

НАМОЯНДАГИИ ДОИМИИ  
ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН  
ДАР НАЗДИ САҲА



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
TO THE OSCE

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### Statement

by the Head of Delegation of Tajikistan  
Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov at the 870<sup>th</sup> OSCE  
Permanent Council Meeting  
(Vienna, 23 June 2011)

*In response to the statements of the OSCE RFOM and Hungary\ EU Delegation  
on freedom of media in Tajikistan and Mr. Urunboi Usmonov detention*

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We have listened closely to the statements by the distinguished delegation of Hungary on behalf of the European Union. The content of this statement will be brought to the attention of our capital.

With regard to media environment in Tajikistan, we should like to state once more that National Constitution and relevant legislation ensure freedom of media and full range of rights for media workers in line with recognized international norms and standards. Pursuant to the last Ministry of Culture's statistics, totally 404 media outlets are currently operating in the territory of Tajikistan, including 270 printed media, 136 magazines and 8 news agencies. These positive signs hold much potential for media development in Tajikistan. If provided with training and understanding of the democratic potential of media, this coupled with a strengthening of the professional competencies of traditional media workers strengthens the sector as a whole and contribute to preventing radicalization and civil conflict.

We should like to stress that media workers and journalists who perform their duties in a responsible and professional manner and in compliance with the legislation, do not experience any kind of problems in their daily activity. The judicial trials are taking place openly and transparently and based on rule of law. Representatives of public and media institutions enjoy equal access to the court hearings.

Regarding Mr. Urunboi Usmanov, the BBC Uzbek Service reporter, 59 years old, we state that, he has been detained on 13 June 2011 in Khujand city and accused of having links to illegal extremist religious "Hizb-ut-Tahrir" organization. According to Tajik Ministry of Interior, Mr. Usmanov joined the banned organization in 2009 and has been actively involved in propaganda, spreading printed extremist materials and recruiting new "Hizb-ut-Tahrir" members through social networks, as well appealing for violent change of constitutional order in Tajikistan. Several witnesses have made statements confirming these charges. The arrest warrant has been signed by the court on June 15, 2011. Mr. Usmonov could be legally kept in detention for two months.

On 18 June 2011 the Sughd regional journalist Union and Tajik Law Enforcement arranged a meeting with Mr. U. Usmanov, BBC reporter and Mr. Said Sajmuddinov, the investigator appointed for this criminal case. During his conversation with Mr. Ilhom Jamoliyon, the Head of Sughd's Union of journalists, Mr. Usmonov recognized his meeting in February 2010 with Mr. Sharif Yoqubov, so-called the "Hizb-ut-Tahrir's Emir for Tajikistan", as well receiving extremist religious literature from Mr. Yahyo Rahmonkhojaev, a "Hizb-ut-Tahrir" activist.

The Tajik law enforcement representative confirmed that Mr. Usmanov is charged under article 307, comment 3, part 2 of the Criminal Code. The latter has categorically denied that Mr. Usmonov's detention is linked to his professional activity. Mr. Usmonov has in writing refused the right to legal protection. Nevertheless, on 21 June 2011 the BBC reporter Mr. Usmonov has been given an opportunity to meet his lawyer Ms. Faizinisso Vohidova.

My Delegation notes that Supreme Court of Tajikistan qualified "Hizb-ut-Tahrir" as an extremist organization and banned it since March 11, 2008. The law enforcement act in a more decisive manner against "Hizb-ut-Tahrir" and other radical extremist organizations is absolutely adequate reaction of authorities to the increasing threat of terrorism, radicalism and fundamentalism emanating from outside of the region.

In conclusion, we would like to inform that Tajik Law enforcement continues investigation the mentioned criminal case in a transparent manner and in line with national law and international covenants. Additional information on the matter would be shared by my Delegation in due course.

**Thank You Chairperson,**