

Theses of A.Khamdamov, Deputy Director, Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, for OSCE Meeting of Fulfillment of Human Dimension Commitments by Participating Countries in 2014

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Fundamental Freedoms I

Role of Civil Society in Protection of Human Rights

I

Protection of human rights in Uzbekistan is considered through the prism of improving the legal culture and consciousness of population.

Nowadays, civil society institutions of Uzbekistan are an important factor for the protection of democratic values, human rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens. They are actively engaged in improving the legal culture and consciousness of population, increasing their interaction with state authorities in this direction.

Legislative framework of civil society institutions amounts more than 200 legislative acts. Thus, the Constitution stipulates that the State ensures the rights and lawful interests of public associations and provides them equal legal opportunities to participate in public life.

In recent years, the number of civil society institutions has increased. So, if in 2013, 591 non-profit organizations operated for the protection of the rights and interests of citizens, enhance the political and legal culture of population, nowadays their number has reached 616.

II

One of indicators of high legal culture of population are citizens' awareness of existing legal mechanisms to protect their rights, the ability and willingness to defend them in the framework of current legislation.

Analysis of citizens' complaints and questions helps to identify problems in society, the shortcomings in the work of state and public organizations, as well as serves as an indicator of level of citizens' legal culture.

III

The Institute studied the statistics of citizens' applications to the **Commissioner of Parliament for Human Rights (Ombudsman), trade union organizations and the Society for the Protection of Consumer Rights in 2013.**

During 2013 the Ombudsman received 11.733 complaints of citizens, 7.712 of which to the central office, and 979 calls - to its regional representatives.

The study subjects appeals received by the Ombudsman, shows that 4.230 appeals were on protection of the individual rights of citizens, 2.343 - on issues of socio-economic rights.

Thus, 5053 complaints received by the Ombudsman, were sent for consideration and resolution to state bodies, organizations, institutions, and officials. 3224 complaints were taken under control.

IV

Also, there was a practice of citizens' unions to protect their rights. Over 2013 trade union bodies examined 7.578 written and 5.570 oral treatments of citizens.

About 60% of all complaints refer to labor relations, including 38.2% - to of labor law, 10% - to misconduct employers, 9% - to questions about the recovery of wages and similar payments.

In 2013, 3478 written complaints resolved positively, and 448 performances and 44 petitions to the court included by trade unions, have been satisfied. As a result, the rights of more than 800 persons have been restored.

V

At the same time, 8.457 complaints have been received by the Society for the Protection of Consumer Rights and its regional offices in 2013, 95.9% of which were resolved in favor of consumers. Restoration of material and moral damages have been ensured in the amount of 2 billion 208 million soums.

In general, the analysis of complaints indicates citizens' awareness of existing legal mechanisms to protect their rights, a willingness and ability to defend them in the framework of the current legislation. It is an indicator of a relatively high level of legal culture of the population.

VI

Within the awareness-raising activities of Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society in 2013, regional offices of Institute conducted more than 1730 events, 403 of which were with a trip to districts and remote villages.

Information about 1200 events went on the air and has been published in national and regional print media.

Also, the Institute held 50 conferences, seminars and Round Tables on cooperation between civil society and law enforcement agencies in the protection of human rights and freedoms, formation of legal culture and a culture of individual in society, the implementation of the principles and norms of international law within the framework of improving the political, legal culture and civic consciousness of the population in 2013.

In general, the analysis of NGOs activities and other civil society institutions indicates a gradual strengthening of their role in ensuring the rights, improving the legal awareness and legal culture of citizens.