

In 2003, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation recognized the international organization Hizb ut-Tahrir al-Islami as terrorist. The court did not provide any arguments substantiating this decision. The Russian Federation has become the only country in the world to declare the Hizb ut-Tahrir terrorist organization.

Based on this decision, hundreds of people were imprisoned on charges of participating in the activities of a terrorist organization and preparing for the violent overthrow of the constitutional system. Every year the courts impose increasingly harsh penalties on them, reaching up to 24 years in prison. Currently, at least 276 people have been deprived of their liberty on charges related to the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir. None of the criminal cases on these charges involved the preparation, planning, or discussion of terrorist acts, none of the convicts have been accused of possessing explosives or weapons, none of them have been accused of committing violent acts. The sentences of the Russian courts are based only on an analysis of the Hizb ut-Tahrir doctrine, reflecting their understanding of Islam.

The situation in Crimea is doubly outrageous, where, mainly, Crimean Tatars are incarcerated on charges related to Hizb ut-Tahrir, since the activities of this organization are legal in Ukraine. At least 60 Crimean Tatars are now imprisoned on these charges.

The practice of criminal prosecution and imprisonment on terrorism charges based on participation in Hizb ut-Tahrir is contrary to OSCE principles.

Recommendations

In this regard, we recommend the Russian Federation:

- annul the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 2003 on recognition of Hizb ut-Tahrir as a terrorist organization;
- review the sentences imposed in connection with allegations of participation in this organization.
- end the criminal prosecution and release persons deprived of their liberty in connection with these charges.

OSCE Member States:

- make efforts to fulfill the obligations of the Russian Federation in this regard.