

No: 157 / 07  
Date: 14.09.2017

### **Tajikistan Intervention in Privat Lives: From Cradle to Grave**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

You might not find a government in the world, which intervene in private lives of its citizens beginning from the cradle to grave, the whole life of a person, as it is in Tajikistan.

You might think, I am joking, but I am saying this seriously. The government intervenes in when a child is born to the time he or she dies. We are "lucky" that we have such a compassionate and sympathetic government.

- When a child is born, you should not invite people to your home as it is called in Islamic literature "Aqiqa"; It is an Arabic custom and Arabs at that time had a lot of sheep to slaughter. (I am sorry to say this, but it is reality and how Tajikistan rulers think).
- Then you are not free to name your child, rather you should go and check the book of Persian names arranged by the Government;
- When the child grows, you should be aware not to go to Mosque, because it is prohibited to those under 18 years old. As well she should not wear hijab. Having beard is also prohibited for boys and man under 40 years.
- When she or he goes to University, the student should not go by his/her own car as well as should not have a mobile, because having mobile and going with car to university is not allowed;
- In time of marriage, there are some rules you have to follow: 1. The couple should not be close relatives. 2. No more than 4 cars and more than 150 guests are not allowed in wedding day;
- If you lost your shaving machine or had not time for shaving, be aware that your beard might be shaven and you will be fined, the same in the case of hijab;
- In Eid days (*Eid-Ramadan* and *Eid-ul-Azha*), you should make an ordinary and simple meal. Rather you should use "smile" more and more as our "grand Mufti" says;
- You should only pray in your prayers only in Mosque or home or graveyard. If you pray your *Salaat* in the office, you violate the laws.
- If you should wait to be 40 years old and then you have the right to go to Hajj.
- If the person dies, there should not be meals for guests.

All citizens are bound to follow all these rules, otherwise they are fined. Even President Emomali Rahmon meets the people; he always talks about how to save on expenses and how the expenses should be minimal as much as possible. He always calls on people to be austere. He never talks with the people about his duties as president what is going in the country.

In end, I call on our friendly countries and international organizations to urge the government of Emomali Rahmon not to intervene in private lives of the people. And it should do its own duty; provide freedom, jobs, electricity and reform.

Thanks for your attention.

**Muhammadjon Kabirov**

**Chairman, Eurasian Dialogue**