community.

I request from the international community and democratic countries to give serious attention for this issue. Secondly facilitate for civil human rights protectors and freedom fighters everywhere, those who want to

establish a real democratic country and survive democratic idea in the mind of people in future.

Thank you for your attention.