



14 September 2018

Working session 8. Tolerance and non-discrimination including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the prevention of aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism

Last year, we touched upon the issue of discrimination in Tajikistan and cited specific examples of discrimination on racial, national, gender and other grounds of intolerance in Tajikistan.

Unfortunately, at meetings last year the government delegation of Tajikistan was absent, and according to the results of our meetings with you, the authorities of Tajikistan not only did not listen to these recommendations last year, but, as the survey shows over the past year, the situation with human rights in general and in particular, has deteriorated significantly. Considering also that the media in Tajikistan are under total control, other sources of information are also closed or uninformative, the information from Tajikistan is very scarce.

The largest ethnic minority in Tajikistan is the Uzbeks, who by some estimates are between 25 and 30 percent of the population. After the change of power in Uzbekistan, and the course towards liberalization of the president of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and his policy towards neighboring countries, including Tajikistan, there has been some improvement in the attitude towards the ethnic groups of Uzbeks in Tajikistan, but this is only in the information field.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science in Tajikistan, there are currently 77 Uzbek schools and 440 mixed schools with Uzbek classes, which, of course, is not enough for such a large number of Uzbeks living in Tajikistan. There are practically no literatures and printed periodicals in the Uzbek language.

There are also not many opportunities for the Uzbeks to fully participate in the social and political life of the country. The Uzbeks are practically not allowed to be elected as candidates for elected bodies, it is not easy for them to become deputies, mayors, even in the territory where they constitute the majority. In the parliament and other meetings there are also no representatives of Uzbek nationality.

The same, in practice, situation in areas where the Kyrgyz population lives compactly. Moreover, in the highest mountainous region of Murgab, where Kyrgyz predominantly live, there is a very difficult social situation. Without jobs and after the delimitation of the border with China and the loss of their considerable pastures, this people is in a very difficult situation. The Kyrgyz population is subjected to extreme discrimination in the world of work. Representatives of this nationality reported that they are not recruited, including in places where construction of buildings, structures, mining of ore deposits, construction of hydroelectric power stations are going on. When hiring in all these jobs, preference is given to Tajiks from Dushanbe or Khorog.

As a result, individual members of this people, driven to extreme poverty, in violation of local legislation and risking their own lives, at an altitude of more than 5000 km above sea level, are engaged in the extraction of semi-precious and ornamental stones, which often fall into the hands of law enforcement agencies, and a considerable number of young people today are in

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prison only because, without being able to get a job, getting food through illegal ways, they themselves are forced to create so-called "jobs" for themselves feed and survive.

The quality in general schools with the Kyrgyz language leaves much to be desired. In 2006, the Ministries of Education of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on cooperation. However, in practice, the implementation of this agreement does not actually take place and the signed commitments in Tajikistan are not respected. The acute shortage of educational materials in the Kyrgyz language and teachers remain urgent problems of the Kyrgyz society in Tajikistan.

Last year, we also reported on the discrimination of the center towards another ethnic minority - Pamiri. The main problems that we touched on last year remain relevant to this day. First, the mass killings committed by the country's security forces in 2012 and 2014 remain unsolved. Issues raised at such venues as the annual ODIHR / OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, unfortunately, continue to remain unanswered by the official Dushanbe.

In addition, discrimination continues towards this population during employment, and especially in law enforcement agencies, including in the territory of the Badakhshan Autonomy itself. As you know, the population of this part of Tajikistan is not only ethnically but professionally different from the main population of Tajikistan. This Shiites are Ismailis. We have heard before about the difficulties experienced by this ethnic group of the population of Tajikistan, in particular, in the confessional terms, but, for lack of confirmed facts, we did not focus on discrimination on the basis of confession.

However, on May 12, 2018, at a meeting with the officials of central and local government authorities, active representatives of social spheres, scientists, creative intelligentsia and religious figures, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, from a high rostrum citing Kiyomiddin Gozi's criminal case as an example of the case are described on the link below), accused him, and together with him all members of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (PIVT) in Shiism.

Speaking about this, the head of the state, which is constitutionally declared secular and democratic, the adjoining of his citizen to another, different from the Hanafi madhhab, the course of Islam, considers a crime for which criminal prosecution follows. Knowing the attitude of officials of all ranks to the opinion of the head of state, which is also publicly propagated from the high rostrum, it can be assumed that the lines of ministries could already be given appropriate instructions regarding the attitude of the Shiite current of Islam to the believers.

Such facts serve as another reason for discrimination against the Pamir people, including selection of personnel both on the territory of the autonomy and throughout the country.

The Human Rights Vision Foundation calls for establishing cooperation with Kyrgyzstan to improve the conditions for obtaining secondary education in schools in Tajikistan with the Kyrgyz language. Provide schools with educational materials in the Kyrgyz language and develop a plan to attract teachers.

It is urgent to ensure the possibility of the Murgab population, and all Badakhshan, legal employment in the construction sector, mining of precious metals and stones.

Turning to international institutions and Western countries, while establishing and maintaining relations with the government of Tajikistan, we call for a more rigid link between granting grants and other assistance with respect for human rights.

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