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## FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

(Art 20/ UD. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association)

The freedom of peaceful assembly and association is a milestone of democracy; a fundamental freedom. In according to the article 20 of UD all participating States have committed to protect peaceful assembly and to respect the right of individuals to associate with others.

But unfortunately, authoritarian regime in Tajikistan is not respect his obligation toward international human rights declaration. Organizing any kind of public association or peaceful assembly and association such social, political and religious for expressing their opinions and criticizing the state on violating of human rights is restricted and considering a crime by the last redacting of Constitution on 22 may 2016. The organizer of peaceful assembly and association will detain and sentence by the criminal codecs of the country.

For example: The head of political movement "Group24" after announcing a peaceful demonstration on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and criticizing the regime for its corruption and brutality was assassinated by Rahmonov's order on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Istanbul Turkey. 2. Head of "Youths for revival of Tajikistan" for his peaceful demonstrations in different cities of Russian Federation, was attacked in the center of Moscow and illegally extradited to Tajikistan and detained for 17 years. 3. The ex-minister of energy of Tajikistan for establishing a political party "New Tajikistan" was convicted for 29 years. 4. The initiator of "Advocates Colleague", for protecting civilian rights convicted for 23 years while another one convicted for 21 years. All the above persons were sentenced by allegations for taking the government by force and organizing such groups. And punished according to the following criminal codecs:

- 1. calling for extremism,**
- 2. calling for taking the state by force**
- 3. responsibility for organizing terrorist groups,**
- 4. organizing criminal group,**
- 5. abusing president in public.**

2. Civil Society is one of the powerful body part in the country, which can acts for protecting civilian rights and declaring their issues. But, unfortunately Civil Societies in Tajikistan still are under the pressure and controlling by the authoritarian regime. The pressures on Civil Societies starts from November 2014 behind passing a legislation on draft amendments on Law of Public

Association and for the last years increased by the time. The legislation involved limitation and controlling their funds, activities and relations with foreign sponsors. Finally, the regime called majority of the Civil Societies spies and agents of foreign countries. Remembering before passing this legislation, more than 90 associations appeal against this legislation, but unfortunately there was no any change and respond from the regime. This is what Rahmonov claims about democracy in the country. After long pressures on civilian, many advocates, journalists, politicians and freethinkers leaved the country for abroad. And the regime continued his pressure and tortures on their families. For example: participating of Tajik Civil Societies at the OSCE conference on the passing year 2016 in Warsaw, was the mean reason for calling their families and relatives for long investigation and treats in detaining centers, which was the fact. As a result of the cruelty and pressure inside the country many civilians forcedly leaving their homeland and trying to cross the EU borders. Beside the associations, many national, cultural and religious congregation were stopped by the regime.

As an activist of Civil Societies of Tajikistan, I request from the international communities and democratic organizations to support and generate the civil society for implementing their responsibilities on protecting human rights in the country.

Thank you very much.

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