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Conference Services

Please find attached the introductory statement by Azer H. Hasret, Director, Central Asian and Southern Caucasian Freedom of Expression Network (CASCFEN), Baku, made at session 3 of the "*OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting - Freedom of the Media: Protection of Journalists and Access to Information*", Vienna, 13 and 14 July 2006.

OSCE. 2nd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Vienna, 13-14 July 2006

Protection of Journalists: Administrative Measures

Presentation By Azer H.Hasret
Director, Central Asian and Southern
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CASCFEN and Countries

Central Asian & Southern Caucasian Freedom of
Expression Network is an organization to protect and
promote freedom of expression and press in the
following countries:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

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Armenia

- A1+ off the air since April 2002. Operates as a production studio and publishes a newspaper Ayb Feh.
- Control over TV channels
- Yerevan Press Club

Azerbaijan

- Licensing
- Accreditation
- Beating
- Registration
- etc.

Farid Teymurkhanli



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Georgia

- State influence of independent TV channels
- Lack of transparency in media ownership
- Increased media self-censorship
- Gela Mtiulishvili attacked: 22 June, 14 July (hg) and 22-23 Nov (hg)
- IAGJ

Kazakhstan

- Internet blockade
- Suspension of opposition newspapers
- Heavy fines imposed on newspapers (Soz, US\$39,000)
- Insulting of honor and dignity of the president (Juma Times, February, CNS)
- Dat 1998, Soldat 2003, Juma Times
- Journalists in Danger

Kyrgyzstan

- Easy to register print media
- Respublika, Moya Stolitsa-Novosti, Kyrgyz.us, Monitoring.kg web sites
- Discrediting e-mail messages
- RFE/RL blocked on 24 Feb in medium wave
- MSN
- Public Association “Journalists”

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Tajikistan

- Freelance journalist Jumaboy Tolibov was sentenced to 2 years in prison on 28 July on charges of hooliganism, illegally entering a residence and abuse of office (Minbari Halk and Sadoi Mardum) released on Dec 16
- Mukhtar Bokizoda, chairman of the Foundation for the Memory and Protection of Journalists and the editor of Nerui Sukhan, was sentenced on 25 August to two years of corrective labour for stealing ... electricity worth US\$500
- Ruzi Nav
- Internet blockade
- NANSMIT

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Turkmenistan

- Exit visa
- Internet blockade
- Accreditation of foreign journalists
- Entering the country
- Bringing any kind of printed materials into country etc.

Uzbekistan

- Internet blockade (freeuz.org)
- Exit visa (Alo Khojayev)
- Registration of mass media
- Attacks
- Erk newspaper
- CFSE
- Ozod Ovoz

For conclusion a passage from Baku Declaration

We express the following:

- - *To all states of region to bring legislative base into accord with the international norms;*
- - *To abolish all kinds of state organs engaged in regulation of activity of mass media;*
- - *To create all necessary conditions for normal functioning of mass media;*
- - *To forbid to the state bodies to establish mass media;*
- - *To allow journalists to move in the territory of five countries of the Central Asia and three countries of Southern Caucasus without visa.*

We call on OSCE, the Council of Europe and all other international organizations to give more attention to region of the Central Asia and Southern Caucasus in sphere of maintenance of rights and freedoms of journalists, and also by way of rendering assistance in becoming and development of independent mass media.

Thanks

This was Azer H.Hasret