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Tajikistan: Human rights problems 20 years after independence

Twenty years after declaring independence on 9 September 1991 people in Tajikistan still suffer serious human rights violations and the government has yet to bring domestic law fully in line with its obligations under international human rights law.

In his speech to parliament in April 2011, President Emomali Rahmon stressed the government's commitment to "protect human rights, the rule of law and order".

However, Amnesty International is concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression, the widespread practice of torture and other ill-treatment by law enforcement officers, as well as about violence against women and the death penalty.

For example, journalists Mahmadyusuf Ismoilov and Urunboy Usmonov are currently standing trial to punish them for exercising their right to freedom of expression and early this year a government official brought a civil law suit against the news agency Asia Plus in connection with an article featuring cases of alleged torture.

Abdumuqit Vohidov, Ruhniddin Sharopov and Ilhom Ismonov have been reportedly tortured while in detention.

In its submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review of Tajikistan scheduled for October 2011, [Tajikistan: Torture and other ill-treatment, impunity, violations of freedom of expression, violence against women and retention of the death penalty](#), Amnesty International lists a number of recommendations for action to the Tajikistani government, aimed at significantly improving the country's human rights record.

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