



ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Human Rights Council 33rd session – September 2016

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review- Tajikistan

Mr President,
Excellences,

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence welcomes Tajikistan's continued cooperation with the human rights mechanisms for improvement of its human rights situation. However, we remain concerned about the ongoing human rights abuses against opposition activists in Tajikistan.

The leading Tajik authorities have widened crackdown on the opposition and banned the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), declaring it a terrorist organization. Hundreds of people landed behind bars for no reason other than for their peaceful political activism. The members of the party are being deliberately targeted.

Advocates representing political opponents are being arrested, imprisoned and harassed. One of the most recent of these cases is the case of Jamshed Yorov; he was detained on charges of disclosing classified information. The authorities have even approved a new law requiring all lawyers to renew their legal licenses with the Justice of Ministry; it is suspected that this law will be used in order to exclude lawyers who take on politically sensitive cases¹.

ODVV urges the government of Tajikistan to end the sweeping restriction on the freedom of expression, association and the use of torture and ill treatment. Tajikistan should respect the fundamental rights of every single human being. No discrimination should be made because of an individual's belief and political orientation.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/05/04/tajikistan-free-human-rights-lawyers>