

Tajikistan

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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
"EURASIAN DIALOGUE"

ED urasian
Dialogue

VšĮ "EURAZIJOS DIALOGAI"

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

We are here to discuss freedom of peaceful assembly. In some countries there are limitations in this regard, but our problem as Tajik activists is different and another sort of pressure.

We as peaceful activists were crushed in our country, many of us were sentenced to long term imprisonment and some of us could survive and sought refuge in Europe. Despite all this, we cannot use freely our right of freedom of peaceful assembly and association in Europe, because Tajikistan government uses our family members and relatives as hostages and human shields to silence us.

Due to my participation in this conference my father, Safar Kabirov was detained for two days, 6 and 7th September 2017 in the custody in Dushanbe. He was subjected to torture, humiliation, harsh interrogation and inhuman treatments while his hands held with chains. They threatened him with imprisonment, if I participate in this conference with you.

Last year in this city in such conference, mother of an activist, who participated in HDIM 2016 has died of heart attack, following raid and threats of security officials. She was so afraid and stressed that led to heart attack and in result has died.

Similarly, Jannatulloh Komilov, an IRPT's activist, who is now with us here. His mother has died of high blood pressure when the authorities used to regularly raid her home and threatened her and other her sons with imprisonment, confiscation of their house and properties.

Now, my colleague Mr. Islomiddin Saidov, an activist, who organized the yesterday protest outside this hall, told me that the authorities went to his father's home and forced them out of their home. The authorities told his father: "We had told you to tell your son not to participate in Warsaw conference, but your son has organized an anti-government protest outside the OSCE conference hall. So, now we confiscate your home and your will face severer punishments."

So, I kindly request you:

- 1. Not to keep silence in this case. Why should our family members pay the price of our activities;**
- 2. Impose sanctions to these "family abusers", who call themselves as human;**
- 3. OSCE should create a committee to visit our family members and in general to observe this inhuman phenomenon.**

Thanks a lot for your attention!

**Muhammadjon Kabirov,
Chairman, Eurasian Dialogue**

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