

Respected and honorable guests, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear colleagues,

I am Said Ali Ashurov, official representative of political movement “Group24” in Warsaw, Poland

It is a great honor and a real pleasure for me to present my speech in this conference.

In the beginning of my speech, I want to thank the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and ODIHR for organizing this conference.

According to the constitution, Tajikistan is a Democratic and secular state, based on rights, but unfortunately, today’s our topic is about violation of Human Rights, which states of critical situation of Human Rights in the country. Since 1992, Tajikistan is a member of United Nations. It means government of Tajikistan accepts whole terms of the UN and obligate to implement Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights record that each human being has thirty equal basic human rights, created by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, to provide a global understanding of how to treat individuals and no one can take these rights.

Since violating of Human Rights, in different aspects of life in Tajikistan, the organization for Human Rights and Democratic Institutions called Tajikistan an authoritarian state dominated politically by Dictator Emomali Rahmon and his family.

Here I want to focus on one of the most substantial human rights problems in the country:

### **Freedom of Media, Freedom of Speech, private newspapers and social internet sites;**

The Constitution provides for freedom of speech and press, but unfortunately, the regime restricted all these rights.

The authorities continued to curb freedom of speech through detentions, prosecutions, and the threat of heavy fines. By law, a person may be imprisoned for as long period (5years) for criticizing the regime, president and the government for their monopolizing national properties and high-level corruption. As a result, many people imprisoned for criticizing these issues. By Rahmonov’s think any person, who criticize his dictator’s regime is terrorist, extremist and separatist.

1. **Independent media** faced significant and repeated government threats on media outlets. Although some print media published political commentary and investigatory material critical of the government, journalists observed that authorities considered

certain topics off limits, including critical information about the president or his family or questions about financial filths of those close to the president. Since 25 years of independent of the country, there is no any private television channel; radio stations available in the country, the government is controlling most broadcasting transmission facilities and whole media is behind Rahmonov's propagandas. On 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, Dictator Rahmonov signed a protocol requiring all government bodies to provide official state news and statements to **Khovar**, the state news agency. In regard I want to mention that, the protocol required all other media outlets to reference or contact **Khovar** before an outside the country, official meetings, and international events and statements.

2. **Journalists** continued to face irritation and pressure by security forces and state officials after publishing any critical stories of the government and Rahmonov's family. In August, authorities imprisoned independent journalist and former Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty reporter **Amindjon Gulmurodzoda**. The Journalists cannot publish any news or informational materials without approval state news agency **Khovar**. It means regime Rahmonov monopolized Media trough **Khovar** state news agency. The regime continued to control all major printing presses. The National Committee on Television and Radio, a government organization that directly manages television and radio stations in the country. It continued to deny renewal license for international broadcast organization; such the British Broadcasting Company BBC to broadcast on FM radio.

3. **Internet sites:** Individuals and groups faced extensive government observation of internet activity, including e-mails, and often self-censored their views while posting on the internet. There were new and continuing government restrictions on access to internet websites, such as Facebook, YouTube, Google, and Google services. The State Service (SCS) routinely denied involvement in blocking these sites, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs admitted to foreign officials in June to periodically implementing a law that allows interruption of internet content and telecommunications "in the interest of national security."

On 28 may 2015, the State Communication Service ordered the blockage of several news websites including Asia Plus, and both the Tajik and Russian versions of Radio Ozodi, and a number of social networks such as Russian owned **V kontakte** and **Odnoklassniki**. State Communication Service officials denied any involvement. All these illustrate there no any freedom of Media in the country.

Thank you very much