

### **What does Dr. Kabiri's name in INTERPOL list mean?**

I am speaking here regarding the Red Notice against Dr. Muhiddin Kabiri, chairman of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan.

We are deeply concerned the International Police (INTERPOL) issued a Red Notice against Dr. Muhiddin Kabiri, chairman of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan, the main opposition party, which is published in the INTERPOL public website (<http://www.interpol.int/notice/search/wanted/2015-63685>).

The charges against Dr. Muhiddin Kabiri made by Tajikistan Government are fabricated, false and politically motivated. The Government accuses him and the IRPT of having links with the bloody events of September 2015, but the government has not yet provided evidences for the said claim to the Tajik people and international community as well as to the court.

It should be underlined that the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan is NOT a radical party, but promotes democratic values. Mr. Kabiri does not pose a threat to Tajikistan or any other country.

Since last year, Tajik authorities have carried out a brutal crackdown on this party. Several party members have been murdered, tortured or sentenced to life in prison. Dr. Kabiri has left Tajikistan for reasons of safety, as have several hundred other IRPT-members.

The requests for visiting the IRPT's jailed members done by David Kaye, the UN special rapporteur and other human rights and international organizations' representatives were strongly refused by the government. Moreover, all their hearings process and trials were held behind closed doors. All the lawyers who have dared to announce defending the IRPT's political prisoners' rights were sent to jail, as Buzurgmehr Yorov, Jamshed Yorov, Nuriddin Mahkamov etc.

Recently, the authorities arrested Jamshed Yorov on the charges of publication of the full text of their court verdict of the IRPT's jailed members. The question is why the authorities are afraid of disclosure of the verdict, if they have "convincing evidences".

Kabiri had refuted the government accusations in an interview with media, saying: "Our party and I have nothing to do with these events. The Prosecutor General's Office has already been preparing a case against me on fabricated economic charges. They need to connect us to the mutiny to which we bear no relation in order to put me on the international most wanted list."

The Tajik government under Emomali Rahmon intensified oppression against the opposition parties and figures following parliamentary elections in 2010 which the IRPT was very active. The authorities have used fear of terrorism and war against terror as an excuse to further crackdown on dissent.

Tajikistan has imprisoned hundreds of political activists and opposition figures on politically-motivated charges. Here it was able to use INTERPOL to clamp down on any expression of dissent.

In the end, I have to repeat what an expert said, unfortunately not all international bodies seem aware of Tajikistan's ploy.

Thank you.