

OSCE**Wednesday, October 6th, 2010****15.00 – 18.00 Working session 8. Intolerance and Indiscrimination II,
in particular:**

- Encouragement of gender equality and implementation of the OSCE Action Plan and corresponding obligations
- Hate crime prevention in the OSCE region and retaliation measures
- **Fight against intolerance and discrimination**

**The text of the speech of the first Caucasian independent
magazine DOSH presented at the session by the representative of
the Russian-Finnish Civil Rights Forum**

National minorities and their problems are the issues of extreme importance in many OSCE participating countries and beyond this organization.

However, this issue is, and it is possible to say so, taboo in the country which will shortly finish its presidency at OSCE.

Last year, representatives of Kazakhstan circulated here thousands of copies of their brochures claiming that interethnic peace and consent was reigning in this republic. This idyllic picture, however, totally avoided such tragic events as the pogroms against the Uigurs, the Kurds, and the Chechens. Together with our colleagues, we shot a documentary film about the pogroms against the Chechen that occurred in March, 2007.

Almost FOUR HUNDRED people accompanied by at least over TEN POLICEMEN committed then a brutal massacre over the Chechen family of the Makhamakhanovs from the village of Kazatkom of Almaty area of Kazakhstan. These people murdered three brothers from this family, smashed and plundered houses and property of other Chechens in the neighboring village of Malovodnoye.

Astonishingly, all of the policemen and representatives of the authorities who had been involved in the tragedy evaded punishment. Only 3 persons out of several hundred pogrom activists were condemned. Nothing has changed since then, though last year the representatives of the official Kazakh delegation promised here that they would do everything possible for justice to prevail.

The growth of xenophobia, at times provoked by representatives of the authorities of different levels, brazen violations of the rights and freedoms of ethnic minorities, and the absence of any possibility to achieve a fair court trial, when crimes committed on ethnic grounds would be qualified accordingly by investigatory and judicial bodies, – all this has become, to put it mildly, a common phenomena in Kazakhstan.

During our trip to Kazakhstan, we met with representatives of various ethnic groups: Russians, Chechens, Turks, and others. The common phrase that we heard from all of them was: “We do NOT feel ourselves PROTECTED!” And this is not fiction, this is what occurs every day in real life.