



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TO THE OSCE**

1090 Vienna, Austria, Universitätsstrasse 8\1a Tel. (+43-1)-4098266 Fax: 409826614

Statement

**by the Head the Delegation of Tajikistan to the OSCE,
Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov at the № 854th
Plenary Permanent Council Meeting
(Vienna, 17 March, 2011)**

*in response to the Report of the OSCE RFOM,
United States and Hungary\EU statements
on freedom of media*

Mr. Chairperson,

As Tajikistan has been mentioned in recent Report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media, we would like to remind that on 17 February 2011 at the 851th Permanent Council Meeting we provided full and comprehensive response to the matters raised in current the RFOM report.

In addition, my Delegation notes that Government of Tajikistan takes the effort to ensure fundamental human rights and freedoms, including freedom of media declared by recognized international law norms and conventions. It should be stressed that in accordance with latest statistics provided on the matter, there are more than 400 independent media agencies and outlets operate freely in Tajikistan. It is a best example of goodwill and state policy conducted by the Government of Tajikistan toward strengthening the media environment, as well its adherence to the OSCE commitments in the field of freedom of media.

We would like also to inform Permanent Council Meeting that Tajik law enforcement continues thorough investigation of last criminal attack on

Tajikistan Revival Party's activist, the editor-in-chief of weekly "Najot" Mr. Hikmatullo Sayfullozoda. Today, Dushanbe City Court has satisfied "Asia-Plus" newspaper's appeal on disaffirmation the Decision taken before by Judge Mr. A. Nusratullo on the counter lawsuit, which means its reexamination in a new court trial. Earlier Dushanbe district court has ordered "Millat" independent weekly to pay symbolic 1,500 somons or \$333 only against lawsuit brought by the Ministry. Mr. Muhammadyusuf Ismoilov, a reporter for the Dushanbe-based independent weekly, *Nouri Zindagi* is charged under various articles of the Criminal Code, including racial and religious hatred, fraudulent and blackmail.

Each citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan has the right to freely express conviction and hold opinion, to impart them through the press and other mass media. Disputes on moral damage inflicted on a citizen due to the dissemination by mass media the information distorting the facts and insulting the honor and dignity of citizens, essentially, should be resolved through the court trial.

Mr. Chairperson,

We reiterate that the Parliament of Tajikistan is currently discussing new amendments to the National Media Law with regard to the flow of information in Internet. Tajikistan continues follow-up the path of cooperation with the OSCE on media-related issues.

I Thank You Mr. Chairperson,