

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

AI Index: EUR 60/010/2013
8 November 2013

Newly re-elected Tajikistani president must address old human rights violations

Amnesty International has written to the newly re-elected President of Tajikistan urging him to put human rights at the centre of the agenda for his fourth presidential term.

On 6 November 2013, voters in Tajikistan extended President Emomali Rahmon's two-decade rule until 2020 in an uncontested election.

“Up until now, Emomali Rahmon’s rule has been marked by pervasive impunity for serious human rights abuses, in particular torture and ill-treatment,” said Denis Krivosheev, Europe and Central Asia Deputy Programme Director.

“As head of state, Emomali Rahmon should lead the process of human rights reform in the country and ensure that these rights are respected in court-rooms, police stations, security buildings and all other offices of the executive power throughout the country.”

“Measures taken so far have failed to have a visible impact on the human rights situation. A show of political determination is now required to ensure that police and judges are not above law, that they abide by new legislative changes and policies in practice.”

Amnesty International concerns include:

Criminal justice system: A draft law will make lawyers vulnerable to administrative controls by the Ministry of Justice and cripple their already difficult human rights work.

Pervasive impunity for torture and other ill-treatment: Over 96 complaints about torture and other ill-treatment against law enforcement officers were registered between 2010 and 2012. But very few perpetrators have been prosecuted and brought to trial.

Reprisals against witnesses of human rights abuses: Since July 2013 there have been at least four cases where detainees sought to lodge complaint about torture or other ill-treatment only to be further ill-treated by law enforcement officials in order to silence them.

Abuses in prisons: Inmates in a correction facility in Khujand have been beaten; put arbitrarily in solitary confinement, and deprived of medical treatment for serious injuries.

Civilian deaths: Information is lacking on the progress of investigations into some twenty civilian deaths in the 2012 clashes between government and armed groups in Khorog, Gorno-Badakhstan Autonomous Region.

Dwindling space for political activism: As a result of the clamp down on independent opposition activities prior to the Presidential elections and in advance of the Parliamentary Elections in 2015, several key figures of the political opposition have faced harassment which observers believe is politically motivated.

For more information on human rights violations in Tajikistan, please see:

[Memo for the newly-elected President of Tajikistan: Respect and Protect Human Rights](#)

To arrange an interview, please contact:

Lydia Aroyo, Press Officer, Amnesty International, International Secretariat at laroyo@amnesty.org
+44 (0) 7771 796 350 (UK mobile) or +44 (0)20 7413 5599.