

18 September 2019

Thank you Mr. moderator, I am Nuriddin Rizoyi, from Tajikistan, representing here the political movement "Group 24"

Ladies and gentlemen!

According to today's topic, I can say that the dictatorial regime in Tajikistan divides journalists into two categories: friends and foes. One, who strictly follows all instructions of the Security service, promotes a cult of personality of Rahmonov and covers the events only in the interests of the ruling clan is friend, but independent journalists covering the information objectively are foes. "Foes", according to Rahmonov's category of journalists, didn't remain almost any more in the country. Dozens of independent journalists have left the country and live in European counties due to persecutions and pressures in recent years and independent print media have been forced to close due to self-censorship.

For your kind information, there are around 50 journalists have left the country for last three years. In the country there were only those journalists promoting authoritarianism of Rahmonov and his clan. Guarantees of journalist's safety, media freedom, freedom of opinion and expression at the legislative level are just beautiful words that have no value, and administrative and judicial bodies themselves are involved in the persecution and pressure of independent media and journalists, as the state policy itself is directed against freedom of speech and journalism. And this fact completely violates the principles of television and radio organizations according to the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan. Tajikistan is currently ranked 161st out of 180 in the world press freedom ranking compiled by Reporters without borders in 2019.

In conclusion, I would like to note, that for the past few years on this podium we have been talking about the problems of violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Tajikistan and this gives hope to our citizens. But unfortunately some EU politicians like Donald Tusk, President of the European Council visit Tajikistan and praise the Dictator and his regime through the media. European countries instead of sanctions still provide financial assistance to Tajikistan, I have no much time here to count how much millions of grants have received this regime just in last year from European countries. For sure, all of them which eventually goes through corruption to strengthen the power of Rahmonov and his clan, and this fact on the contrary takes away the hope of the Tajik people.

Thank you for your attention!