

НАМОЯНДАГИИ ДОИМИИ
ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН
ДАР НАЗДИ САҲА



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TO THE OSCE

Statement

by the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the OSCE,
Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov at the 875th Meeting of the Permanent
Council
(Vienna, 22 July 2011)

*In response to Poland/EU and USA
Statements on Freedom of the Media in Tajikistan*

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Poland/EU and US Delegations for statements on Freedom of Media in Tajikistan. The content of these statements will be conveyed to my Government. In this regard, we remind that this is our third response to EU and US Delegation's statements on this subject.

Freedom of expression and media is protected by the Constitution and relevant Tajik legislation. During last years a considerable contribution has been made to the law of Tajikistan with aim to ensure free and democratic media environment in Tajikistan. The Tajik Government clearly demonstrated its commitment to continue political reforms and improvement of human rights.

With regard to the release of Mr.Urunboi Usmonov, the BBC reporter from pre-trial detention, we note that he has been arrested on 13 June 2011 in Khujand city and charged of having link with banned " Hizb-ut Tahrir" organization. The Supreme Court of Tajikistan qualified it as an extremist organization and banned it since March 11, 2008. The law enforcement act in this case is absolutely adequate reaction of authorities

to increasing threat of terrorism, radicalization and fundamentalism emanating from outside the OSCE area. Earlier my Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi has informed the OSCE RFOM Mrs. Dunja Mijatovic in detail on this subject.

Mr. Mahmadyusuf Ismoilov is detained on November 23, 2010 and charged of incitement of ethnic, racial and religions hatred, extortion and blackmail. The trail on Ismoilov's criminal case started on May 31, 2011 with twelve plaintiff's lawsuit against him.

We recognize that a free, independent media is important to ensure democratic civil society. However, the media is responsible for the political and social consequences of its performance. As well, it must meet high professional and ethical standards and respect the norms of the law. Journalists have the same equal rights as others. They are not privileged part of citizens and not exempted from fair and transparent judicial trial.

In this regard, we reiterate our invitation to the OSCE Office of the Representative of Freedom of the Media to take more visible steps toward arrangement trainings and educational courses designed for Tajik journalists on best international practices and improvement their professional and legal skills.

Tajikistan is open to continue practical cooperation with the OSCE and its Participating States in the field of Freedom of Media.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson,