

Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov. Human Dimension

**(Discussion on the OSCE activity in the field of human dimension (project work),
Warsaw, October, 3rd 2007)**

Dear Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen

Last year, on a similar session of OSCE Human Dimension Session, in my speech I tried to attract attention to the fact that if the OSCE does not manage to find ways and mechanisms of real influence on the countries – members of this organization so that they adhere to political rights and freedoms, it will risk to become a regional Eurasian version of the UN, whose effectiveness from the point of view of promoting international standards of rights and freedoms approaches to zero.

Unfortunately, these fears are being realized especially in the light of public and hidden discussions on Kazakhstan's possible chairmanship in the OSCE.

When, last year the decision on chairmanship was postponed for one year, many public figures and politicians, activists of civil society have put several minimal conditions, fulfilling of which would let Kazakhstan demonstrate its loyalty to its obligations in frames of the OSCE.

These are:

- Registration of political parties Alga and Atameken
- Stop of political persecutions of opposition leaders and activists
- Freedom to political prisoner Alibek Zhumabayev
- Stop of unfair persecution of religious commune "Society of Krishna Conscience"
- Provision of opposition access to the national mass media
- New democratic legislation regarding freedom of word and mass media, freedom of unification, freedom of peaceful gatherings, free and fair elections
- Initiation of dialogue between power and opposition

None of this minimal list of conditions was fulfilled,

Instead in May 2007 the new amendments to the Constitution were introduced, they let the acting President:

- Run for presidency unlimited number of times
- Appoint and discharge almost 30% of the upper chamber of the Parliament – Senate
 - Being a leader of a political party, participating in elections to the lower chamber of Parliament by party ticket, appoint 3 out of 7 members of Central Election Commission, including the chairman
 - Dissolve without any special reason, stated in the legislation, a Parliament, its lower chamber Mazhilis and local authorities – Maslihats.

At last, as a result of elections to Mazhilis taken place in August 2007 out of 98 elected MPs there are none representing a political party other than the one led by the President.

It is hard to call this legislatively built and institutionally constructed political system other than modern version of authoritarian system of Soviet regime.

This system has no any relation either to the obligations that Kazakhstan has accepted as a member of the OSCE or to the agreements of Moscow, Copenhagen and other OSCE meetings on human dimension.

Thus, on the example of Kazakhstan we can say that the OSCE did not manage to provide one of its countries-members adherence to principles of democratic development and building of pluralistic political system, that provides for the accountability of the government.

Despite all the efforts of the Bureau of democratic institutions and human rights, the Center of the OSCE in Almaty for assistance in legislation development, institutional reforms

and their application in our country, there are even more problems today in observance of political rights and civil freedoms than before.

Politics of countries with authoritarian regimes in the OSCE is becoming more and more aggressive. This politics is accompanied by ultimatums, uncovered pressure on the OSCE structures, accusations in subjectivity and etc.

As a result criteria of democratic development and human rights protection are more and more degraded, the projects of the OSCE and its structures in the countries of the former USSR are carried out with a necessity not to irritate the authorities of respective countries.

If a country – member of the OSCE does not agree with basic principles and terms, accepted in the organization and characterizing democracy development and human rights protection, no matter what project and programs are carried out in the field they would be in the best case, imitation, in the worst – antipodes of themselves.

Overwhelming majority of countries-members of the OSCE share common values, have common views on democratic lay-out of the state and society, priority of human rights and freedoms.

Authoritarian nature of some states should not cast a doubt on these views.

That is why it is important that promotion of common ideals and values should be in the activity of all OSCE missions, all of its structures, projects and programs, because if not everything loses sense.

Our country should accept common values not only in words, but in practice with a daily support of the OSCE.

Otherwise together with Kazakhstan chairmanship the OSCE is risking to become a European version of Shanghai Organization for Cooperation, which does not care about democracy and human rights whatsoever.

Thanks for attention.