



**CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION AGAINST TORTURE AND IMPUNITY IN
TAJIKISTAN
(2019 Annual Report)**

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The report is based on information provided by the member organizations of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan. Nigina Bahrieva, Nurmahmad Khalilov, Najiba Shirinbekova, Gulchehra Kholmatova, Parvina Navruzova, Tahmina Juraeva, Gulchehra Rahmanova, Shoirav Davlatova, Khursheda Rakhimova

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CPC – Criminal Procedure Code

DCA – Drug Control Agency

DMIA – Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs

DRS – Districts of Republic Subordination

EOPRT – Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

EU – European Union

FME – Forensic Medical Examination

GBAO – Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast

HRC – Human Rights Committee

HRO – Human Rights Ombudsman

ICRC – International Committee of Red Cross

INGO - International Non-governmental Organization

IP – Istanbul Protocol

IPHR - International Partnership for Human Rights

LAG – Legal Aid Group

MDICP - Main Department of Implementation of Criminal Punishment

MFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs

MoD – Ministry of Defence

MoJ – Ministry of Justice

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

NPM – National Preventive Mechanism

ODIHR - Organization on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

OHCHR – Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights

OPCAT – Optional Protocol to Convention against Torture

OSCE – Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe

OSI – Open Society Institute

PF – Public Fund

PI – Penitentiary Institution

PO – Public Organization

PRI – Penal Reform International

PTDF – Pre-Trial Detention Facility (SIZO)

RG - Rehabilitation group for torture survivors and members of their families

RT – Republic of Tajikistan

SCNS – State Committee on National Security

TDF – Temporary Detention Facility (IVS)

TNU – Tajik National University

UN – United Nations Organizations

UNDP – UN Development Program

UNICEF – UN Children’s Fund

UPR – Universal Periodic Review

Abbreviations in English

USD – US Dollar

DCAF – Center on Democratic Control of Armed Forces

DFID – Department of Foreign International Development

ABA/ROLI – American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative

NED – National Endowment for Democracy

INTRODUCTION

The Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan (Coalition) was established in September 2011 to consolidate civil society efforts to combat torture and impunity in the Republic of Tajikistan. Since its establishment, the Coalition became a well-functioning civil society structure, which has gained recognition at both national and international levels. The Coalition is an important platform and a safe space for all its members, within which they can get support, professional advice, improve their professional skills, unite their efforts and act as a single voice to achieve more effective impact on decision-makers, victims and donors. The principles of transparency of activities and professional ethics are very important to the Coalition.

Members of the Coalition are leading human rights NGOs with many years of experience, which are supported by international organizations. They have the opportunity to dialogue with the authorities of the country, strengthen partnerships with the media, which play a key role in promoting activities to combat torture and impunity. The Coalition facilitated the initiation of public debate on the issue of torture and has a good understanding of the situation on the individual (direct work with victims of torture and their relatives) and political (policy analysis, participation in political lobbying) levels. The Coalition effectively uses regional and international mechanisms to promote its recommendations.

In 2019 the Coalition managed to achieve certain results in the fight against torture in Tajikistan:

- In 2019, members of the Coalition documented 52 cases of alleged torture and ill-treatment, 27 victims of torture and ill-treatment received legal assistance, including 19 victims of newly reported cases, and the three victims that have been reported in the past few years. In cases concerning the protection of the rights of conscripts and military personnel, 341 persons received legal assistance and in 9 cases legal representation in the courts.
- In 2019, 3 criminal proceedings were instituted under article 143¹ of the Criminal Code ("Torture"), 2 of which resulted in criminal sentences against 7 persons - employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Committee for National Security, Persons sentenced to between 7 and 13 years' imprisonment.
- The Coalition is a leader in strategic litigation, consistently influencing improvement of the judicial practice related to government payment of adequate financial compensation to the victims of torture and ill-treatment and to their relatives. In 2019 there was one decision to

award partial compensation of 6,000 somoni for moral damage to be paid by the Ministry of the Interior and the State Committee for National Security (case Kh. K).

- As a result of the examination of allegations and complaints of torture and ill-treatment in cases in which legal assistance was provided by the Coalition's legal aid unit, the Tajik courts issued 5 individual rulings against internal affairs officers concerning: a) "Serious violations of the constitutional rights of the minor G.R. by the Firdawsi District Police Department"; b) "with a view to preventing the use of torture and ill-treatment in the detention of citizens and the commission of crimes by officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Committee for National Security"; c) "To draw the attention of the villagers of Chorguli, Yavan district, to the need to prevent indifference in the detection of crimes committed by villagers"; d) "Taking effective measures to prevent grave violations in the conduct of investigations against minors".
- There has been an increase in the number of cases in which the courts have issued private rulings on allegations of torture made during trials.
- 50 people received psycho-social assistance (rehabilitation), including 26 persons on newly registered cases, and 24 persons received rehabilitation on the cases registered in the past several years. The overall number included 27 women, 21 men and 2 minors (a boy and a girl). 21 of them (8 men, 11 women and 2 minors) directly experienced torture and ill-treatment, the remaining 29 were family members of victims of torture. In cases of «hazing», rehabilitation services were provided to 32 persons, including 7 servicemen and 25 members of their families. All applicants received social, medical and psychological assistance and support.
- Members of the Coalition participate in the activities of the Monitoring Group for Closed Detention Facilities established under the Human Rights Ombudsman HRO. In 2019 the group visited 7 closed and semi-closed institutions as well as conducted an assessment of the needs in preventing and combating extremism and terrorism in places of deprivation of liberty in 6 facilities of the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice.
- The Coalition monitors the implementation of Tajikistan's commitments on freedom from torture, prepares alternative reports to UN bodies, and actively promotes the issues of freedom from torture during human rights dialogues.
- Over 328 analytical materials were published by the Coalition's Media Group, including 157 in Russian (press releases - 4, analytics - 15, photo reportage - 6, "I'm a human rights activist" column - 16, informational materials - 107, infographics - 2, video and audio materials - 2, media material from other sources - 5), in Tajik - 129 materials - 129 (press

releases - 5, analytics - 11, photo report - 9, "I'm a human rights activist" column - 16, video and audio materials - 12, press reviews - 2, informational materials - 74), in English - 42 materials (press releases - 7, photo report - 7, informational materials - 28).

The Coalition has a web page www.notorture.tj.org, www.notorture.tj as well as has active social media accounts that present a comprehensive awareness-raising tool regarding the information on torture and ill-treatment in Tajikistan and contains articles from mass media, program documents, outcomes of analytical work and research, interviews and other relevant information.

The Coalition has its own pages in the following social networks:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/notorture.tj/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NoTortureTj>

Telegram t.me/notorture.tj

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWfjfabt9tacFgj-rcJZqtw>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/notorture-tj>

Instagram: [notorture.tj](https://www.instagram.com/notorture.tj)

The overall activities of the Coalition in 2019 were carried out with the financial resources provided by the European Union, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Open Society Institute (Berlin), Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Tajikistan, OSCE Office in Tajikistan, United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, UNDP, etc.

1. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

1.1. Coalition has the following objectives:

- Consolidate efforts and requirements in relation to public authorities on the formation of “zero tolerance” policy on torture in Tajikistan;
- Based on the international standards of the right to freedom from torture to focus efforts on the improvement of legislation and law enforcement practice.

1.2. Priorities and key areas of activities of the Coalition for 2016-2020:

1. Promote setting up of effective system to investigate complaints related to use of torture and ill-treatment, and ensure independent investigation of torture in Tajikistan;
2. Promote standards of the Istanbul Protocol for effective documentation and investigation of allegations of torture within legislation and practice, including setting up of procedures for independent judicial medical examination;
3. Promote external oversight of detention facilities;
4. Promote development of compensation mechanisms for moral harm inflicted to victims of torture and members of their families, including fair and adequate compensation and access to comprehensive rehabilitation services;

In 2020 the Coalition plans to continue carrying out activities aimed at:

- Further development of the information web page of the Coalition www.notorture.tj.org, which is the only source of reliable and comprehensive information targeting the general public and professional groups. It includes information about individual cases, as well as results of monitoring initiatives and reports on the use of torture in Tajikistan. The web page helps raising public awareness about the situation and serves as a platform for information exchange between all key actors at the national and international levels.
- Continued provision of legal aid to victims of torture, strategic litigation in court, documentation of cases of torture. Documenting cases of torture will allow the Coalition to have an in-depth understanding of the underlying causes and tendencies related to use of torture in the country. Strategic litigation aims at creating a sustainable practice of complying with relevant legislation in order to protect victims of torture and provide them and their relatives with adequate and fair compensation in line with the international standards.

- Monitor implementation of the recommendations to the authorities in Tajikistan formulated by the Committee against Torture, Human Rights Committee, and the Special Rapporteur on Torture.
- Prepare analytical documents and alternative reports to UN treaty bodies and institutions, and deliver briefings within the framework of inter-governmental dialogues on human rights.
- Advocacy for development and implementation of national policy on freedom from torture: the establishment of independent monitoring of detention facilities, amendments and changes in the legislation, execution of the Action Plan to Implement the Istanbul Protocol.
- Delivery of training and educational activities on issues of freedom from torture for practicing lawyers and other legal professionals.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE COALITION

The Coalition unites human rights organizations and individual experts in joint effort to combat torture and ill treatment. They carry out Coalition's activities on the basis of agreed **Rules and Principles for participation in the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan and Coalition's Strategy**.

As of December 31, 2019, there are 13 public organizations and 9 individual members of the Coalition:

1. Public organization Apeiron
2. Public organization Association of Lawyers of Pamir
3. Association "Public assessors of the Republic of Tajikistan"
4. Public organization "League of women with disabilities "Ishtirok"
5. Public organization "The World of Law"
6. Public Foundation "Najoti kudakon"
7. Public organization Independent Center for Human Rights Protection
8. Public Foundation Notabene
9. Public organization Public health and human rights
10. Public organization Office of Civic liberties
11. Public organization "Otifa"
12. Public Foundation Legal initiative
13. Public organization Human Rights Center
14. Abdurahmon Sharipov, lawyer

15. Askar Tursunov, lawyer
16. Ahliddin Salimov, journalist
17. Zoir Razokov, medical expert
18. Nargis Hamrabaeva, journalist
19. Fazliddin Khojaev, journalist
20. Oynihol Bobonazarova, independent expert
21. Umed Niyazov, lawyer
22. Shuhrat Saidov, lawyer

2.1. Working groups and managing bodies:

The Council of the Coalition includes all active members and partners of the Coalition.

Coordinator of the Coalition – Nurmahmad Khalilov, NGO Human Rights Center.

Analytical Center – Nigina Bakhrieva, Public Foundation Notabene

Monitoring Group of Closed Detention Facilities Takhmina Juraeva, NGO Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law (until 30.06.2019), Currently the Group is jointly supervised by Farhod Boboev NGO “Human Rights Centre” and Parvina Giasova NGO “Apeyron”

Legal Aid Group (LAG) – Najiba Shirinbekova, NGO Right and Prosperity (acts on the basis of the Regulation) (until 30.11.2019). As of December 1, 2019, the Group is coordinated by Gulchehra Kholmatova, NGO “The World of Law”

Rehabilitation Group – Gulchehra Rahmanova, NGO Legal initiative (acts on the basis of the Strategy).

Media group - Shoir Davlatova, NGO Independent Center for Human Rights Protection (acts on the basis of the Strategy).

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE COALITION DURING 2018

The Coalition took an active part in promoting its recommendations in the development of the National Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture, which was adopted on 24 January 2019.

In cooperation with the International Partnership for Human Rights and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the Coalition submitted report to the UN Human Rights Committee on Tajikistan's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Annual meeting of the Coalition. The annual meeting of the Coalition against Torture was held from 1 to 2 February 2019. The meeting brought together 44 members and partners of the Coalition to discuss the Coalition's achievements in 2019 and to plan for the future.

Preparation of the Coalition's 2018 annual report. Between December 2018 and January 2019, the Analytical Center was engaged in the preparation of the Coalition's 2018 annual report. The report was translated into Tajik and English and published on the Coalition's website in three languages (Tajik, Russian, English).

Presentation of the Coalition's annual report in the course of a Round Table to discuss the latest version of the National Plan to Implement the Recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture.¹ On 11 January 2019, the Office of Human Rights Guarantees of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan initiated discussions on the latest draft of a national plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture. The meeting was held at the UNDP premises. During the Round Table, representatives of the Coalition presented their results for 2018.

Extraordinary work meeting of the Coalition against Torture. On 26 November 2019, an extraordinary meeting of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity was held in Dushanbe, attended by 25 members of the Coalition. During the meeting, participants discussed the effectiveness of the Coalition and its working groups, as well as the process of developing a new Coalition strategy for the next few years.

¹ <http://notorture.tj.org/photo/11-yanvary-2019-goda-obsuzhdenie-nacionalnogo-plana-po-vypolneniyu-rekomendaciy-komiteta>

Regional conference “Together for Justice: Experience of the Central Asian NGO Coalitions against Torture”, Almaty, 13-15 May 2019, was organized by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw, Poland), with the participation of representatives of organizations-members of the Coalitions against Torture from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, human rights defenders of Uzbekistan and representatives of international organizations. During a three-day meeting, participants discussed regional challenges in the area of criminal justice and freedom from torture, shared best practices of lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders, and identified possible areas for future cooperation.

The methodological manual “Prosecutor’s Supervision of the Implementation of Legislation on the Prevention, Detection and Investigation of Torture in the Republic of Tajikistan” has been developed by the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the Coalition against Torture. The manual was published in 200 copies. Subsequently, on 7 September 2019, the Procurator-General of Tajikistan adopted an Instruction on methods and methods for carrying out prosecutorial oversight of compliance with the law to prevent, detect and investigate torture, which is a set of recommendations for prosecutors to take action to prevent and effectively combat torture.

The compilation of national and international legislation on torture, cruel, degrading treatment and punishment has been updated and published in 1,000 copies. The compilation was disseminated free of charge among target audiences (law enforcement, judicial, prosecutorial, legal, NGO, legal, etc.).

Technical equipment for the offices of the Coalition member organizations. At the request of the Coalition members, the following equipment was purchased: batteries for CCTV cameras, antivirals and hard drives.

"Tajik Human Rights Network" on Facebook. The network was registered to Facebook in 2014 and is managed by the Office of Civil Liberties <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1531616163740269/>. The network provides a platform for human rights NGOs to discuss the latest developments in their respective areas of interest, including recently adopted legislation, tenders and grants, updates about the NGOs activities, including the activities of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan. The network also makes it possible to respond rapidly to gross human rights violations, drafting

appeals to public authorities, collect signatures, etc. It is currently the only active Facebook platform for activists, Human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists in Tajikistan.

The Network has also registered an account on Google groups, network_tj@googlegroups.com. At present, 225 representatives of civil society organizations in Tajikistan are receiving updated data from the network and their number is constantly increasing. The Listserv contains information on the activities of NGOs in the country, announcements, calls for grants, new legislation, training materials, as well as notifications of deadlines for submission of reports to the Ministry of Justice. The Listserv is also used to conduct online surveys among NGOs. Legal experts from the NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” provide ongoing consultations to civil society activists on various issues related to NGO activities, including institutional and financial security, financial audits, grant procedures, etc.

3.1. ACTIVITIES OF THE MONITORING GROUP ON DETENTION FACILITIES

The Group was established within the framework of the Coalition's strategic priorities and its **aims** includes the following: a) to promote the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and the establishment of a national preventive mechanism (NPM), and b) to establish an independent public monitoring mechanism for detention facilities.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2019, the group activities were supervised by the NGO "Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law" (Coordinator Tahmina Jurayeva). As of 1 July 2019, the Group is jointly coordinated by Farhod Boboev (NGO “Human Rights Center”) and Parvina Giasova (NGO “Apeyron”).

This Working Group participates in the activities of another initiative – the Working Group on the Promotion of the Ratification of OPCAT, the coordination of the monitoring mechanism under the Human Rights Ombudsman in the Republic of Tajikistan (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) and coordinates the work of the Monitoring Group to visit detention facilities (hereinafter Monitoring Group).

Since 2016 the Group activities are supported by the European Union, UNDP, OSCE Office in Dushanbe, and Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Working meetings

On 7 January 2019, the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan sent a letter to the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice, with the request to discuss the possibility of cooperation in the field of freedom from torture and the rights of persons, deprived of liberty.

On 19 March 2019, a meeting was held with Baibalazoda Rustam Kushmurod, Deputy Head of the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice, to discuss cooperation issues, as well as possibilities for visits to closed institutions to verify allegations of torture and ill-treatment from places of deprivation of liberty.

On 29 January 2019, the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in Tajikistan hosted a final meeting of the members of the Working Group on the promotion of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The meeting was attended by all members of the Working Group, the monitoring group and the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan. The meeting discussed the results of the monitoring group's activities for 2018 and developed work plans for 2019. Also, during the meeting, the participants met the new members of the Working Group from the General Prosecution Office and the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice. For more information about the meeting, please refer to: <http://notorture.tj.org/news/vstrecha-rabochey-gruppy-o-bunte-v-hudzhandskoy-kolonii-resocializacii-osuzhdennyh-i-tyurmah> .

On 27 September, with the support of the International Organization "Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights", members of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity visited a detention center Slujwec in Warsaw, Poland. Due to the large size of the facility, the team was able to visit only the station where first-time convicts and persons under the age of 21 were held. During the visit, members of the Coalition visited several cells, learned about the work of psychologists with prisoners, as well as educational programs offering secondary and special education and foreign language training.

Monitoring the Detention facilities

In 2019, 7 detention facilities were visited.

- *District Psychiatric facility in B. Gafurov, Sogd Oblast - 25-26 February 2019*². This is the second visit to the institution. The first visit to the institution took place in 2014. Numerous recommendations were made at that time. The Human Rights Ombudsman (hereinafter referred to as HRO) has prepared a letter to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Protection to remedy the shortcomings identified. The institution has been rebuilt and renovated with funds from the local budget.

The territory of the psychological institution is almost 6 hectares, which has been completely blocked by concrete blocks about two meters high. Fruit trees (apples, apricots, peaches, cherries, persimmons, walnuts) and grape trees, corn fields and other grass for livestock are planted throughout the territory. According to staff, the harvest is used to provide fruit and vegetables to patients and staff.

In 2017, a major renovation of the institution was carried out. All the rooms are in good condition, everything was clean, the ground of the exercise yard is well maintained.

At the time of the observation, there were 22 patients in the facility, all men. According to the instructions, the duration of stay in the institution should not exceed 45 days, but in practice, the duration varies from one to six months.

Interviewees indicated that there had been no cases of forced placement in a psychological institution as a result of a court decision. According to the staff member, all patients are admitted on a voluntary basis.

Upon admission, hospital clothing is provided to all patients at will. Patients may also wear their own clothes. According to the facility management, 11.80 somoni per day is allocated from the state budget for each patient. But in fact, they spend up to 14.30 somoni a day on the living expenses of each patient from private donations.

- *Follow-up Monitoring visit to the District Psychiatric Institution in Zafarabad, Soghd Oblast, 27-28 February 2019*³. That was the second visit to the Psychiatric Institution in Zafarabad

² <http://notorture.tj.org/rehab/monitoring-psihiatricheskogo-uchrezhdeniya-b-gafurovskogo-rayona>

³ <http://notorture.tj.org/rehab/povtorny-monitoring-psihiatricheskogo-uchrezhdeniya-zafarabadskogo-rayona>

(hereinafter referred to as the PI), after the Monitoring Group visited the facility in September 2018.

There have been significant changes in the facility since the first visit. All premises were renovated with the financial support of the Chairman of the District. In addition, a registry is being constructed, which at the time of the visit is not yet in operation. The facility's warehouse is filled with food. According to the management, the interruption in the provision of funding had ended and the management of the institution could easily withdraw funds from their bank account and purchase all necessary products. Four meals per day is provided for patients (first and second meals for lunch and dinner). The dishes for patients have been completely renovated. New porcelain cups (for tea and first course) have been brought in. Two new refrigerators were presented by the benefactors. New carpets (8 carpets) were also made in the chambers. Bed linen and towels have been completely renovated. New mattresses have been received. According to the staff, there are three new sets of bedding. The shower room was renovated, a new heater and bath were installed. The shower had hot and cold water. A television set and dining tables were purchased from the local government and the Health Authority.

According to the Chief Medical Officer, the surveillance cameras had been purchased and their installation was planned for the near future. According to the staff, delays in the payment of salaries and the disbursement of funds for meals to patients have ceased.

- *Roshtkala Regional Psychiatric Hospital* - *March 16-18, 2019.*

Similarly, this was the follow up visit, after the construction and commissioning of the new facility.

The building was constructed and put into operation in September 2018. The establishment has its own boiler room, and new facilities have been built: bathrooms, toilets, dining room, laundry room. In the administrative building, on the left wing there are two men's departments, on the right wing there are two women's offices and two children's offices. In general, the building was clean and on the grounds of the exercise yards everything was well maintained.

The facility has a capacity of 84-86 people, and at the time of the monitoring there were 60 people, 43 men and 17 women. There is also a children's ward, but there were no patients at the time of the visit. During the monitoring, interviews were conducted with 10 patients, 8 junior staff, 2 doctors, including the institution's Director.

The duration of stay varied from one month to seven years (considering that some patients were in the old building of the Roshtkalinsky District Psychiatric Hospital). In addition, during interviews with patients, some indicated that they did not remember how long they had been in the facility. All patients are hospitalized without their written consent. The management of the institution noted that the court's decision had been taken, but that the court's decision had not been presented to the monitoring group.

The information boards were ready but are still not displayed in the appropriate places. They are located in the economic part of the institution. Once the facility has been handed over, the management is trying to solve these issues. The monitoring group also distributed information posters on patients' rights, which were immediately displayed.

The facility is equipped with 70 CCTV cameras covering the entire facility.

The State budget allocates 6 somoni 40 dirams per day for each patient's nutrition, but actually the facility spends between 10 and 12 somoni a day. Twice a week, district entrepreneurs organize a charitable pilaf for patients.

According to the director of the institution, in 2017 and 2018 there were no deaths from disease, suicides, accidents and crimes against patients.

The facility also has facilities for physiotherapy, dentistry and its own laboratory. Physiotherapy can be performed simultaneously for three persons. Apart from the rehabilitation services, the department also provides the patients with herbal treatment. In addition, the facility also provides the services of a dentist and a physiotherapist, who however, work without proper professional training, possessing only medical college certificates.

The facility also has facilities for physiotherapy, dentistry and its own laboratory. Physiotherapy can be provided simultaneously for three people. In addition to rehabilitation services, the unit also provides patients with herbal treatment. In addition, dental and physiotherapeutic services are also provided, however, the persons providing such services lack appropriate training, with only certificates from the Medical College.

In general, there are only two doctors with higher education in the institution - the director and his deputy. There is an acute shortage of doctors in the institution.

- *Monitoring visit to the Regional Psychiatric Centre No. 1 in Bokhtar, Khatlon region - 24-25 April 2019⁴*

The facility has been in operation since 2002 and is located in an old building which used to function as a kindergarten. The capacity of the institution is 70 persons, at the time of the visit there were 78 persons, 48 men and 22 women in the building. Of these, eight are outpatients. Interviews were conducted with 10 patients, 11 assistants and 2 doctors, including the director of the facility. The number of voluntary hospitalizations was 60, and the number of involuntary hospitalizations was 10. As in most institutions, it is unclear whether there is a court decision on cases of involuntary hospitalization and these decisions have not been referred for consideration. There is also a shortage of doctors in this institution.

- *Temporary Detention Facility of the Drug Control Agency under the President of Tajikistan (DCA) in GBAO - 19-20 March 2019⁵*

In the institutions subordinated to the DCA, the group started monitoring since 2018. It was the first monitoring visit to the DCA Temporary Detention Facility (TDF) in GBAO. During the visit, the Monitoring Group briefed the Head of the TDF about the group's activities, objectives, etc. and after which it was granted access to the TDF. At the time of the monitoring, there were no detainees in the TDF. The facility is located in the building of the former car market, which is not designed or adapted for the detention purposes. There are no windows in the cells and there is no natural light in the room. The TDF authority has contacted the supervisors to assign them another building that meets the detention standards.

The last major reconstruction of TDF took place in 2018. At the entrance to the DCA there is a box for letters and complaints, as well as information about the rights of complainants. According to the staff, the detainees are provided with a pen and paper. The TDF has one CCTV camera installed at the entrance on the right side, in the corridor.

⁴ <http://notorture.tj.org/rehab/monitoring-psihiatricheskogo-centra-v-bohtare-stychki-mezhdu-pacientami-byvayut-no-ih-bystro>

⁵ <http://notorture.tj.org/rehab/monitoring-v-oblastnoy-psihoobolnice-gbao-videonablyudeniye-vedut-70-kamer>

In an interview with the Head of the DCA in GBAO, it transpired that the Agency lacks position of the Head of TDF, as well as other core staff members for maintaining the detention facility. These functions are carried out by the DCA main staff members. He noted, that while the Head of the DCA is also responsible for TDF, there is also a specially assigned curator for running the TDF.

There is special register in DCA to document all cases of injuries to detainees, but according to officials, there have been no such cases in practice. At the same time, the register was not made available to the monitoring team.

The TDF has a register of applications and complaints. The Monitoring team had access to the register, however no complaint has been registered do far.

- TDF of the Interdistrict Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Kulyab city of Khatlon region - 22-23 April 2019

At the moment of the monitoring, there is one male detainee held in the detention facility of DCA in Kulyab. There were no complaints about detention conditions or staff attitudes. Between 2018 and April 2019, no injuries were recorded the facility. Medical assistance is provided by an ambulance doctor, and facility has an agreement on provision of first aid with the local hospital. The last major reconstruction of TDF took place in 2016. The DCA building is new and was built at the expense of the Chinese Ministry of Security. There are no windows in the cells, but artificial lighting is installed. There is no box for letters and complaints.

- Monitoring of the TDF of the Office of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Khatlon Region - April 26-27, 2019⁶

During the monitoring, there were no detainees. There is no box for letters and complaints. There are no windows in the cells and the cells are lit with the artificial lighting only. In general, the conditions of detention are satisfactory. According to the DCA Head, at the end of 2018, the Agency was visited by the representatives of the US Embassy in the Republic of Tajikistan to discuss the possibilities of providing funding for the TDF renovation.

Needs assessment for preventing and combating extremism and terrorism in detention facilities: 19-30 August 2019.⁷

⁶ <http://notorture.tj.org/rehab/monitoring-ivs-uakn-po-hatlonu-zdanie-budet-otremontirovano-na-sredstva-posolstva-ssha>

From 19 to 30 August 2019, the NGO “Human Rights Centre”, who acted on behalf of the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan, in cooperation with the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice, conducted independent monitoring in six facilities of the Central Penal Correction Department, two remand centers and four correctional colonies:

- Correctional facility 3/3 in Khujand, Sughd province.
- Correctional facility 3/2 in Vahdat, DRS
- Corrective (female) colony 3/8 in Nurek, DRS
- Juvenile colony 3/12 in Dushanbe.
- Dushanbe Pre-trial detention center 9/1.
- Khujand Pre-trial detention center 9/2.

The main purpose of the monitoring was to assess the needs to prevent and combat extremism and terrorism in places of deprivation of liberty, examining the conditions of detention and identifying the needs of the penal correctional system for rehabilitation and re-socialization of persons, convicted of terrorism and extremism. On the results of the monitoring, a number of proposals have been prepared with a view to improving the legislation and practice of the penal correction system and methods for preventing and combating extremism and terrorism in places of deprivation of liberty.

More detailed information about each visit and the recommendations of the group is available on the website of the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity www.notorture.tj.org

Messages from places of deprivation and restriction of freedom

It should be noted that representatives of civil society, including members of the Monitoring Group do not have access to the detention facilities to verify allegations of torture and ill-treatment. In practice, upon receiving complains with torture allegations, the Head of the Monitoring group forward the cases to the Human Rights Ombudsman and the General Prosecutor office. However, very often, visits for verification of the alleged torture cases are often carried out by representatives of the Office of the Procurator-General and the Office of the Ombudsman, without the participation of civil society.

⁷ This monitoring was carried out by the NGO HRC as part of the Istanbul Protocol standards promotion program (coordinator of Navruzova Parvina) with the support of the OSCE Program Office in the Republic of Tajikistan “Reform of the justice system” project and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Program for Central Asian States 2015-2019.

For the reporting period, the Monitoring group was able to visit only one convict based on reports received from places of deprivation and restriction of freedom.

a) 26 June 2019, Bobozoda U, the Human Rights Ombudsman in the Republic of Tajikistan, together with Nidoev H. a staff member of HRO and a member of the Coalition's monitoring team visited the Correctional facility 3/2 of the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice in the city of Vahdat to meet one of the colony convicts Zayd Saidov. The meeting took place in rooms for extended visits without the presence of the prison staff. No surveillance cameras were found in the office. Visual observation revealed no apparent health problems (he freely walked and sat, and sounded confident), no external signs of violence (abrasions, bruises) were observed. During an interview, Zayd Saidov noted that he had no special complaints about his health other than stomach problems and was therefore prescribed a diet. He denied that he had been wounded during the riot, stating that when the riot broke out, one of the prisoners had taken him out of the barracks. At that point, he fell and suffered minor injuries, but received immediate medical attention. He also noted that the last meeting with family members had taken place before the riot, and that no meetings were allowed during the investigation. There were no other complaints about detention conditions and treatment, noting that he was well-treated, there is no pressure against him, and he is engaged in manufacturing, and consults the prison authority from time to time. He mentioned the satisfactory conditions in the colony, and that recently there was a new dining room and toilets constructed. According to him corruption and extortion had decreased with the arrival of the new leadership.

b) On 11 March 2019, local media outlets aired a video of Savrinisso Jurabekova (Juraeva), the wife of Makhmadali Hayit, the deputy head of the banned Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRP), where she informed that during a meeting with her husband on 9 March 2019, Hayit for the first time reported that he had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment in the Pre-trial Detention Center # 1 in Dushanbe.⁸ On 12 March 2019, the Head of the Coalition met with the Deputy HRO, Habibullozoda Rajabmo, to discuss the possibilities of verifying the allegations of torture and ill-treatment against Hayit. Ms Habibullozoda suggested to address the Human Rights Ombudsman with official letter regarding this issue. However, owing to the fact that the new Human Rights Ombudsman in the Republic of Tajikistan, Bobozoda Umed, had just begun his duties, the Head of the Coalition was unable to meet with him. On 13 March 2019, the NGO "Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law" addressed the HRO with the request of a joint visit of Hayit, however no official reply had been received. According to

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<https://fergana.agency/news/105787/?fbclid=IwAR30zw6KI9xY2XFvXaidPsRAN0WalsKtOs8ieeO9RoKrnwI5q6kUvYQX9WM>

preliminary information, the letter was sent to the prosecutorial authorities to verify the allegation of torture and ill-treatment. The HRO staff also did not meet with Hayit.⁹

c) During the reporting period, the media reported alleged torture and ill-treatment of convicted persons serving sentences in a correctional institution 3/4. In particular, on 26 March, the media published a letter from a group of prisoners to the Head of the Main Penal Correction Department. In the letter, the convicts complained of ill-treatment and extortion by the prison staff. In order to verify these allegations, the Monitoring group requested the Human Rights Ombudsman to conduct a joint visit to the colony. Despite the preliminary arrangement for a joint visit, as a result, the HRO staff conducted interviews with the convicts of the Colony 3/4 in the absent of the representatives of the Coalition against torture. As a result of the visit, the HRO staff informed that the convicts do not have any complaints about the conditions of detention or the use of unlawful treatment, nor do they have anything to do with the letter of complaint of torture circulated in the media. The Coalition continues to negotiate joint visits to verify allegations of torture.

d) In May, the media reported that a boy was beaten by the staff of a boarding house for children in Degmai, Sughd province for refusing to eat. Information was sent to the Human Rights Ombudsman to verify the information. On the initiative of the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child, a commission was set up with the participation of representatives of the executive body in Sogd province, which visited the institution.

e) On 8 August 2019, the Coalition received a request from the wife of the convicted person D.R.R. to arrange a meeting between her husband and the monitoring group. On 9 August 2019, the Coalition contacted the Human Rights Ombudsman office regarding the possibility of visiting convict D.R.R., who was serving his sentence in Dushanbe prison #1. On 16 September 2019, the Ombudsman replied that "the Human Rights Ombudsman referred the application of citizen V.I. to the General Prosecutor's Office of Tajikistan for the purpose of verifying allegations of torture of the convicted person D.R.R. According to the reply of the General Prosecutor's Office, none of the facts was confirmed. In this regard, the Human Rights Ombudsman did not meet with the convicted person, D.R.R.

f) On 15 August 2019, the mother of the convicted person, S.F.B. requested the head of the Coalition and the monitoring group to visit her son together with the Ombudsman. On 16 August 2019, on the basis of the application of S.M.B. the Coalition submitted an application to the Ombudsman of the Republic of Tajikistan for a joint visit to the convicted person S.F.B. in the remand center of Dushanbe. The HRO forwarded the request to the General Prosecutor

⁹ <https://www.ozodi.org/a/30062319.html>

Office of Tajikistan, with a copy to the Centre for Human Rights. The staff of the Ombudsman never met with the convicted person S.F.B.

The First Penitentiary Forum: “Development of the prison system Tajikistan”

The first penitentiary forum of Tajikistan took place in Dushanbe on 20 November 2019. Within the framework of the Forum, a representative of the Coalition presented the preliminary results of the monitoring of the situation in 6 institutions of the Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, which was conducted from 19 to 30 August 2019.

3.2 INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM FOR REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

The aim of Coalition’s Rehabilitation Group for the Victims of Torture and Members of their Families (RG) provides holistic assistance services to victims of torture and to their relatives and restore their independence and ability to carry on with their physical, psychological, social and professional activities, and fully participate in all aspects of social life.

The main tasks of the RG are:

- Provision of diagnostics services and emergency assistance;
- Development of tailored individual programs for quality medical and psychosocial rehabilitation;
- Provision of assistance in outpatient and inpatient care for survivors of torture and members of their families;
- Development of rules and procedures for cooperation with experts who provide rehabilitation services to the survivors of torture and their relatives;
- Coordination with authorities, medical institutions and institutions providing psychological support to promote creation of effective mechanisms for the rehabilitation of survivors of torture and their families.

The activities of Coalitions RG in 2019 were supported within the framework of the project “Actions for Freedom from Torture in Tajikistan”, funded by the European Union (Co-funded by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights), and “Support to the Coalition of Civil Society Against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan” funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

IRCT membership. In March 2016, the Public Foundation “Legal Initiative” (Coordinator of RG) applied for membership with the “International Network for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims” (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)), however, was denied due to lack of work experience. As a result of experience gained and additional negotiations, the organization was admitted to the International Rehabilitation Network for Torture Victims (IRCT) in May 2019. Membership in IRCT will allow for both financial and professional support, as well as the promotion of certain rehabilitation issues. Membership provides an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other countries and experts. More information about the network can be found at <https://irct.org/>

Cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

In its recommendations to the third periodic report of Tajikistan on the implementation of the Convention against Torture, the UN Committee against Torture recommended that Tajikistan should "Ensure that victims of torture obtain redress and rehabilitation and have an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, including the means for as full a rehabilitation as possible by formulating a detailed rehabilitation program", and " Ensure that the program offers specialized rehabilitation services that are appropriate, available and promptly accessible".

On 14 February, a third letter was sent to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare proposing a meeting on further cooperation in the rehabilitation of torture victims. On 20 February, the Ministry of Public Health of Tajikistan replied that the Ministry was ready to cooperate once the legal basis for cooperation had been developed (Memorandum). WG will be represented by Parvina Navruzova, a member of the Working Party. The WG has made a number of proposals for the implementation of the UN CAT recommendations on the promotion of rehabilitation programs for victims of torture and their family members, which have been submitted to the Working Group within the MHSW. At the time of writing, the working group had not adopted a national program/plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee.

Rehabilitation of victims of torture and members of their families

In total, in 2019 the Coalition provided rehabilitation services to 50 people (21 women and 27 men, including 2 minors (1 boy and 1 girl)). 27 people (11 women and 8 men, including 2 minors (1 boy and 1 girl)) were directly suffered consequences of use of torture and ill-treatment against them, the remaining 29 were family members of victims of torture.

All applicants were provided with rehabilitation assistance in the form of social, medical and psychological help and support:

- diagnostics and outpatient treatment - 20 persons;
- diagnostics and inpatient treatment – 7 persons;
- psychological assistance - 35 persons;
- sanatorium/spa resort treatment – 5 persons.

In 2019, 8 persons and/or their relatives completed full rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation course has been repeated for those people whose cases are under consideration or appeal, and they are waiting for further decision.

The RG currently has contracted 24 specialists to provide rehabilitation services: 3 doctors (including one psychiatrist), 6 social workers and 11 psychologists. The specialists cover all regions of the country. Most specialists are employed on the basis of service contracts. In order to provide medical care, contracts have also been concluded on an annual basis with clinics such as Ibni Sino, Balkh, the National Medical Centre (Karabalo), Istiqlol, Nurafzo and the emergency station in the city of Dushanbe, “Lukmoni Khakim”, “Yasub” and “Impulse” in Sughd province and “Yavan” in Khatlon province.

3.3. LEGAL AID

The activities of Coalition’s Legal Aid Group (LAG) aim at promoting the establishment of an effective response system to allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including an independent mechanism for the investigating torture, and adequate provision of legal aid to victims of torture and their relatives.

The main tasks of the LAG are:

- To establish the scope of torture and ill-treatment;
- To document torture and ill-treatment, provide legal assistance to victims of torture and their relatives, conduct strategic litigation;
- To develop rules and procedures for cooperating with lawyers to provide legal assistance to victims of torture and their relatives;
- To coordinate the activities of Coalition members on legal assistance to victims of torture;

- To promote effective mechanisms for responding and investigating torture by state bodies.

LAG is composed of Coalition members and partners of the Coalition working on provision legal assistance. They work together to improve their capacity to document torture, develop strategies and techniques for protecting victims of torture, provide legal assistance to selected vulnerable groups, and promote good practice.

The Secretariat of LAG consists of one coordinator, two experts on documenting torture and two assistants. The group also includes one Consultant on medical documentation of torture in accordance with the standards of the Istanbul Protocol.

The activities of LAG's Secretariat in 2019 were supported by the European Union, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

In 2019, the LAG continued its activities aimed at:

- providing legal assistance to victims of torture, strategic litigation, documentation of cases of torture;
- preparing submissions for analytical papers and alternative reports to UN bodies, as well as for intergovernmental dialogues on human rights.

In 2019, more than 58 consultation meetings were held with lawyers in cases where the LAG provides legal assistance, and 10 information meetings were held with 97 lawyers from Khujand, Kanibadam, Isfara, Buston, Guliston, Penjikent and the districts of J. Rasulov, B. Gafurov, Asht and Spitamen of Sughd province in order to identify cases of torture and ill-treatment and strengthen further cooperation.

Documenting cases of torture and ill treatment

Documentation of cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment is a tool for determining the scope of torture. Documentation is carried out by referring alleged victims of torture and/or their relatives to the Coalition and/or obtaining primary information from other interested persons, media, NGOs, lawyers, doctors, etc.

In 2019, the Legal Aid Group provided legal assistance to 70 persons and documented 52 cases of alleged torture and ill-treatment, including two minors and seven women. The other cases concerned domestic violence, settlement, pensions, expulsion from higher education and schools,

criminal record, dismissal from employment, etc. The vast majority of the victims represented vulnerable groups and therefore they were provided with legal assistance in the form of consultations and legal documentation.

	Regions				TOTAL
	Dushanbe	DRS	Khatlon /GBAO	Sughd	
Total reordered	16 (3) ¹⁰	6 (1)	14 (4)	16 (1)	52 persons, including 7 women
Lawyer provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 people received the services of a lawyer, including 6 women • 5 people refused the services of a lawyer at the documentation stage, including 1 woman • In 2 cases the lawyer services were denied • 16 applicants were provided with legal support by project lawyers 				
Consultations, documents drafted	- 63 consultations provided; More that 47 complaints were filled; in 6 cases legal representation was assigned				

The following methods for instigating the torture were documented: beatings on different parts of the body, including with a rubber bat, application of electric shocks to the fingers, rape or threats of rape, psychological violence in the form of verbal insults, twisting a person's arms behind their back and attaching them to the feet, covering the victim's mouth with tape, injections (in three cases) that the victims said restricted their ability to move, think and understand.

Torture was used to obtain confessions, punish certain behaviors or as a measure of restraint.

The age groups of victims: (a) under 18 - 2 persons; (b) 19 - 21 - 3 persons; (c) 22-33 persons.

¹⁰ Количество женщин от общего числа

The Coalition received complaints against the following government departments:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs - 40,
- the State Committee for National Security - 1,
- the Main Department for execution of criminal penalties of the Ministry of Justice. - 7,
- Ministry of Education - 2.
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection - 1

Legal consultations

There are three hotline phones managed by LAG: in Sughd region (987873333), in Khatlon province (987876666), in Dushanbe and DRS (987087676). Telephone lines are also open outside of working hours, including weekends and holidays.

In Dushanbe and DRS, 49 verbal consultations were provided, including 30 consultation provided over the hot-line, 14 written documents to state and judicial bodies were prepared. 14 verbal consultations were provided in Sogd Province, and 17 written complaints and applications have been prepared.

During the reporting period, LAG, in collaboration with the Coalition Media Group, initiated the preparation and publication of 8 investigative journalism reports.

The Istanbul Protocol consultant provided expert assistance in the analysis of medical records, the development of the request for a comprehensive medical examination, the strategy for collecting medical evidence during the preliminary investigation phase and after the initiation of criminal proceedings, Torture and other forms of ill-treatment. With regard to the analysis of medical documents, expert assistance was provided by the experts from the international organization "Physicians for Human Rights".

Trial monitoring. In the reporting period, 38 trial monitoring was conducted into 10 cases on torture and ill-treatment. Analysis of the court cases monitoring indicated the following problems:

- In almost all cases, the guarantees of article 14 (c) of ICCPR, "To be tried without undue delay", have been violated. Court proceedings were delayed between 30 minutes and 2 hours. The reasons for such delays are rarely explained or apologized.

- Equality of arms during court hearings: the prosecutor, the registrar and the police used their cell phones in the courtroom, while other participants were searched (bags) and forced to hand over mobile phones at the courthouse entrance; In addition, the principle of equality of arms is constantly violated by judges, who in most cases ignore or dismiss counsel's motions, particularly in relation to allegations of torture.
- access to the courtroom is limited without any explanation, in some cases judge refused to allow independent monitors to the courtroom without any justifications.
- In one case, the judge had verbally requested that the proceedings not be reported in the media, which, in her view, could have a negative impact on the proceedings.
- In addition to court hearings, attention is also drawn to infrastructure: access to court buildings, security of court, accessibility of information, availability of toilets, accessibility for persons with disabilities, etc. For example, there are no toilets in the courts, no waiting places, no blackboards. It is also important to note that courtrooms are not heated during the winter and are not cooled during the summer, especially in remote areas.
- In two cases, the hearings took place in the judge's office, which did not allow for the accommodation of all the participants in the proceedings. For lack of space, observers are not allowed to attend court hearings.

Legal aid/court representation

The Honorarium Fund is formed at the expense of several projects of member organizations of the Coalition to provide legal assistance to alleged victims of torture and/or their relatives. The fee is allocated to cover the following types of expenses:

- Payment to lawyer providing legal protection to the alleged victim of torture and/or their relatives;
- Subsistence allowance, including for cost of travel and accommodation, if the lawyer makes duty trips related to provision of legal support for victims of torture;
- Expenses related to medical assistance to victims of torture or witnesses: purchase of medicines, payment for urgent operations, psychological assistance/rehabilitation of the victim of torture;
- Expenses for engaging specialists to conduct and draft psychological assessment and define moral damage;
- Payment for other measures aimed at providing protection to victims of torture and/or their relatives, lawyers and witnesses.

The fee for providing legal assistance to alleged victims of torture and/or their relatives is spent in consultation with the members of the Commission on Allocation of the Honorarium Fund (four persons) and the Coordinator of LAG.

In 2019, the Coalition Honorarium Fund received 27 requests for legal assistance on new applications and when necessary, for the allocation of funds for expert examinations.

Analysis of citizens' complaints on cases of torture and ill-treatment

Medical documentation:

- Lack of knowledge and skills of lawyers to meet the standards of the Istanbul Protocol. In 2019, new lawyers joined the Coalition, who had not previously participated in training on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol and had no experience in commissioning a comprehensive physical and psychological trauma assessment survey. Consequently, it was difficult for lawyers to formulate motions detailing the methods of torture, the physical and psychological trauma suffered, the general state of health after torture, questions to forensic doctors and psychologists
- Lawyers do not have sufficient experience in gathering medical evidence, that is, in collecting medical examinations and examinations before and after detention, which is very important in assessing the general state of health during examination and rehabilitation. At the same time, there are problems with the appointment of a full examination at the request of the lawyer.
- Often, the investigative bodies fail to take a decision on applications submitted by lawyers for comprehensive expert examination and thus violate the procedural time limits for consideration of applications. It is important to point out that it is precisely in assessing the psychological consequences of torture that there are problems, and lawyers are not always ready to apply for an expert opinion on the psychological condition of the victim and a post-mortem examination. Recent expert reports are requested in connection with suicides following alleged torture and ill-treatment. The main reason is that, in law enforcement practice, there has been no forensic assessment of the psychological trauma resulting from torture.
- Forensic psychiatrists do not have sufficient experience in carrying out this examination in accordance with international standards. As a result, lawyers, investigators and judges do not understand the importance of this expertise, as they do not see the

physical injuries for the subsequent characterization of the crime. The psychological assessment of the victim's condition is based on the identification of psychological trauma and its subsequent impact on the impairment of the internal functioning of the body, which affects the general health of the victim.

- In some cases, lawyers do not appeal acts/omissions of the judicial authorities when their motions are not approved or when the investigators do not rule on them.

Prosecutorial inspections:

- Allegations of torture are made during the trial by the lawyers, the defendants/relatives themselves, but neither the prosecutor nor the judges themselves respond to the allegations. An analysis demonstrated that judges do not initiate a prosecution review of allegations of torture made by defendants. In 2019, four cases were investigated by prosecutors on the basis of requests from lawyers.
- As a rule, allegations of torture are verified by the same prosecutor, who supervises the legality of the investigation bodies and subsequently supports the prosecution in court. In this case, the prosecuting authorities cannot comply with the principles of impartiality in responding to and investigating allegations of torture in violation of articles 12 to 13 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- The time limits for conducting procuratorial checks are not regulated by the Code of Criminal Procedure or other regulatory and legal instruments. In such cases, the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On appeals of individuals and legal entities" is applied.
- Access to the materials of the prosecutor's inspection is restricted. Prosecutors who carried out a procurator's inspection do not provide materials of the pre-investigation inspection to lawyers for familiarization referring to the stamp "for official use".

Counsel's access to a convicted person

- Although national legislation does not provide for the lawyer to obtain the investigator's permission to visit his client, in practice such permission is required when lawyers attempt to meet detainees in temporary detention facilities, under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior or in remand centers under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. Lawyers are rarely able to meet privately with their clients, as law enforcement officers or guards are usually present in the courtrooms, despite the fact that the national legislation provides for the confidentiality of such meetings (article 9 of the Law on Lawyers and Advocacy, article 18 of the Law on Procedure and Conditions of the

Detention of Suspects, Accused Persons and Defendants, articles 46, 47 and 53 of the CPC). As a rule, the guards also limit the time of conversation.

Lawyers' access to the detainees' register, the recordings of the cameras and medical records

- Often the lawyers cannot obtain copies of the detainees' register or recordings from surveillance cameras. Repeated requests by lawyers for information on medical records are ignored.
- In cases handled by Coalition lawyers, it can be observed that administrative arrest is applied even in cases where citizens are detained "at the crime scene". In such cases, administrative detainees are taken into custody for investigation, which is not recorded in the register of detainees. The courts do not respond to requests from lawyers for administrative proceedings in court.

3.4. INTRODUCTION OF ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT IN TAJIKISTAN

The project on promoting the Istanbul principles by the Coalition - is coordinated by the NGO Human Rights Center (coordinating person - Parvina Navruzova). The Project Coordinator is also providing consultancies and Expert support to the Legal Assistance Group on the issues related to the standards of the Istanbul Protocol (for more details, refer to the section on Legal Assistance).

The activities in this direction were supported by the European Union and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

To date, the Working Group of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare on the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol (IP) standards, in cooperation with members of the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity, has developed a three-year working plan on effective medical documentation and rehabilitation according to IP standards, which is in the process of approval.

Comparative analysis of international standards (norms) with regard to the conduct of independent forensic examinations and the procedure for the admission of opinions in criminal cases.

The analysis examined the experience of other countries and the law enforcement practices of non-State forensic systems, and reviewed the procedures for the appointment and processing of expertise in criminal and civil cases, The rights and obligations of non-State expert institutions and the equal status of specialists to State experts, etc. The analysis also covers national legislation, including the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Law “On Licensing”, the Law “On State Forensic Expertise”, the Law “On Private Medicine”, the Code of Public Health and other documents. The analysis resulted in a document to be presented in February 2020.

Round table on the results of the study on the application of the Protocol on the Medical Examination of Detainees and the results of the evaluation of the forensic medical service.

On 26 February 2019¹¹, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Tajikistan, together with the NGO "Human Rights Centre", presented the results of the monitoring of medical institutions for practical application of the Protocol on the Medical Examination of Detained Persons, approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's Decree, in accordance with the standards of the Istanbul Protocol, as well as the results of the study "Assessment of the situation of the Forensic Medical Service" in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The round table was attended by more than 33 people, in particular, the heads of the Department of Finance of Dushanbe, Khatlon and Sughd regions, GBAO, the heads of the Department of Health and Social Welfare from Dushanbe, Khatlon and Sughd regions, GBAO, the heads of the centers of forensic medical examination in Dushanbe, Bokhtar and Kulyab in Khatlon and Sughd provinces, representatives of the prosecutor's office and the police, the Ministry of Defence, the Medical Department of the Main Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice and members of the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity.

The report on the monitoring of medical institutions is available on the Coalition's website <http://notorture.tj.org/rehab/otchet-po-monitoringu-primeneniya-protokola-medicinskogo-osvidetelstvovaniya-zaderzhannyh-lic>

¹¹ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/kruglyy-stol-po-rezultatam-monitoringa-prakticheskogo-primeneniya-protokola-medicinskogo>

Trainings for judicial authorities on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol¹²

In July 2019, training sessions were held for staff of the judicial and investigative bodies (judges, procurators, staff of the State National Security Committee, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Anti-Corruption Agency and DCA) on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol. A total of five training sessions were held, attended by 119 participants, including 42 procurators, 30 judges (2 of whom are women), 2 lectures from the Supreme Court Judicial Training Centre, 45 staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Anti-Corruption Agency and DCA (including 2 female officers) from Dushanbe, DRS, Khatlon and Sughd provinces. The trainings covered issues related to national legislation on medical documentation of torture (forced feeding and treatment; the procedure for conducting medical examinations during visits to TDFs, remand centers and correctional institutions); codes of ethics in the relevant areas (ethics of medical staff and forensic investigation bodies); and the role of forensic medical examination in assessing physical and psychological consequences of torture, among others.

The training was conducted by national and international experts on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol, in particular, a psychiatrist from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, a forensic medical expert from the Ministry of Defense, a coordinator for the promotion of the Istanbul Protocol standards, and Ms. Mariam Gishkariani an international expert from the “Physicians for Human Rights”.

Working meetings with Coalition partners and civil society institutions in Dushanbe and Khujand.

In December 2019, meetings were held with the Association of Psychologists, NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” and psychologists in Sughd province to discuss medical documentation of cases of violence and the application of the Istanbul Protocol standards.

3.5. HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

The NGO “Office of civil liberties” carries out activities aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of pre-conscripts, conscripts, military personnel and members of their families.

The organization closely cooperates with the Ministry of Defense, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Tajikistan, the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court and

¹² The trainings were conducted with the financial support of the OSCE Center in Dushanbe

its regional subdivisions, the Chief Military Procurator's Office and its regional subdivisions, the Interior Ministry's internal troops, the border troops of the State National Security Committee, military commissariats, the management of military units, doctors of the medical commissions of the conscription commission and the military registration commission.

In 2019, the NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” continued its work on rehabilitation of victims of torture and ill-treatment in military units and their families, which is supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Legal Assistance

The organization's lawyers provide consultancies on legal, medical and fitness for military service issues in Dushanbe and Khujand. In 2019, 341 persons received consultancies on matters relating to conscription, the right to deferment and release, and appeals against unlawful acts by members of the recruiting commission. Consultations are provided in person, through hotline numbers, as well as during meetings in military units.

There are twenty-four-hour hotline numbers available for the victims of human rights violations in the military service: +992 93 333 18 03; +992 93 333 17 03.

Legal representation in court

In 2018, the organization's lawyers provided legal assistance to 9 applicants, including conscripts, military personnel and members of their families. In all 9 cases, the organization's lawyers participated in the process of verification of complaints, preliminary investigation, represented the interests of the victims in the courts on both criminal and civil cases, as well as represented the interests of conscripts and military personnel in various bodies of state power of military and civil nature. The priority cases in 2019 were the submission of claims for moral damages on behalf of the victims of cruel and inhuman treatment and punishment in the army and their consideration by the Military Court of the Dushanbe garrison.

In four cases (Otazoda A., Safarov A., Tagova M. and M. Mansurov M.) the lawyers defended the interests of parents who had lost their children, in which, according to the official version, they had been the victim of suicide (Otazoda O., Tagova M. cases) and victims of torture and cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment (M. Mansurov and A. Safarov). In six appeals,

lawyers represented the parents of deceased soldiers as well as victims of torture before the military court, seeking compensation for moral damages.

In the case of Mansurov M., by decision of the military court of the garrison of Dushanbe, the court partially granted the claim for compensation for moral damages - obliging only one defendant Pirov A. to pay 1000 somoni to the plaintiff. The claim to recover moral damages and material losses from the GKNB and Nurov was denied.

In the Sheraliyev case, the military court of the Dushanbe garrison partially granted the claim, ordering defendant Muminov Shamshod to pay the plaintiff 2,200 somoni as compensation for moral damages. The claim for compensation for material damage as well as loss of profit was rejected.

In the case Nasriddinov Bahriddin, Kurbonov C., Tavalloev I. - the claim for compensation for moral damage was denied. The lawsuit of Bokeyev A. is at the stage of consideration in the military court of the garrison of Dushanbe.

The analysis of appeals in cases of torture and cruel treatment in the army, as well as the activities of lawyers and attorneys revealed a series of interrelated problems:

- There is no practice of instituting criminal proceedings under article 143, paragraph 1 ("Torture"), of the Criminal Code on allegations of torture and cruel treatment in the armed forces. These offences are covered by other articles of the Criminal Code, namely, article 391, entitled "Abuse of authority", and article 373, entitled "Breach of legal relations", for which the punishment is disproportionate to the gravity of the offence. Under articles 391 ("Abuse of authority or official position, abuse of authority or inaction") and 392 ("Negligence of service") of the Criminal Code, officers who have participated in or allowed cases of torture or cruel treatment in the army are subject to criminal prosecution.

In the case of M.M. a soldier was beaten by an officer 10 days before the end of his tour of duty. He suffered serious injuries, including a ruptured spleen. As a result of the lack of medical assistance, M.M. died in the barracks of a military unit. The last 10 minutes of the soldier's life after the injury were recorded on a video surveillance camera of the military unit. The Court of First Instance sentenced Officer Nurov to death. Part 3, paragraphs 110 and 391, of the Criminal Code were changed to three years' deprivation of liberty, but in the light of mitigating circumstances, the term of deprivation of liberty

was changed to two years' probation. The case of the second officer (Pirov) who beat up the soldier is pending before the Dushanbe garrison court.

- Unjustified refusals to compensate victims of torture and ill-treatment for moral harm. Where the claims are partially satisfied by the courts, the amounts paid are inadequate and unfair. The recovery of compensation payments from perpetrators of ill-treatment, rather than from State authorities, is also a negative practice.

Rehabilitation

Since 2015, the organization has been providing outpatient and inpatient treatment to victims of hazing in the army and their family members. Activities on rehabilitation of torture victims in 2018 were supported by the UN Voluntary Fund to Support Victims of Torture.

In 2019, the organization provided rehabilitation services for 32 people, including 7 soldiers and 25 members of their families. The beneficiaries underwent medical examination and clinical and laboratory diagnostics.

- 7 soldiers received assistance for continuous medical examination and support therapy.
- 10 persons received sanatorium/spa resort treatment.
- In 4 cases, the victims were provided with psychological rehabilitation.

Publications for 2018

- **Soldier's handbook.** The soldier's handbook was developed by the NGO "Office of Civil Liberties" in conjunction with representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Human Rights Ombudsman in Tajikistan, which contains the fundamental rights and freedoms and duties of soldiers, the complaints procedure and contacts information in case of hazing and other human rights violations. The small size of the book allows it to be easily placed in the soldiers' uniform pocket. The book is distributed to military units.

Prevention of suicide in the military. A manual on the prevention of suicide in the army has been developed for military commanders at all levels, especially for officers who are involved in the political and educational work of the armed forces. The publication is also aimed at members of military commissariats and military prosecution bodies. Major General Donajertzoda Mehvarsho Zevar, Nidoev Husniddin Nazriddinovich, Babajanov Muzaffar - military expert, Mirzoeva Firuz - psychologist of the psychology department, Kalandarov Saydakhmad - expert on religious issues.

Photobanners for the exhibition. 13 photobanners were printed as part of the project, covering the stories of 13 soldiers who had been victims of inhuman treatment and torture in the army. These banners will be used for exhibitions inside military units, in order to prevent hazing and violence in the army.

Information banners. Banners on the rights of soldiers were developed and installed in military units of the Ministry of Defense of Tajikistan (50 pieces). The information banners contain information on the rights of members of the armed forces, the right to protection against torture and the numbers of the hotlines of the NGO “Office of Civil liberties” and the Human Rights Ombudsman, as well as extracts from the military regulations.

3.6. ANALYTICAL WORK AND PROMOTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COALITION (ADVOCACY)

During the annual meeting of the Coalition in 2018, Nigina Bakhrieva, representative of the Public Foundation “Notabene” was elected as the Head of the Coalition's analytical center.

The Analytical Center operates on the basis of the Rules and principles of participation in the Coalition and coordinates the analytical activities of the Coalition and its Working groups. At present, the Analytical Center includes the Head of the Coalition, Working groups’ Coordinators, Istanbul Protocol Project Coordinator, and one representative from NGO “Apeyron”. The Secretariat of the Analytical Center includes the Center’s Coordinator and a Fundraiser.

The Coalition is active in promoting freedom from torture in Tajikistan on national and international levels by conducting meetings with diplomats and representatives of international and inter-governmental delegations, drafting analytical reports and promoting implementation of its recommendations.

Analysis of national legislation to ensure compliance with international standards in the area of rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law, including children who have served sentences in places of deprivation of liberty.

The analysis was carried out by the NGO "Legal Initiative" together with the Juvenile Justice Division of the Ministry of Justice (Novruz Shoev) in March 2019. The report was sent to the Ministry of Justice Working Group on Child Justice Reform in Tajikistan in May 2019, on the

basis of which the National Program and Plan of Action was developed "Social rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law, including children who have served their sentences in places of deprivation of liberty for the period 2020-2024". The national program and plan of measures are currently being approved by the Government.¹³

Compliance by Tajikistan with international human rights obligations: legal framework and procedures.

The Public Foundation "Notobene" carried out a follow-up monitoring of mechanisms and procedures for the implementation of international obligations in the field of human rights. The first monitoring was carried out in 2011. In 2018 - 2019, the progress in implementing the recommendations was reviewed. The document includes an analysis of the legal framework for the implementation of international human rights obligations, as well as law enforcement practice in the preparation of reports to United Nations bodies, implementation of recommendations, Decisions and Views of United Nations treaty bodies on individual communications. http://notabene.tj/Doc/Kaz/compl/%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%81%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81_2019.pdf

Questionnaire for human rights groups and activists to assess implementation of UN recommendations on torture

In 2019, in response to new UN recommendations, the Questionnaire for Human Rights Groups and Activists was updated to assess the implementation of UN recommendations on torture. The questionnaire was designed to facilitate the assessment of Tajikistan's compliance with the recommendations of United Nations human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the universal periodic review on torture and other forms of ill-treatment; submitted since 2010: recommendations fully, partially or not implemented.

http://notabene.tj/Doc/Kaz/compl/%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B3_%D0%BF%D1%8B%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B8.pdf

National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights until 2030.

In 2019, work continued on the preparation of the National Human Rights Strategy 2030. Activities are carried out by the Office of Human Rights Guarantees of the Executive Office of the President with the assistance of the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia. A representative of Public Foundation Notabene was invited to join the Working Group in the

¹³ Financial support for the analysis and development of the program and action plan was provided by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

capacity of a National Consultant. The Coalition's members took an active part in the process of developing of the draft Strategy and provided their recommendations. The Strategy is expected to be adopted by the end of 2020.

Joint report to the Human Rights Committee on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on torture and ill-treatment

In 2019, the Coalition against Torture, together with the International Partnership for Human Rights and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, prepared three papers for the Human Rights Committee on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The first combined report was prepared by experts of the Public Foundation "Notbene" and the IPHR and dealt with issues such as the general legislative and law enforcement framework for the implementation of the Covenant, basic guarantees of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, response and investigation of torture, Reparations, including rehabilitation and compensation, human rights in closed and semi-closed institutions, hazing in the army.

<https://www.iphronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Tajikistan-torture-submission-1.pdf>.

The document was translated from English into Russian and published on the Coalition website:

http://notorture.tj.org/sites/default/files/articles/2019/files/mpgpp_2019_rus.pdf.

The third document was prepared by the NGO "Office of Civil Liberties" in cooperation with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the International Bar Association (IBAHRI) and concerned the independence of lawyers.

https://www.icj.org/icj-and-ibahris-joint-submission-to-the-un-human-rights-committee-on-tajikistan/?fbclid=IwAR1hov39MEODROHfIBCahUPC78R1NHJHaMBUiDzwiZxI_pnNUgaLV72TIY

Promotion of the Coalition recommendations in the Human Rights Committee

In June 2019 the members of the Coalition took part in the official briefing with the members of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva, where the main problems in the sphere of combating torture and cruel treatment in Tajikistan were discussed and the relevant recommendations were provided.

EU-Central Asia Forum

On 5-6 July 2019 the Notabene Project Coordinator attended the first-ever EU-Central Asia Forum, which took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, which was held prior the 15th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting. The meeting was devoted to the launch of the new EU Strategy on Central Asia and was aimed to create a forum for dialogue on how to best utilize the existing bilateral and regional programs that exist between the EU and the Central Asian countries. The event was attended by more than 100 participants from both the EU and Central Asia, representing grassroots civil society, particularly women and youth as agents of change, the private sector, researchers, media, as well as the governments. The event participants were briefed on EU objectives and values in the region and the importance of dialogue between the governments, civil society and private sector.

European Union-Tajikistan Human Rights Dialogue. Each year, prior to official dialogue of the European Union and Tajikistan on human rights, the European Union Delegation in Tajikistan holds meetings with the representatives of civil society. During these meetings members of the Coalition raise human rights concerns, including with regards to use of torture, that are later discussed during the formal human rights dialogue of the EU and the government. Public Foundation "Notabene" in cooperation with the International Partnership for Human Rights prepared a briefing paper on developments related to prevention of torture in the country, including handling of individual torture cases by the authorities. The document includes specific recommendations to the Government of Tajikistan. On the eve of the Dialogue, representatives of the member-organizations of the Coalition met with the representatives of the European Union to discuss the situation with human rights in the country.

Effective multilateralism in the fight against torture: Trends in the OSCE region and the way forward. On 5 June 2019 Notabene expert, Nigina Bakhrieva attended the International Conference "Effective multilateralism in the fight against torture: Trends in the OSCE region and the way forward", organized by OSCE in Vienna, Austria. She gave a presentation on the root causes and incentives for torture in Central Asian countries which was based on the findings of the Conference on torture conducted in 2014 under the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and reflected on subsequent developments, positive steps taken and remaining challenges in the fight against torture in Central Asia. She also briefed participants about the role of international and regional cooperation in torture prevention, in particular coordination among Coalitions against Torture in Central Asia. Recommendations of the conference were later discussed at HDIM in Warsaw.

OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension and Human Rights Meeting. Coalition representatives actively participated in plenary sessions and side-events of the annual two-week human rights meeting, which took place from 16-27 September in Warsaw. The International Partnership for Human Rights together with member organizations of the Coalition prepared statements on priority issues:

- a four-page briefing paper for a side event on independent lawyers run by IPHR and partners at the 2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. The briefing paper, entitled Persecution of independent lawyers in Tajikistan (<https://www.iphronline.org/persecution-of-independent-lawyers-in-tajikistan.html>) describes the deteriorating situation for independent lawyers in Tajikistan, and includes case examples and recommendations to the Tajikistani authorities. The statement served to draw attention to recent, problematic developments in Tajikistan regarding state harassment, torture and imprisonment of independent lawyers.
- A joint statement by the Civic Solidarity Platform was also prepared on the same issue: <https://www.iphronline.org/lawyers-under-pressure-in-tajikistan-civil-society-concerned-about-recent-cases-of-harassment-and-intimidation-of-lawyers-in-dushanbe.html>
- HDIM statement on torture and ill-treatment in Central Asia 2019. The Tajikistan part of this statement was covered by this project <https://www.iphronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-09-23-torture-HDIM.pdf>
- HDIM statement on challenges facing civil society in Central Asia: The Tajikistan part of this statement was covered by this project. <https://www.iphronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ENG-Final-HDIM-statement-on-civil-society-in-CA-Sept-2019.pdf>
- HDIM: statement on the danger of speaking out in Central Asia, September 2018 <http://iphronline.org/the-danger-of-speaking-out-in-central-asia.html>
- HDIM: statement on torture in Central Asia <http://iphronline.org/osce-hdim-statement-torture-ill-treatment-central-asia.html>

Coalition representatives spoke in plenary sessions on various human rights issues, including freedom of association, independence of the Bar, freedom from torture, etc. Below is provided links to the speech of Najiba Shirinbekova, representative of the NGO "Law and Prosperity". <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.facebook.com/osce.odihr/videos/526405151510137/UzpfSTewMDAwMTQxNDc2MDMzMdpWSzoyNDM3NzU4MDAzMTI2MDc2/&sa=D&source=hangouts&ust=1579949112875000&usg=AFQjCNHJ-Zevahuto1oTKQn73AeAtR8Kzg>

and Khursheda Rakhimova from the NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” who made an intervention during the plenary session on 19 September 2019:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTpRZ8YHcA0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2Xbil6OtD--33pQrfMXhlbaT1st0cmcQp0xggv-UaHSGRcDY-G_miclgA

3.7. EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Workshop on "Prosecutorial supervision over the implementation of legislation on the prevention, detection and investigation of torture in the Republic of Tajikistan".

On 12 September 2019 project partners from the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity, in cooperation with the Institute of Advanced Training of Prosecutorial Bodies of the Prosecutor General's Office, conducted a workshop entitled "Prosecutorial supervision over the implementation of legislation on the prevention, detection and investigation of torture in the Republic of Tajikistan". The meeting was attended by 30 people including deputy prosecutors and assistant prosecutors from Dushanbe and districts, representatives of the Coalition Legal Aid Group and Analytical Center and an expert on the implementation of the standards of the Istanbul Protocol. Workshop participants were introduced to a manual on the role of Prosecutors in prevention, detection and investigation of torture, which had been developed by Muhammadrizoi Niyoz, from the Prosecutor General's Office. The workshop was devoted to the main international and national commitments on freedom from torture, the effective response and investigation of torture, and the standards of the Istanbul Protocol.

Training on "Promotion of civil society recommendations in the UN Human Rights Committee»

On 13-15 of February, the Public Foundation Notabene in cooperation with the Geneva based Center for Civil and Political Rights and Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law conducted a workshop for the representative of the local human rights NGOs on conducting advocacy activities in UN human rights treaty bodies, with a special emphasis on the UN Human Rights Committee.

The Seminar was confined to the upcoming review of the Republic of Tajikistan in the UN Human Rights Committee, to familiarize representatives of civil society with the Committee's

procedures and the process of developing and presenting the NGO (Shadow) reports. The objectives of the training included: to deepen the understanding among CSOs of the ICCPR review process; to maximize the impact of the utilization of review process under ICCPR by national civil society in Tajikistan; to initiate preparation process of joint civil society report in reply to LOI to be submitted to the Human Rights Committee; to identify particular challenges and concerns faced by national civil society in protecting civil and political rights as well as in engaging with UN Human Rights bodies including HR Committee; to develop concrete plan of activities with timeframe for the review.

The CCPR trainers also provided consultations for the finalization of the NGO Shadow report to the UN Human Rights Committee, which will be reviewed during the 126 Session of the Committee which will take place from 1 to 26 July 2019 in Geneva.

Advocacy with EU. Manual for the civil society.

In June 2019 the EU adopted a new Central Asia Strategy, EU and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Strong Partnership. Unlike the previous strategy, the new version sees Central Asia more as an opportunity rather than a threat. The strategy is also more focused around three main pillars: Partnering for Resilience, Partnering for Prosperity, Working Better Together. Under these pillars detailed references can be found to human rights, democracy, rule of law. Unlike the previous strategy, the new one has a very specific reference to core fundamental rights issues such as freedom of association, assembly and expression, prevention of torture, human rights defenders; it also highlights on a number of occasions the importance of strong and vibrant local civil society as well as the importance of international standards, rules-based order and normative agenda. While the strategy remains a political framework document, having a specific reference to these important areas will provide a platform for the EU and CSOs to engage with respective authorities to seek improvement in these areas. In order to facilitate the wider cooperation between the local EU Delegations and CSO it was decided to develop a manual for NGOs on conducting Advocacy with EU institutions. The manual contains detailed information about the main EU structures, including European Parliament, European External Actions Service, DEVCO, as well as the political, social and economic framework of the cooperation between the EU and Central Asian countries. Furthermore, the manual provides information about the bilateral agreements between the EU and Central Asian countries, including information about the annual Human rights Dialogues and Civil Society Seminars. In addition, the manual provides CSO with the instructions on preparation of briefing documents

for the Human Rights Dialogues between the EU and Central Asian countries and information about the previous EU-Tajikistan seminars for civil society.
<http://notabene.tj/Doc/Kaz/compl/advocacy%20paper%2017.09.pdf>

Training modules for legal professionals¹⁴

The NGO "Legal Initiative" In cooperation with State authorities, developed three training modules for judges of the Supreme Court, the Union of Lawyers and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on national and international mechanisms for the protection of the rights of the child in criminal proceedings. The module was developed with the expert support of Asror Aliyev (Expert in the field of adult education), Mavdjud Pulodi (a Judge of the Supreme Court of Tajikistan), Nawruzsho Nazarov (representative of the Union of Lawyers), Anvar Aripov (Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) and Gulchehra Rahmanova (Expert in the field of child rights).

On the basis of the developed training module, ten trainers prepared that include representatives of the judiciary, attorneys and officers of the Crime and Delinquency Prevention Services for Children and youth of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, on national and international standards for the administration of justice for children.

Sixty trainee judges¹⁵ have increased their capacity to deal with juvenile cases in criminal proceedings based on a friendly approach in accordance with the requirements of international standards.

Information sessions for the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs¹⁶

In 2019, the Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, in cooperation with the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, continued information sessions for the representatives of the regional departments of MIA. On March 11-15, 2019, the Monitoring Group in cooperation with HRO conducted a series of information sessions for the Police Department officers in GBAO - Darvaz, Vanj, Rushan, Shugnan, Roshtkala, Ishkashim, Khorog and Regional Department of MIA in GBAO, which were attended by 250 people. During the information sessions, the participants were provided information about the basic standards of freedom from torture and the

¹⁴ Trainings were conducted with financial support from UNICEF

¹⁵ with financial support from UNICEF and Terre des hommes

¹⁶ With financial support from the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

rights of persons deprived of their liberty, as well as the activities of the Monitoring Group under the Human Rights Ombudsman of Tajikistan.

Training for people's assessors on freedom from torture¹⁷

The Association of People's Assessors of Tajikistan held 10 two-day training sessions on the prevention and effective fight against torture for 200 people's assessors of the judicial system of Sughd province. The training focused on the right to a fair trial, the role of people's assessors in the administration of criminal justice and the algorithm for active participation in court proceedings.

Pocket book and information booklet for people's assessors¹⁸

The Association of People's Assessors of Tajikistan published and distributed a pocket book entitled "Handbook for people's assessors" in 300 copies. The manual includes current questions in the sphere of activity of the People's Assessors Institute <http://notorture.tj.org/library/posobie-dlya-narodnyh-zasedateley>.

The Association also developed and distributed information booklets "Citizens are against Torture" in 300 copies. The booklets include extracts from the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code, the Constitutional Law «On Courts of the Republic of Tajikistan». It also contains information about the Coalition against Torture - with hotline numbers and about the Association of «People's Assessors of the Republic of Tajikistan» <http://notorture.tj.org/library/1-narodnyh-zasedateley-borbes----pytkami##>

Educational program for young human rights defenders

In 2019, the educational programs of the NGO "Office of Civil Liberties" covered more than 300 people, which includes participants from the previous educational events and new individuals, volunteers, young lawyers, lawyers and trainees, law students from all regions of Tajikistan.

12 young lawyers and bar interns were trained by 10 practicing lawyers, which included counselling, legal drafting and participation in criminal and civil trials. Trainees had the opportunity to observe and learn from mentors such skills as appropriate approach and

¹⁷ Project "Citizens' role in combating torture" with financial support from the Norwegian Helsinki Foundation

¹⁸ Project "Citizens' role in combating torture" with financial support from the Norwegian Helsinki Foundation

professionalism in working with a client, ethics of the lawyer in complex emotional situations, security in the work of the lawyer, sensitivity to attorney-client secrecy.

Bar academy

In partnership with the territorial bodies of the Union of Advocates in Khatlon and Sughd oblasts, the NGO "Office of Civil Liberties" implemented the "Bar Academy". Over 40 participants (20 people in Khatlon, 20 people in Sughd) - trainees and young lawyers with no more than two years' experience were enabled to take part in a series of training sessions on such topics as human rights, national and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights and the preparation of individual complaints to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Its foreseen that an electronic library with access to recent legislation, books and materials, including UN publications, decisions of UN Committees on individual complaints, decisions of the European Court of Human Rights will be developed as well the trainees will be provided with access to computer and Internet.

Training on human rights monitoring

On the basis of the received trainings, 40 young lawyers-trainees of the NGO "Office of Civil Liberties", conducted independent human rights monitoring on 6 topics related to youth rights. The monitoring included the following:

- Compliance with access to education and compulsory school uniform.
- The right to personal integrity of students and the fight against mobile phones in schools in Tajikistan.
- Respect for gender equality in school textbooks.
- Observance of students' rights to education and involvement of students in marches in honor of public holidays.
- Rights of patients to receive emergency medical care in mountainous and remote areas.
- The right of access to information in the National Library of Tajikistan.

The results of the monitoring were presented at the United Nations Resource Centre at the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University in Dushanbe. The reports are currently being translated into Russian and will be published in Russian and Tajik.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2394479170804137&id=1437950266457037

Summer and Winter Human Rights Schools

- A 5-day winter school on human rights and strategic litigation was held in Varzob from 19 to 24 January 2019 for 24 young activists from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
<http://freedom.tj/2019/01/19/zimnyaya-shkola-po-pravam-cheloveka/?lang=ru>
- In addition, from 27 to 31 January 2019 in Varzov, the NGO "Office for Civil Liberties" held a four-day Winter School for Human Rights and Debate, attended by 28 volunteers and civil society activists.
<http://freedom.tj/2019/02/12/du-maktabi-zimistona-tashkil-va-guzaronida-shud/>
- A 3-day Summer School on the Rights of the Child was conducted in Guliston from 26 to 28 August 2019 by the NGOs "Legal initiative" and "Office of Civil liberties" as part of the ToT program for the organization's volunteers (30 persons) from Dushanbe, RRS, Khatlon and Sughd oblasts.
<http://freedom.tj/2019/09/14/maktabi-tobistona-oid-ba-huquqi-kudak/>
- A 5-day Summer School on Human Rights was held from 28 July to 2 August 2019. The event was attended by 45 young lawyers from all regions of Tajikistan. The school was held at the Training Center of the National Bank of Tajikistan in Guliston.
<http://freedom.tj/2019/08/02/nasli-xomieni-xukuk/>
- A 4-day Summer School on Human Rights Monitoring and Debate was held in Romit from 26 to 30 August 2019. The event was attended by 38 young lawyers from all regions of Tajikistan.
<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2299064157012306/>
<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2297322657186456/>
- The 5-day Winter School on Human Rights devoted to the "Lawyers role in Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms. Strategic litigation» was held from 22 to 27 December 2019 in Guliston. The event brought together 40 lawyers and lawyer-interns from all regions of Tajikistan.
<https://www.facebook.com/officeofcivil/photos/pcb.2407648639487190/2407638309488223/?type=3&theater>

Capacity building training for Human rights defenders in the regions

In October and November 2019, training sessions were held in Khujand and Bokhtar with the participation of lawyers of Sughd and Khatlon regions on «Features of protection of lawyers, human rights defenders and journalists». Forty-two lawyers participated in the training.

<http://freedom.tj/2019/10/21/trening-baroi-20-nafar-advokathoi-viloyati-sugd/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2338944136357641/>

<http://freedom.tj/2019/10/22/ruzi-avvali-trening-samaranok-guzasht/>

<http://freedom.tj/2019/10/20/the-first-day-of-the-training-was-fruitful/?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2340090386243016/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2340105019574886/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2341031822815539/>

<http://freedom.tj/2019/10/23/daftari-ozodihoi-shahrvandy-omuzonandai-advokatho%e2%9c%94%ef%b8%8f/>

<http://freedom.tj/2019/10/23/office-of-civil-freedoms-training-of-lawyers/?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/1437950266457037/posts/2341068549478533/>

Human rights talk

The Open Society Institute- Assistance Foundation in Tajikistan facilitated the organization of 2 Human Rights Talk in Dushanbe and Khujand in December 2019. The events brought together young people, representatives of the civil society, media, lawyers to discuss the issues of the human rights in rather informal atmosphere. Over 120 people attended the events in both cities.

3.8. COVERAGE OF TORTURE ISSUES IN MASS MEDIA

The Coalition pays great importance to working with mass media on covering the problems of torture and promoting government policy on "zero tolerance for torture". The coverage of individual cases and trials brings the attention of the general public, government bodies, national and international human rights organizations to these issues and generates support for efforts to combat torture and impunity.

The work of Coalition's Media Group is aimed at systematic media coverage of Coalition's work, raising the level of legal awareness of the population and engaging the population in efforts to eliminate torture. The Media Group brings together Coalition members and individual journalists. The Secretariat of the Media Group consists of the Coordinator, three experts and one IT specialist.

In 2019, the Media Group's activities were carried out through projects: "Coordinated civil society action to monitor the implementation of international and national human rights obligations in Tajikistan" (with the financial support of the European Union) and "Support to the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan" (Zigrid Rausing Trust).

ACTIONS, PHOTO EXHIBITIONS, PUBLIC EVENTS

Action to mark International Day for the Protection of Torture Victims - 26 June¹⁹

From 27 May to 26 June 2019, the Coalition against Torture and Impunity ran a month-long public awareness campaign in support of victims of torture.

Throughout the month, a daily quote from various civil activists including volunteers, celebrities, human rights activists, and artists was published on the Coalition website and social media networks, in support of freedom from torture and ill-treatment. The Coalition prepared calendars with these quotes for 2020, which were distributed during major awareness raising events.

T-shirts were also prepared with the slogan: "Join forces against torture!", and distributed to event participants.

On 22 June in Khujand and 26 June in Dushanbe campaign events were held. The events were attended by over 100 people including representatives of state bodies including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Committee for National Security, Prosecutor's bodies, judges, Ombudsman's Office, Union of Lawyers, International and diplomatic missions, media, civil society as well as members of the public wishing to demonstrate their support for victims of torture and their families.

A traditional Photo Exhibition in Khujand²⁰ was organized by Coalition member Office of Civil Freedoms.

The event was opened by OCF lawyer Dilafruz Samadova, who gave an introduction about the photographs and the international law forbidding torture. Media interviews were given.²¹

¹⁹ These activities have been made possible with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme, the Zigrid Rausing Trust, the OSCE Office in Dushanbe and the EU Delegation in Tajikistan.

²⁰ <http://notorture.tj.org/photo/22-iyunya-2019g-v-hudzhande-sostovalas-tradicionnaya-fotovystavka-koalicii-posvyashchennaya>

²¹ <https://news.tj/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20190624/v-hudzhande-predstavili-20-fotoistorii-zhertv-pitok?fbclid=IwAR3ELeiYZ3ITje0x0c3knkZvXO4AriJsI5VaaIWW2LgEkUXaqOSVo52rf7U>

Photos of 18 victims' stories from Tajikistan were displayed and described and drew a lot of public attention.

Participants²² were shown a documentary film entitled Tajikistan is Fighting Against Torture («Тоҷикистон бо шиканча мубориза мебарад» (Таджикистан боретя с пытками)²³.

In the Vefa Center lobby in **Dushanbe**, ten paintings were exhibited showing²⁴ what torture is, where it can occur and, most importantly, how it could be prevented²⁵.

The activist artist's work was accompanied by a video film and theatrical performance against violence and torture, by actress Firuza Karimova of the Mayakovsky Russian Drama Theatre in Dushanbe portraying a victim of torture. The event participants were welcomed by the Head of the Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan, Nuramahmad Khalilov, who extended his gratitude to all friends, partners and colleagues for their contribution to the fight against torture and ill-treatment.²⁶

Photo quotes were chosen from human rights defenders, young people, celebrities and artists and designed for the Coalition website and social networks in the frame of the Coalition's campaign "Uniting efforts against torture!"²⁷. The quotes included:

Dilrabo Samadova Head of NGO "Office of Civil Liberties"	http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok
	http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem
	http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture
Alan Volavikis Stylist - hairstylist, fashion designer	http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-7
	http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-9
	http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-8
Lolisanam Ulugova Art-manager	http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-6
	http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-8
	http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-

²² <https://www.facebook.com/officeofcivil/videos/453049472185938/>

²³ <http://notorture.tj.org/tj/video/tochikiston-davlat-bo-shikancha-muboriza-mebarad>

²⁴ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/koaliciya-provela-mesyachnuyu-kampaniyu-protiv-pytok>

²⁵ <http://notorture.tj.org/photo/26-iyunya-2019g-v-dushanbe-sostoyalas-vystavka-graficheskikh-rabot-hudozhnika-aktivista-farruha>

²⁶ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/net-pytkam-i-beznakazannosti>

²⁷ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/koaliciya-protiv-pytok-obyavlyat-o-nachale-akcii-priurochennoy-k-mezhdunarodnomu-dnyu>

		against-torture-7
Anisa Sabiri Film Director		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-5
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-7
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-6
Nazifa Student		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-3
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-6
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-5
Firuza Khafizova Singer		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-4
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-5
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-4
Anushervon Student		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-2
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-4
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-2
Nafisa Imranova Designer		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-1
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-3
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-1
Khurshed Suttarov Fashion designer		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-0
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-0
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-0
Naekqadam Shonazarov Actor		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-15
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-17

		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-16
Shahnoza Student		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-14
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-16
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-15
Gulchera Rahmonova Head of the NGO “Legal Initiative”		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-13
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-15
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-14
Mavlona Najmuddinova Actress		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-12
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-14
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-13
Khusrav Student		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-11
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-13
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-12
Gulchehra Student		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-10
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-12
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-11
Tahmina Saidova Head of the NGO “Public Health and Human Rights”		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-9
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-11
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-10
Abdurahmon Sharipov		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-8
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-10

	Lawyer	shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-10
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-9
Farruh Nematzoda Artist		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-22
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-24
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-23
Gulguna Shozodaeva, NGO “Independent Center for Human Rights Protection”		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-21
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-23
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-22
Parvin Yusufi Singer		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-20
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-22
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-21
Munira Dadaeva		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-19
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-21
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-20
Farzona Student		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-18
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-20
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-19
Khurshed Mustafoev Actor		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-17
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-19
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-18
Farzona		http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-18

	Student	http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-20
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-19
	Muhammadjon Student	http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-16
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-18
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-17
	Mohpaikar Yorova Actress	http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-24
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-26
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-25
	Firuz Student	http://notorture.tj.org/news/obedinim-usiliya-protiv-pytok-23
		http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/taloshkhoyamonro-baroi-muboriza-bo-shikancha-muttakhid-mesozem-25
		http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lets-unite-together-efforts-fight-against-torture-24

Talk show “The Role of People’s Assessors in the Prevention of Torture”.²⁸

On 8 October 2019, the Association of People’s Assessors of Tajikistan held a talk show “The role of people’s assessors in the prevention of torture”, with the participation of representatives of the Human Rights Ombudsman; the Prosecutor's Office; Department of Internal Affairs for Sughd Oblast; Lawyers; Penitentiary system; courts and people’s assessors; Law and Journalism faculties students. A total of 35 people participated. The talk show discussed the fundamental guarantees of freedom from torture, national legislation in the sphere of prohibition of torture and impunity, the role of people’s assessors in combating torture, and provided information on the activities of the Coalition. More details are available at <http://notorture.tj.org/news/v-hudzhande-proshlo-tok-shou-o-rol-i-narodnyh-zasedateley-v-predotvrashchenii-pytok>.

Radio broadcast on Asia-Plus: On December 9, 2019, the Coalition's lawyers were enabled to have an interactive dialogue with the audience of the Radio Asia Plus during the live broadcast

²⁸ Project "Citizens' role in combating torture" with financial support from the Norwegian Helsinki Foundation

of the daytime show "Guest of the Studio" on Radio Asia-Plus as part of the campaign "Together for Human Rights".²⁹

The Coalition members included Gulchehra Kholmatova, Head NGO "World of Law", who covered the issues of freedom from torture, Avezov Ulugbek, a lawyer from the NGO "Human Rights Centre", who talked about the rights of labor migrants, and Abdurahmon Sharipov, lawyer from the NGO "Independent Centre for Human Rights Protection" who answered the audience questions regarding the right to adequate housing.

The audience's questions related to the issues of equity in construction, in particular the problems of defrauded shareholders, the delay in the procedure for the State acceptance of construction facilities and the failure to submit legal documents after the State acceptance of the deposit. The audience was also interested in labor migration issues. For example, one issue that was of concern to many was where migrants could obtain legal aid in cases where they had been deceived by an employer? In the area of freedom from torture, the audience was interested in the practical protection against torture and/or ill-treatment of them or their close relatives.

QUIZ: Intellectual game³⁰ «Hitchhiking by the law»³¹ was conducted on December 10, 2019 in the cafe "Parking". The participants which included over 70 schoolchildren, students and graduate students were divided into ten teams of 5-6 people.

The quiz began with a welcoming speech by Shoira Davlatova, Head of the NGO "Independent Centre for Human Rights Protection". The game consisted of three stages³²: 1) "Hitchhiking by the law"; 2) "Absurd laws: Truth or Lies"; 3) "Where is logic?"³³. The game was moderated by the ICHRP interns: Daler Hisomov, Daler Gaybulloev and Shirinjon Habibullozoda.

At the end of the Quiz, the three best teams were identified and they received memorable gifts. The first place went to the team "Delightful": Durakhshon Rajabov, Firuz Yerbekov, Aziz Zaripov, Sangin Rajabov and Munis Rajabov. As a prize, each member of the team received a portable charger (Powerbank). The second place was taken by the team "Ble Ble Ble": Shahnoza Astapova, Nazifa Boimukhamedova, Abror Abdukhamitov, Ruhsona Dzhamolova and Nohid

²⁹ The event was conducted with the financial support of the Regional OHCHR Office

³⁰ With financial support from the UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme

³¹ <http://notortureti.org/news/vmeste-za-prava-cheloveka-kviz-avtostopom-po-pravu>

³² Stage 1 "Hitchhiking by right" and consisted of 20 questions. The authors of the question are Gaibullove Daler and Habibullozoda Shirinjon. The 2nd round with funny questions consisted of 16 questions. The compiler of the questions was Habibullozoda Shirinjon. The 3rd round was called "Where's the Logic" and consisted of 10 questions. The compilers were Hisom Dahler and Habibullozoda Shirinjon.

³³ Questions are attached as a presentation.

Ubaidulloyev. As a gift, each of the team members received a stylish backpack. The third place went to the team "Beauties and Vohid": Bakhtiyor Kurbonov, Farrukh Davlatzoda, Alena Kim, Tamanno Sharipova, Abduvokhid Nakhimov. Each of the team members received a thermal mug.

Following the completion, the Quiz organizers conducted a blitz survey on legal issues. The 10 active participants who correctly answered the questions also received commemorative prizes and gifts with the logo of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan.

Flashmob³⁴ "I know my rights!"³⁵: 9 December 2019, the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan conducted a human rights quiz and a flashmob in four districts of Dushanbe as part of the action "Together - for Human Rights"³⁶ dedicated to Human Rights Day.

The events were held in I. Somoni district near "Rudaki Plaza" shopping complex, in Shohmansur district near "Dushanbe Mall" shopping complex (Auchan hypermarket), in Sino district near "Saodat" shopping complex and in Firdavsi district near "Sodot" shopping complex.

The purpose of the flash mob was to raise public awareness about human rights, the work of human rights organizations, and to draw public attention to the problems of human rights protection.

The events were attended by volunteers who explained the history of Human Rights Day and distributed information booklets prepared by the member-organizations of the Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan. The questions for the intellectual ring conducted among the visitors of the capital's malls, were compiled by lawyers and volunteers of the OO "Independent Center for Human Rights Protection". The quiz participants included representatives of different ages: senior pupils, students, middle-aged people of different professions. The quiz participants were asked to answer four questions of different complexity depending on the valuable gift being played out.

As a commemorative prize, the contestants received portable chargers (Powerbank, 10 pieces), thermocouples (40 pieces) and the main prize - multifunctional irons (8 pieces). Each of the commemorative prizes had the logo of the action and the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan.

³⁴ With financial support from the Zigrid Rausing Foundation and the Open Society Institute's legal program

³⁵ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/vmeste-za-prava-cheloveka-fleshmob-i-viktorina-dlya-zhiteley-stolicy>

³⁶ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/vmeste-za-prava-cheloveka>

Calendars for 2020³⁷ with the name, logo and contact information of the member organizations of the Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan were sent to the partners of the Coalition together with a postcard - congratulations on the year 2020. Under each month of the year, the calendar contains the contact details of one of the Coalition's member organizations.

A video³⁸ and infographic on the activities of the LAG for 2015 - 2019 and visualization how prepare (statements/complaints, etc.) and where (to which authorities) to turn in cases of torture and ill-treatment: According to the text provided by the Legal Aid Group of the Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan, an infographic was developed on such issues as: A) "What to do if a citizen has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment?"³⁹ B) "What to do if you're detained?"⁴⁰ as well as a videographics on statistical data and practical guidance on actions in case the use of torture - "What to do if torture was used"?

Implementation of the mentioned activities by the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan within the framework of the "Together for Human Rights" action dedicated to the Human Rights Day became possible with the financial support of Sigrid Rausing Trust, UN OHCHR, UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Program, Open Society Institute legal program.

MEDIA SUPPORT FOR COALITION ACTIVITIES

In 2019, the Coalition's Media Group prepared and published 328 articles, including 157 in Russian language, including 4 Press releases, 15 Analytical materials, 6 Photo reportages, 16 interviews in the rubric "I am a human rights defender!", 107 Informational materials, 2 Infographics, 2 video-audio materials, 5 materials from other sources; 129 materials in Tajik languages, including 5 Press releases, 11 Analytical articles, 9 Photo reportages, 16 interviews in the rubric "I am a human rights activist!", 12 video and audio materials, 2 press reviews, 74 informational materials; 42 materials in English language, including 7 Press-releases, 7 Photo reportages, 28 informational materials.

All information is duplicated on the social media pages of the Coalition against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan:

³⁷ The calendars were prepared with the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust

³⁸ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/vmeste-za-prava-cheloveka-tadzhikistan-pytochnaya-statistika>

³⁹ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/esli-vy-stali-zhertvoy-pytok-ili-zhestokogo-obrashcheniya-pamyatka>

⁴⁰ <http://notorture.tj.org/news/vsyo-chto-nuzhno-znat-o-zaderzhanii>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/notorture.tj>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/107767311153916349012>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NoTortureTj>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/notorture-tj>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWfjfabt9tacFgj-rcJZqtw>

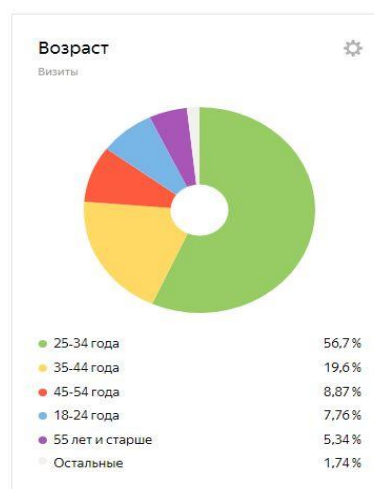
Odnoklassniki: <https://ok.ru/group/54476259131498>

Telegram: <http://t.me/notortureTj>

Instagram: notorture.tj

The Coalition's website is a primary source of high-quality and objective information for other Tajik media. In particular, leading Tajik media outlets dub or quote information published on the Coalition's website.

In 2019, the number of new visitors increased to 160,000,327. Age of visitors to the site: 18-24 (7.76%), 25-34 (56.7%), 35-44 (19.6%), 45-54 (8.87%), the rest - 7.07%.



The site is visited most often from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Turkey. During the reporting period, the number of new visitors was 40,911. 39% access the Coalition's website by links to other sites, 21.8% by search engines, 18.4% by direct entrances, 17.9% by direct entrances.



ATTACHMENTS

PRESS-REVIEWS:

1. Promotion of the standards of the Istanbul Protocol: training for health-care workers and the examination of torture victims, 7 February 2019
<http://notorture.tj.org/news/prodvizhenie-standartov-stambul'skogo-protokola-kurs--podna-gotovku-medrabotnikovova-i-gramotnoe>
2. Round table on the results of monitoring the practical application of the protocol for the medical examination of detainees and assessing the objective state of the forensic medical service in Tajikistan, 27 February 2019
<http://notorture.tj.org/news/krugly-stol-po-rezultatam-monitoringa-prakticheskogo-primeneniya-protokola-medicinskogo>
3. Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights discussed in Dushanbe on February 21, 2019
<http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/dar-dushanbe-masalai-tatbiki-paymoni-baynalmilali-oid-ba-khukukkhoy-shakhrvandi-va-siesi>
4. Seminar on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Tajikistan was recently held in Dushanbe., 21.02.2019
<http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/press-release>

5. The implementation of the International covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the RT was discussed in Dushanbe, 21.02.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/implementation-international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights-republic-tajikistan-was>
6. Mini-trainings for law enforcement officers held in GBAO on 10 April 2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/news/v-gbao-stostoyalis-mini---treningi-dlya-sotrudnikov-pravoohranitelnyh-organov>
7. The Coalition Against Torture announces the launch of a campaign to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 27.05.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/news/koaliciya-protiv-pytok-obyavlyayet-o-nachale-akcii-priurochennoy-k-mezhdunarodnomu-dnyu>
8. The Coalition of Civil Society Against Torture announces the launch of the campaign for the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 27.05.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/etilofiofchomeamea-shakhrvandi-ziddi-shikancha-ogoziki-domro-bahshida-ba-ruzi-baynalkii>
9. Willingness to support torture victims, 10.06.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/tj/press/may-2019-omodagi-ba-dastgirii-kurboniyoni-shikancha>
10. The criminal case is still pending before the Supreme Court of Tajikistan, 08.08.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/news/press-reliz-0>.
11. Information: Tormentors Yodgorov Hasan, 08.08.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/tj/news/ittiloiya-shikanchagaroni-yodgorov-khasan>
12. Lawyers under pressure in Tajikistan: Civil society concerned about recent cases of harassment and intimidation of lawyers in Dushanbe <http://notorture.tj.org/en/news/lawyers-under-pressure-tajikistan-civil-society-concerned-about-recent-cases-harassment-and>
13. Tajikistan: officials should cease intimidation against lawyers, including the Chairman of the Union of Advocates, 10.09.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/news/tadzhikistan-dolzhestnye-lica-dolzheny-prekratit-zapugivaniya-v-otnoshenii-advokatov-v-tom>
14. Tajik lawyers are under pressure: civil society is concerned about recent cases of harassment and intimidation of lawyers in Dushanbe, 17.09.2019. <http://notorture.tj.org/news/advokaty-tadzhikistana-nahodyatsya-pod-davleniem-grazhdanskoe-obshchestvo-obespokoeno-nedavnimi>
15. OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), 26.09.2019 <http://notorture.tj.org/news/zasedanie-obse-po-realizacii-mer-po-voprosam-chelovecheskogo-izmereniya-hdim>

INFOGRAPHICS:

1. If you have been a victim of torture or ill-treatment, 23.12.2019
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