



**CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION AGAINST TORTURE AND IMPUNITY IN  
TAJKISTAN**

**(2018 Annual Report)**

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

DCA – Drug Control Agency

ODIHR - Organization on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

GBAO – Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast

SCNS – State Committee on National Security

MDICP - Main Department of Implementation of Criminal Punishment

LAG – Legal Aid Group

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

EU – European Union

RT – Republic of Tajikistan

FME – Forensic Medical Examination

HRC – Human Rights Committee

MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs

MFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ICRC – International Committee of Red Cross

MoD – Ministry of Defence

INGO - International Non-governmental Organization

IPHR - International Partnership for Human Rights

PRI – Penal Reform International

MoJ – Ministry of Justice

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

NPM – National Preventive Mechanism

PO – Public Organization

OSCE – Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe

DMIA – Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs

UN – United Nations Organizations

PF – Public Fund

UNDP – UN Development Program

DRS – Districts of Republic Subordination

PTDF – Pre-Trial Detention Facility (SIZO)

IP – Istanbul Protocol

TNU – Tajik National University

OSI – Open Society Institute  
TDF – Temporary Detention Facility (IVS)  
EOPRT – Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan  
PI – Penitentiary Institution  
OHCHR – Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights  
CPC – Criminal Procedure Code  
UPR – Universal Periodic Review  
HRO – Human Rights Ombudsman  
OPCAT – Optional Protocol to Convention against Torture  
UNICEF – UN Children’s Fund

**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 2018 the Coalition managed to achieve certain results in the fight against torture in Tajikistan:

- 44 cases of alleged torture and ill-treatment were documented the Coalition members in 2018, 41 victims of torture and ill-treatment were provided with legal advice of which 38 were newly registered cases, and 3 were registered in the past several years.
- The Coalition managed to achieve significant results in the case of **Khojinazarov K.** In connection with the use of torture the following persons were convicted by the Military court of Khujand Garrison:
  - Yuldoshev L - Criminal investigation Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in Sughd region, was sentenced under **Art. 143<sup>1</sup> part 3**,

**paragraph "b" (Torture)**, 358 part 1 (arbitrary arrest or detention), 247 part 3 point "a" (Fraud) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan to 13 years of imprisonment in a strict-regime colony with deprivation of the right to hold posts in law enforcement agencies up to 2 years;

- Naimov Muhammad, Officer of the State National Security Committee of the Asht district, was sentenced under the **art. 1431, part 3, paragraph "b" (Torture)** to 12 years of imprisonment in a strict-regime colony with deprivation of the right to hold posts in security bodies up to 3 years
  - Another officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Sughd region Sh.Sh., left the country immediately after the criminal procedures were launched into the case of Khodzhinazarov K. and was put on the wanted list. At the moment, he is charged under **Art. 1431 part 3, paragraph "b" (Torture)**, 358 part 1 (arbitrary arrest or detention), 247 part 3 point "a" (Fraud) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan. Preliminary investigation continues
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- At the results of the inspections, conducted by the competent state authorities, in connection to alleged cases of torture and ill-treatment five people - employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan were dismissed of their posts. A preliminary investigation has been launched against two officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for Internal Affairs - 2 in the Firdavsi district of Dushanbe on charges of abuse of power and illegal detention.
  - Special court ruling were adopted against five officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for violating the CPC of the RT and abuse of official authority.
  - Coalition lawyers are stepping up their practice of applying the norms of Art. 88-1 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Tajikistan by submitting substantiated petitions on inadmissibility of evidence obtained as a result of torture and ill-treatment. Thus, at the result of vigorous activities of lawyers, criminal cases were terminated in regard of two persons, previously detained by Tursunzade Police Department and the State National Security Committee in Penjikent, due to the lack of evidence of their involvement in the commission of a crime using **Article 88.1 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Tajikistan.**
  - 49 people received psycho-social assistance (rehabilitation). This included 20 women and 29 men. 27 of them directly experienced torture and ill-treatment, the remaining 22 were family members of victims of torture. 49 people underwent rehabilitation: 20 women and 29 men,

including 27 people directly affected by torture and ill-treatment, and 22 people from families of victims of torture and ill-treatment.

- 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. Organizations actively collect evidence, involve national and international experts in assessing moral damages and use amicus opinions during court proceedings. In 2018, the Coalition has filed an amicus curiae opinion in the case of Zaydulloev S to the Sino district in Dushanbe. The amicus opinion was prepared by the Experts from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw).
- Members of the Coalition participate in the activities of the Monitoring Group for Closed Detention Facilities established under the Human Rights Ombudsman HRO. In 2018 the group visited 16 closed and semi-closed institutions and 5 military units.
- The Coalition monitors compliance of the authorities with their obligations under the international standards related to freedom from torture, prepares alternative reports to UN treaty bodies, and actively promotes freedom from torture during human rights dialogues with the government.
- Over 394 analytical materials, infographics, press reviews were published by the Coalition's Media group, including 168 materials in Russian, 195 in Tajik, and 31 in English. The social pages of the Coalition are constantly updated.

The Coalition has a web page [www.notorture.tj](http://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/>

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

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

Telegram [t.me/notorture.tj](https://t.me/notorture.tj)

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

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

The overall activities of the Coalition in 2018 were carried out with the financial resources provided by the European Union, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Office of the International Organization -

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 2019 the Coalition plans to continue carrying out activities aimed at:

- Further development of the information web page of the Coalition [www.notorture.tj.org](http://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, 2018, there are twelve public organizations and twelve individual members of the Coalition:

1. Public organization Apeiron
2. Public organization Association of Lawyers of Pamir
3. Public organization Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law
4. Public organization "League of women with disabilities "Ishtirok"
5. Public Foundation "Najoti kudakon"
6. Public organization Independent Human Rights Center
7. Public Foundation Notabene
8. Public organization Public health and human rights
9. Public organization Office of Civic liberties

10. Public organization Right and Prosperity
11. Public Foundation Legal initiative
12. Public organization Human Rights Center
13. Abdurahmon Sharipov, lawyer
14. Askar Tursunov, lawyer
15. Ahliddin Salimov, journalist
16. Gulchehra Kholmatova, lawyer
17. Jafar Yuldashev, lawyer
18. Zoir Razokov, medical expert
19. Nargis Hamrabaeva, journalist
20. Ranjet Yatimov, lawyer
21. Fazliddin Khojaev, journalist
22. Oynihol Bobonazarova, independent expert
23. Umed Niyazov, lawyer
24. 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

**Legal Aid Group (LAG)** – Najiba Shirinbekova, NGO Right and Prosperity (acts on the basis of the Regulation).

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

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

**Well-being group** – Dilrabo Samadova, NGO “Office of Civil liberties”

### 3. **ACTIVITIES OF THE COALITION DURING 2018**

**A joint NGO report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment** was submitted to the UN

Committee against Torture. Separate thematic reports were prepared and submitted by the Coalition member-organizations. Most of the recommendations, presented by the Coalition against torture were included in the Concluding observation of the UN CAT to Tajikistan. This enables the Coalition to continue its activities to monitor the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Public Foundation "Legal Initiative", a member of the Coalition against torture was included to the **Juvenile Justice Reform Working Group** under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan. The main goal of the Working Group is the coordinate the realization of the National Action Plan for implementation the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee against Torture and other UN treaty bodies on Juvenile Justice reform sector for 2017-2021.

**Preparation of the annual report of the Coalition for 2017.** At the beginning of 2018, the annual report of the Coalition for 2017 was prepared. The report was translated into Tajik and English and published on the Coalition's website in three languages (Tajik, Russian, English). Apart from the annual reports, the Coalition also publishes its quarterly and semi-annual progress reports.

**Annual meeting of the Coalition.** On February 1-2, 2018, the Coalition against Torture held its annual meeting. The meeting brought together 41 members and partners of the Coalition. They discussed activities of the Coalition and individual working groups, and discussed plans for the future.

**IT specialists provide regular consultations for the Coalition's member-organizations** and individual partners. Consultations include information about software and hardware, as well as technical support for installing, updating software and hardware.

**Coalition member's capacity building on institutional and technical security.** At the request of the Coalition's member organizations, National experts conducted an internal audit of the activities of the three member organizations. The main purpose of the audit was to evaluate due process of management regulation in accordance with the legislation's requirements of the Republic of Tajikistan.

**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 - 2

pcs; cable 3-meter for CCTV cameras - 2 pcs; Dictaphones - 3 pcs; antivirus Kaspersky - 15 pcs; power supply for surveillance cameras - 1 pc;

**Providing consultations for local NGOs.** The Coalition attaches great importance to the issues of cooperation and interaction with other public organizations in the country. The Coalition experts provided 23 consultations for NGO representatives for the first half of 2018, they actively participated in analyzing and helping the NGOs to bring the internal documentation in accordance to the requirements of the national legislation, as well as eliminating shortcomings identified by the Ministry of Justice at the result of inspections.

**"Tajik Human Rights Organizations Network"** on Facebook. The Network was registered on Facebook in 2014 and is administrated by the Office of Civil Liberties <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1531616163740269/>. The group provides platform for human rights NGOs for discussing recent news concerning their respective fields of interests, including newly adopted legislation, announcements on competitions and grants, NGOs activities, as well as the activities of the Civil Society Coalition against torture and impunity in Tajikistan. The social network also allows for rapid reactions to the gross human rights violations, drafting appeals to the state bodies, collecting signatures, etc. At the moment, this is the only active platform on Facebook, which unites activists, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists in Tajikistan.

The Network has also registered an account on Google groups, [network\\_tj@googlegroups.com](mailto:network_tj@googlegroups.com). Currently, the network updates are received by 225 representatives of civil society organizations in Tajikistan and the number is constantly growing. The Listserv page contains information regarding NGO activities in the country, announcements, calls for grants, new legislation, educational materials, as well as notifications on the due dates of submitting reports to the Ministry of Justice. The Listserv is also used for conducting online surveys among NGOs. The Legal Experts from the Office of Civil Liberties provide ongoing consultations for the civil society activists on varied issues regarding NGOs work, including institutional and financial safety, financial audits, grants applying procedures and 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.

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).

In 2018, Coalition's MGDF was supported by the project "Actions for freedom from torture in Tajikistan", funded by the European Union. Some activities of the Monitoring Group were directly funded by the OSCE Office in Dushanbe, UNDP and Sigrid Rausing Trust.

In June 2018, the Child rights Ombudsman requested to include the representatives of her office in the monitoring group for conducting monitoring in childcare facilities. This initiative is supported by the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Coalition against torture.

In September 2018, the Coalition launched the work on analysis of the compliance of the national legislation on the rights of persons held in psychiatric and social institutions with international standards. The initiative is supported of the OSCE Office in Dushanbe. The final version will be available on the Coalition website in February 2019.

### **Working Plans for 2018**

In the first half of 2018, the working plans of the Working and Monitoring Groups under the Human Rights Ombudsman office of RT were developed, which include activities on continuation of visits to places of detention, capacity building of the groups' members, conducting outreach activities, preparation of the financial feasibility for accession to the OPCAT; as well as conducting awareness-raising activities, as well as preparation of pocket books with questions and answers for the Penitentiary system administration and staff

During the reporting period, draft working plans for the Working and the Monitoring Groups under the Human Rights Ombudsman were developed, which are targeted on continuing visits to places of deprivation and restriction of freedom, capacity building of the members of both Groups,

Preparation of the financial and economic justification for ratification of OPCAT is in the process. In addition, it is foreseen to improve the monitoring tools in psychiatric institutions in accordance to changes and amendments to national legislation, as well as conducting an analysis of national legislation in this sphere. Based on the results of the Strategic Planning, beginning of 2018 the Monitoring group initiated the process of promoting the creation of an institution of independent control of closed institutions.

### **Working meetings**

The first Working meeting of the Group on the Promotion of the Ratification of OPCAT was held on 15-17 February 2018 to discuss the Group's activities for 2017 as well as to adopt plans for 2018. The meeting was attended by the members of the Working Group from both state bodies and the Civil Society Coalition against torture and impunity, as well as by the members of the Monitoring Group.

The second meeting of the Group on the Promotion of the Ratification of OPCAT was held on 11 May 2018, to discuss the preliminary results of the Groups visits for January-May 2018.

More detailed information about the meetings of the Working group could be found on the Coalition's website: [www.notorturetj.org](http://www.notorturetj.org)

### **Working Plans for 2018**

#### **Working meetings of the Group on the Promotion of the Ratification of OPCAT, 15-17 February 2018**

In 2018, three working meetings were held (February 15-17, May 11 and November 5) with the participation of the members of the Working and Monitoring Group. During the meetings, the participants discussed the results of the groups' activities in 2017, adopted work plans for 2018, and discussed the results of the monitoring visits. For more details about the working groups meeting, please visit the Coalitions website [www.notorturetj.org](http://www.notorturetj.org)

### **Training for the members of the Monitoring group**

On December 3-7, 2018, Experts from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights conducted a training for members of the Monitoring group under the Human Rights Ombudsman office of the

Republic of Tajikistan. During the training, participants were familiarized with the main mechanisms and techniques for conducting monitoring, as well as with the methodologies, used by the National Preventive Mechanisms operating under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Special attention was given to the specifics of conducting monitoring in psychiatric institutions, social welfare institutions and facilities for minors. The training participants also discussed the basic rights of persons held in such facilities, including the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, the right to appeal, the right to adequate living conditions, as well as the examples of such violations. Members of the Monitoring group also had the opportunity to improve their skills of conducting interviews with persons deprived of liberty.

### **Monitoring the Detention facilities**

Since 2015, the detention facilities are visited without prior notification and the detention facilities administration provides for the opportunity to conduct confidential interviews with persons deprived of liberty. An increasing level of trust was noted by the Monitoring group, both from the side of persons deprived of liberty and the administration of the detention facilities. The monitoring visits allowed to improve the sanitary and hygienic conditions in places of detention, as well as to achieve a positive shift in the attitude of the staff/employees of the institutions towards the inmates. At the same time, there is no access to internal documents of the detention facilities.

During the second half of the year, the Monitoring group got access to the temporary isolators of the Drug Control Agency (DCA).

In 2018, 16 detention facilities were visited.

- *Regional psychiatric facility in Isfara, 19-20 February 2018.* The one-store building of the facility with high ceilings was built in 1961. That is an old building but rather spacious and bright. Repeated restoration works were carried out; the last renovation works were conducted in September 2017. In general, the building was clean, the territory of the courtyards was well maintained. The facility is designed for 180 patients. At the time of monitoring, there were 180 patients, 102 of them men and 78 women. The duration of patients' stay in the facility varies: from one month to one and a half years. During the monitoring it was revealed that there are no bedside tables, chairs, tables, cabinets and mirrors in the wards; toilets need to be renovated; the facility lacks a library and there are no letter boxes; patients are not provided with paper and pen.

The results of the monitoring revealed that one male patient was forcibly placed in a facility by the police at the request of relatives without a court decision. The patient was accompanied by his father. In all other cases, patients admitted themselves to a psychiatric hospital voluntarily.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) in Spitamen district, 20-21 February 2018.* At the time of monitoring, there were two detainees in IVS: one man and one woman. The building of the DMIA was built in 1964. The last major repair works were carried out in autumn 2017. The IVS has 3 cells for detainees. Each cell is equipped with 2 beds in the form of a wooden lift (trestle), on which mattresses are laid. Separate cell is designed for minors. Lighting in the cell is enough to freely read and write. Bed linen in satisfactory condition. Between 2016 and 2017, no cases of physical injuries were detected in the IVS. There is a mail box in the IVS, however, due to the lack of any instructions on the box, the detainees were not aware of its purpose. The overall conditions and the staff's attitude towards the detainees were satisfactory.

- *State institution "Care home for persons with mental disorders" in Jabbor Rasulov district, 23-24 February 2018.* During the visit, the Monitoring group was accompanied by the Director of the institution, his deputy, the head of the male's department, as well as the deputy director for the facility maintenance. However, the institution's staff did not participate during the interviews with patients. The two-story building of the psychiatric department, with ceilings up to 2.70 meters was built in 1956. The building was repeatedly renovated, the last restoration works were conducted in October 2017. Currently, restoration works are held in the children's department. In general, the building was clean, the territory was well-groomed, flowers and trees were planted.

There were instances of verbal assaults between the patients. According to the institution administration, there are also some patients who have already been treated and there is no need for their further stay, however, the relatives do not want to take them home.

The administration also noted that the staff requires further knowledge and skills to work with disabled people as well as there is a need for a professional psychologist to work with patients with serious disorders. Nevertheless, this is one of the best facilities for today in the country.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) of Pyanj district Police Department, Khatlon oblast, 27-28 March 2018.* The Police Department building was built in 1955. Last major restoration works were carried out in the autumn of 2014. The IVS is located in the courtyard of the police department. At the time of the visit, there were three men held in the IVS. There were no

allegations of torture and ill-treatment by IVS officers. According to the staff, there is a register of complaints and applications. The Register book was checked by the Monitoring group, however, no complaints was detected. The IVS administration expressed an interest in attending seminars and trainings on the rights of detainees, on the prevention of torture and international standards of the detainees' treatment. There is no medical center in the IVS. Based on the agreement between the Police Department and regional hospital, in emergency cases, medical assistance is provided by an ambulance doctor. There are no showers in the IVS, and facility administration claimed that the detainees could use a shower room, intended for facility's staff when needed.

- *Correctional Facility 3/9 Main Department of Implementation of Criminal Punishment of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dusti district, 29-30 March 2018.* The first day of the monitoring coincided with the visit of the Deputy Head of the Main Department of Implementation of Criminal Punishment (GUIUN), Major-General Futurov Jumakhon. Mr. Futurov, along with the representative of the Human Rights Ombudsman Office, Mr. Nidojev introduced the administration of the detention facility with the activities of the Working Group and the Monitoring group under the Human Rights Ombudsman in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Head of the Correction facility also requested to conduct a seminar on "International standards and rules for the treatment of prisoners". The overall number of the inmates held in the facility was 400, including 3 women. At the time of the monitoring, 25 persons were seen of the colony territory, another 10 inmates worked in the subsidiary farm (5-7 kilometers from the colony). The inmates informed that they are engaged in the subsidiary farm and monthly receive 352 somoni for their work. However, no employment record is kept. Apart from two rooms in the first residential sector, there is no separate residential sector for women. At the moment of the visit, the female inmates were engaged in contracted works outside the colony. Canteen were newly repaired, however, there is no water supply in the dining room, water is imported. Libraries and radio broadcasting facilities are not available in the colony. There is a TV in the colony, which is available on certain hours.

- *Special Vocational and Technical Lyceum, 19-20 April 2018.* The Vocational lyceum which is currently run by the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan was built in 1965. The lyceum provides vocational trainings for teenagers. The two-store building is designed for 180 children. At the time of the visit, there were 31 underage teenagers in the lyceum, all boys. There are no girls in this institution. The maximum period for keeping

the Children is 3 years. The facility is equipped with 16 CCTV cameras. Upon completion of the vocational education, children are reintegrated into the family, by the lyceum's staff or the child's parents. There is a staff shortage in the facility and instead of the required 55 workers, there is only 49 staff members. The facility administration also noted the lack of psychologists. No cases of bodily harm, torture or ill-treatment by the facility staff or law enforcement officials were revealed during the interviews. In one case the respondent noted a verbal assault by the facility instructor. The mentioned instructor immediately dismissed by the Head of the facility. The facility backyard is equipped with sport equipment. There is a sports hall, which, however, needs major renovation.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) of Muminabad district Police Department, 30 April – 1 May 2018.* The IVS is located inside the building of the Police Department which was built in 1980. Last major renovation was carried out in 2017. At the time of the monitoring in there was 1 suspect held in the IVS which is equipped with 4 cells. All cells are designed for persons suspected of committing crimes. According to the Head of the IVS, cell No. 1 is designed for minors and women; however, the monitoring team did not observe any differences between the cells. During the interviews, the officers expressed satisfaction with the working conditions and expressed interest in participating in seminars and trainings on the rights of detained persons and on international standards for the treatment of detainees. There is no box for letters and complaints in the IVS. According to the staff of the IVS, if necessary, detainees are provided with a pen with paper. There is no ventilation system in the cells. Tap water and toilets are not available in the cells. There are no showers in the IVS, and facility administration claimed that the detainees could use a shower room, intended for facility's staff when needed.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) of Khovaling district Police Department, 2-3 May 2018.* The Police Department in Khovaling district was built in 1994. The last major repairs were carried out in 2017. The IVS is located inside the building and is equipped with 2 cells, which are designed for persons suspected of committing crimes. At the time of the monitoring, there were no detainees in the IVS. The facility is equipped with 3 CCTV cameras: in the walking yard, at the entrance and in the corridor. Informational posters containing information on the rights and obligations of the detained persons are posted on the wall. There is no box for letters and complaints available in the IVS. There is no medical center in the IVS. Based on the agreement between the Police Department and regional hospital, in emergency cases, medical assistance is provided by an ambulance doctor. The detainees are allowed to for a short walk during the morning hours between 8-9 am in the facility backyard. The backyard lack benches

and sport equipment where the detainees could exercise during the walk. The toilets located in the backyard were in very poor conditions. There are no showers in the IVS, and facility administration claimed that the detainees could use a shower room, intended for facility's staff when needed.

- *State institution "Care home for persons with mental disorders" in Vose district of Khatlon oblast. 17-18 July 2018.* The facility was built in 1956 and was repaired several times; a number of new structures were built in the institution over the time. The overall conditions were satisfactory; the territory was clean and well maintained. The institution is equipped with a department of herbal medicine, physiotherapy, gym and is equipped with 8 CCTV cameras. The facility is designed for 220 people; at the time of monitoring there were 220 patients held in the facility, including 125 men and 95 women. The duration of treatment is different: from one month to 20 years. All patients were admitted to the institution voluntarily. Informational posters are posted on the walls in both male and female sections; however, some of the legislative provisions were outdated. The facility lacks a library and there is no mailbox for letters and complaints. Patients are allowed to use a mobile phone upon the permission of the facility administration.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) of Darvaz district Police Department, GBAO - 22-23 August.* The IVS is located inside the Police Department and the last renovation works were carried in early 2018. At the moment of the visit, there were two detainees kept in the facility. The monitoring team noted the lack of natural light in the cells, which does not allow reading and writing without artificial lighting. There are no windows in the cell (instead, there is a small hole in the wall 20 x 20 cm without glass). Furthermore, the facility lacks shower tap water, and toilets. The cells are not equipped with ventilation system. The overall unsatisfactory conditions in the IVS may cause detainee's suffering and amounted to bad or degrading treatment.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) of Rushan district Police Department, GBAO 25-27 August.* At the moment of the visit, there were two detainees kept in the facility, for conducting administrative offenses. The last major repair works were carried out in March 2018. Informational poster containing information on the rights and obligations of the detainees, as well as the prison administration is posted on the wall. Schedule of the daily walks is not posted. All information is provided in Tajik language. The cells are not equipped with windows, and have small vents 40 x 45 cm in size. The vents are new, made of metal-plastic, with glass. Due to the small size of the vents, there is a lack of natural light in the cells. The cells are not equipped

with washbasin with tap water and toilets. The facility administration expressed interest in participating in seminars and trainings on the rights of detainees and on international standards for the treatment of detainees.

- *Temporary Detention Facility (IVS) of Khorog Police Department, GBAO 28-29 August.* At the moment of the visit, there was one detainee kept in the facility. Informational poster containing information on the rights and obligations of the detainees, daily walks schedule, as well as the responsibilities of the prison administration is posted on the wall. All information is provided in Tajik language. Information about the rights of persons during the arrest is posted at the entrance. All 4 cells are equipped with windows 72 cm x 1.10 cm. There is enough natural light which allows the detainees to read and write. The windows are made of metal with new glasses. A cesspool type toilet is located in the backyard and is semi-insulated (there is a partition, but there is no door). There is no washbasin with tap water in the toilet and the conditions does not meet sanitary and hygienic standards.

- *Sughd regional drug treatment center (Khujand) - 17-18 September.* At the time of the visit, there were 9 patients in the facility; the center is designed for 40 people. Methadone maintenance is provided for another 47 people who are on outpatient treatment. The center is not equipped with a library and TV. There are no separate visiting rooms where the patients can meet with the relatives, family visits usually carried in the lobby, in wards, or in the backyard. Apart from the informational poster about the rights and responsibilities of the patients and the center staff, which is posted in the methadone distribution room, there is no similar information posted in other sections of the facility. There are no disciplinary wards in the center, and the patients could freely move around the center. They are also allowed to use mobile phones, as well as they could use the center landline phone when needed. Patients are admitted voluntarily or with the written consent of the close relatives. The involuntarily admission is only permitted when there is a threat that the patient could harm of himself or people around him. Enforced treatment is provided based on the court decision.

- *Psychiatric hospital in Zafarabad district - 19-20 September.* At the time of the visit, the door at the entrance was open and the patients freely walked in the courtyard. The position of the hospital director is not filled and there is not even an Executive. Moreover, the hospital lacks a guard position. The facility is run by the central hospital of the Zafarabad district which is also responsible for the overall management of the facility, however, the Director visits the clinic only once in 8-10 days. At the time of monitoring, there were 12 patients in the facility, 9 men

and 3 women. The duration of legal stay in the clinic is 45 days, while some of the patients are kept up to 6 months. The facility is not equipped with CCTV cameras. The state budget has allocated 14.62 somoni as daily food allowance per patient, however, in fact only 4 somoni is spent. The menu lack meat, sugar, etc. The food storage was almost empty.

- *The detention center of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Sughd Oblast - 21-22 September.* This was the first visit carried by the Monitoring group to the Agency detention center, which was made possible after receiving the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture. There was no detainee kept in the facility at the moment of the visit. The detention center has been operating since 1999 and is equipped with 4 cells, a walking yard, 1 investigation room; in addition there are room designed for the Head of the facility, duty personnel, rest room, and a shower room. The last repair works were carried 3 years ago. All cells are equipped with toilets and a tap water (cold). The walking schedule is not available.

- *Special Vocational and Technical Lyceum, Dushanbe, 8-9 November.* The Monitoring group was granted access to all the premises of the institution, as well as to conduct confidential interviews with children held in the lyceum. The Monitoring group noted the satisfactory conditions in the facility, as well as the positive attitude towards the children. The rooms are equipped with bunk beds, the children are not provided with individual lockers and there is no tap water and no toilets in the rooms.

*More detailed information about the visits and recommendations of the group can be found on the website of the Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity [www.notorture.tj.org](http://www.notorture.tj.org). A full report on the results of visits in 2018 will be prepared in March 2019.*

### **Study tour to Armenia**

Members of the Working and Monitoring Groups under the Human Rights Ombudsman in the Republic of Tajikistan participated in the study tour to the Republic of Armenia From 17-20, October 2018. The delegation was headed by Mr. Nuralizoda Shams, representative of the General Prosecutor's Office. The delegation also included: Futurov Jumahon - Deputy Head of GUIUN of the Ministry of Justice of RT, Sharipov Takdirsho - professor of the Tajik National University, Nidoyev Khusniddin - Deputy Head of the department for the civil rights protection under the Ombudsman office and the Monitoring Group Coordinator - Juraeva Takhmina, from the Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law. In the course of the visit, the Tajik delegation

met with Armen Tatoyan Armenian Human Rights Ombudsman, Grigor Poghosyan – representative of the Prosecutor General of Armenia, Gevorg Isakhanyan - Head of the Probation Service and Artem Mkhoyan, the Head of the GUIN of Armenia. In addition, the delegation had the opportunity to visit two penitentiary institutions – the temporary isolator and the prison in Armavir. The study tour was organized with the financial support of the “International Prison Reform in Central Asia” as part of the project “Supporting regional efforts to combat torture in places of detention in Central Asia”.

### **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.

For the reporting period, 4 reports were received from places of deprivation and restriction of freedom.

- According to the lawyer, on the evening of February 6, 2018, during the transfer from the IVS to SIZO his client was stripped naked by the female officer of the SIZO, who were inviting her male colleagues to take a glimpse at the naked accused women. The women recalled that she was cold and was frightened of such attitude towards her, and is intended to appeal the actions of the SIZO employees. Upon receiving the complaint, the Coalition representatives requested the Ombudsman Office to conduct a joint visit to the SIZO to meet with this woman, as well to prepare an appeal to the Special department of the General Prosecutor Office for overlooking the places of detention. However, later the lawyer said that his client rejected these allegations and refused to appeal against the actions of the SIZO staff.

- citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan N.D., who is currently detained in Kulyab SIZO, claimed that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during detention in IVS in order to obtain confessions. The monitoring group asked the Ombudsman Office for a joint visit. At the same time the complaint was forwarded to the General Procurator Office for investigation.

- a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan S. S. claims that her father is systematically beaten by the prison administration and that she is worrying about the state of his health. The monitoring

group asked the Ombudsman for a joint visit. The allegations on ill-treatment were later verified by the Prosecutor's office, which concluded that the statement was not confirmed.

- In 2018, Radio Ozodi published the information about one of the inmates of Bokhtar prison, who was allegedly subjected to torture after his mother complained about his conditions in the prison. The information was redirected to the HRO, which contacted the prison's administration to verify the information. The prison's authority assured the prisoner is in a good physical state and could be visited anytime. The HRO representative also mentioned that earlier the convict's mother had repeatedly addressed the Ombudsman office on various issues and received appropriate assistance. At the moment (January 2019), the Monitoring group is discussing the possibilities of conducting a monitoring visit to Bokhtar prison.

In addition, the Monitoring group submitted a request to the Human Rights Ombudsman about conducting a joint visit to the correctional institution 3/3 in Khujand (the institution was not previously visited by the Monitoring group) and to request Mr. Nuralizoda Shams, the member of the WG from the General Prosecutor's office to verify the reports of the riot which occurred earlier in the mentioned facility. The group also held a number of meetings with the Ombudsman, representatives of government agencies and international diplomatic missions.

### **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 2018 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.

In recent years, the RG managed to establish good cooperation with various medical centers, regional social workers and developed a response mechanism to provide assistance to survivors of torture and/or their families. The group also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Society of Counseling Psychologists and Psychotherapists of Tajikistan.

At the same time, there is a need for professional trainings for social workers and psychologists. The social service, which operates under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, currently has 4,000 social workers, however, they do not provide assistance to the victims of torture and ill-treatment and their family members.

There is also a noticeable shortage of professional psychologists, especially in the regions. Unfortunately, universities in Tajikistan do not train clinical psychologists and do not have sufficiently developed methods for their work.

In 2018, the Rehabilitation Group applied for membership in the IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims), an international network with more than 160 members-organizations from 70 countries around the world whose activities are aimed at providing rehabilitation services to victims of torture. The movement supports its members to achieve justice for the victims of torture and their families.

**Action plan for 2018.** In January 2018, the RG conducted a meeting to discuss and approve the Action Plan of the group. During the meeting they also discussed issues related to the current activities of the group, development and adoption of the group’s regulations, including safety plans for the group members and specialists. Strategic Planning of the RG

The Strategic Planning of the Rehabilitation group was conducted with the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust Fund. For this purpose, the Coalition invited Ms. Lela Tsiskarishvili, director of the Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims in Georgia, who has membership in the

International IRCT Network. Previously, the expert was briefed about the current activities of the rehabilitation group and its future plans, based on which, the expert prepared a preliminary Action Plan. On 27 and 28 March, the Expert conducted a meeting with the members of the RG where they discussed all current issues the group is facing and prepared the Group's Strategy. The text of the strategy is available at: <http://notorture.tj.org/about/strategiya-gruppy-po-reabilitacii-lic-perezshivshih-pytki-iili-chlenov-ih-semey>

### **Cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population**

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"**.

During the hearing of the National report of the Republic of Tajikistan, on May 4, 2018, the member of the State delegation, First Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection Saida Umarzoda expressed interest in cooperation with non-governmental organizations working in the field of providing rehabilitation services for victims of torture and members of their families.

On June 5, 2018, Public Foundation "Legal Initiative", which coordinates the activities of the Coalition's Rehabilitation Group, sent a letter to the Ministry of Health with a request for a meeting to discuss possible cooperation in implementing the recommendations of the Committee against Torture. On June 18, 2018, the ministry provided a written response, informing that at the moment they are expecting an official letter from the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture, after which they are ready for further negotiations.

### **Rehabilitation of victims of torture and members of their families**

In total, in 2018 the Coalition provided rehabilitation services to 49 people (20 women and 29 men, including 3 minors (2 boys and 1 girl)). 27 people were directly suffered consequences of use of torture and ill-treatment against them, the remaining 22 were family members of victims of torture.

18 people required a second course of rehabilitation: 7 people received outpatient treatment; 3 required inpatient treatment, 5 people received psychological treatment and 5 people received sanatorium/spa resort treatment.

For the new cases, 31 people underwent a primary assessment, they received the following assistance: a) medical examination and diagnosis - 22 people; b) medical care - 17 people; c) psychological assistance - 9 people. 10 people refused rehabilitation assistance.

### **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, three experts on documenting torture in Dushanbe and DRS, Sogd province, Khatlon province (also covering GBAO cases) and two consultants – on Legal Aid and on Istanbul Protocol.

The activities of LAG's Secretariat in 2018 were supported by the European Union within the project "Actions for Freedom from Torture in Tajikistan", the OSCE Office in Tajikistan within the project "Combating Torture: Support to the Coalition of Civil Society Against Torture and

Impunity in Tajikistan", and by the Sigrid Rausing Trust as part of the initiative "Support to the Coalition of Civil Society Against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan".

The Coalition also provided co-funding for conducting trainings for the lawyers in the frame of the project "Support to the Coalition of Civil Society Against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan" funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

### **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.

During the period between 1 January to 31 December 2018, 44 alleged victims of torture and ill-treatment, including seven women, contacted LAG and Coalition's members.

	Regions				Total
	Dushanbe	DRS	Khatlon province, GBAO	Sughd	
Total recorded	10 (1) <sup>1</sup>	12 (5)	12	11 (1)	44
Lawyer provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38 people received the services of a lawyer</li> <li>• 2 people refused the services of a lawyer at the documentation stage</li> <li>• 3 applicants were provided with legal support by project lawyers</li> <li>• 3 cases were monitored in the court</li> <li>• On 3 cases request was sent to the Monitoring group to verify the allegations on torture</li> </ul>				

<sup>1</sup> The total number of women

Consultations, documents drafted	56 consultations provided; in 1 case legal representation was assigned	45 consultations provided; in 7 cases legal representation was assigned	17 consultations provided;	
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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, male genitalia, through wet napkin in the mouth of the victim), hanging plastic bottles filled with earth, to the male genitalia, insertion of needles/nails under the nails, rape or threats of rape, psychological violence in the form of verbal insults, placement in cold water (feet kept in water for a long time, sometimes for 1-2 days), immersion in cold water in the cold season, application of electric shocks to the back and genitals with the use of a field telephone, putting gas mask on the head, cauterizing the body with cigarettes, forcing the detainees to slap each other on the face, twisting a person's arms behind their back and attaching them to the feet, covering the victim's mouth with tape.

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

The Coalition received complaints against the following government departments: Ministry of Internal Affairs - 40, the State Committee for National Security - 2, the Main Department for execution of criminal penalties of the Ministry of Justice. - 1, specialized facilities for minors - 1.

### **Legal consultations**

Specialists on documenting torture: 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.

Specialists on documenting cases of torture and ill-treatment are practicing lawyers. They carry out activities to provide primary legal assistance, in particular:

- receive complaints and provide primary consultations on Coalition's hot lines;
- prepare written complaints;
- monitor trials;

- accompany victims to state bodies and other institutions for forensic medical examination;
- conduct media reviews on cases of torture and ill-treatment;
- collect and process statistical data on cases of torture and ill-treatment.

Documentation specialists regularly monitor the media and social networks. When information appears about alleged torture or ill-treatment, primary information is collected and verified.

In Dushanbe and DRS, 56 verbal consultations were provided and 11 complaints were made on the basis of information received from citizens. Out of the total number, 27 consultations concerned issues of the procedure for appealing facts of torture to the prosecution authorities and providing legal assistance by the Coalition Legal Aid Group. In six cases, when the facts of torture and ill-treatment were not proved, the applicants were further referred to the specialized organizations.

In Sughd province 17 verbal consultations were provided regarding the mechanisms of appealing the actions of law enforcement officers.

In Khatlon province 45 verbal consultations were provided on conducting prosecutor's investigation, collecting evidence in cases related to torture and ill-treatment, drafting strategies for lawyers on representing the interests of the victims of torture, and setting-up various types of examinations. Three written appeals and complaints of torture were filed to the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Activities of the LAG consultant are aimed at providing legal support to lawyers and members of the Coalition in cases of torture and ill-treatment. The consultant is also a member of the Commission of the Honorarium Fund, providing comments and suggestions to the decisions on allocation of funds for legal aid. In 2018, the consultant provided 67 written consultations and 10 procedural documents were reviewed as part of the activities of the Legal Aid Group, 20 strategies for lawyers on representing the interests of the victims of torture reviewed.

The activities of the Istanbul Protocol Consultant are aimed at providing expert assistance in developing medical and legal documentation cases of torture and ill-treatment in accordance with the standards of the Istanbul Protocol. Expert assistance was provided on collecting medical evidence at the pre-investigation stage and after the initiation of criminal cases involving torture

and other ill-treatment. In general, the expert assistance was provided in following cases: analysis of registration forms - 12; analysis of medical records - 10; providing written and oral consultations for the lawyers and specialists of LAG. In 15 cases, expert assistance was provided by the consultant together with experts from the international organization Physicians for Human Rights.

### **Trial monitoring**

In the reporting period, court monitoring was conducted in 20 cases. Analysis of the court cases monitoring indicated the following problems:

- Practically in all cases (80%) the guarantee under Art. 14 (c) of the ICCPR "To be tried without undue delay" was violated. Trials delayed up to 3-5 hours. Reasons for such delays are rarely explained and no apologies provided.
- Equality of arms during the court hearings: the prosecutor, the secretary and the police officers used their cell phones in the courtroom, while other participants were searched (bags) and were forced to hand over mobile phones at the entrance to the court building;
- Furthermore the principle of Equality of arms is constantly violated by judges, who most of the time ignore the lawyers' petitions or not satisfying them, especially regarding the 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 some cases, the monitors were "accused" for "cooperation" with foreign donors organizations by judges, who perceived this as negative factor.

In addition, the monitors also examined the overall conditions in the courts: access to the court building, court security, accessibility of information, availability of toilets, and accessibility for persons with disabilities, etc. It is also important to note the lack of heating of courtrooms during the winter and air conditioner in summer, especially in remote areas.

### **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 general, in 2018, member organizations of the Coalition represented victims of torture and ill-treatment and their family members in 41 cases, including 38 new cases and 3 old cases

As a result of the joint efforts of the LAG and the attorneys involved, the following results were achieved:

- In the case of Khojinazarov K, the Coalition managed to achieve that, the military court of the Khujand garrison has sentenced to 13 and 12 years of imprisonment in a strict-regime colony with deprivation of the right to hold posts in law enforcement agencies up to 2 years and security bodies up to 3 years, the following persons:
  - Yuldoshev L - Criminal investigation Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in Sughd region. under Art. 1431 part 3, paragraph "b" (Torture), 358 part 1 (arbitrary arrest or detention), 247 part 3 point "a" (Fraud) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan;
  - Naimov Muhammad, Officer of the State National Security Committee of the Asht district, under the art. 1431, part 3, paragraph "b" (Torture).
  - Another officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Sughd region Sh.Sh., left the country immediately after the criminal procedures were launched into the case of Khodzhinazarov K. and was put on the wanted list. At the moment, he is charged under Art. 1431 part 3, paragraph "b" (Torture), 358 part 1 (arbitrary arrest or detention), 247 part 3 point "a" (Fraud) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan. Preliminary investigation continues

- As a result of the courts examination of torture and ill-treatment related complains, special court ruling were adopted against three officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for violating the CPC of the RT and abuse of official authority. Moreover, at the results of the inspections, conducted by the competent state authorities on the allegations of torture and ill-treatment, five officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan were dismissed from their posts. A preliminary investigation was launched against two officers of the Firdavsi district police department for abuse of authority and unlawful detention.
- Special court ruling were adopted against five officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for violating the CPC of the RT and abuse of official authority.
- The Coalition continues to step up the practice of applying the provisions of article 88-1 of the CPC of RT on inadmissibility of evidence obtained as a result of the use of torture and ill-treatment. In 2018, in case of two persons, who were detained by Tursunzade Police Department and the State National Security Committee in Penjikent, the Coalition's lawyers managed that both criminal cases were terminated due to the lack of evidence of their participation in the commission of a crime by applying the **Article 88-1** of the CPC of RT.
- In 2018, 49 people received psycho-social assistance (rehabilitation). This included 20 women and 29 men. 27 of them directly experienced torture and ill-treatment, the remaining 22 were family members of victims of torture.

On the results of inspections conducted on the allegations of use of torture and ill-treatment by the competent state authorities, the following officers were dismissed from their positions:

- The Head of the department of the SCNS in Asht district.
- Officers of Vose Police Department Egamov E. and Hikmatulloev B.
- Officers of Shohmansur district Police Department Rakhimov Ilkhom and Saidrakhmonov Gulbiddin.

As a result of the examination of applications and complaints about the alleged use of torture and ill-treatment, special court rulings were issued against the officers of the Ministry of the Interior of RT, including:

- The investigator of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kanibadam for violation of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Penjikent for abuse of authority.

- Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Yavan district for abuse of authority.
- On the case of Sh. Akhmadov. On September 27, 2018 a criminal case was initiated against the officers of the OMVD of Yavan city under **art. 143~~1~~ part 3** of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- In the case of Dustov T., who died during the detention, a Prosecutor General’s Office opened a criminal case against the Deputy Head of the Counternarcotic Department of Dusti District Police, Idiev M for “exceeding official authority” (Article 316 of the Criminal Code) the prosecutor requested to sentence the defendant to nine years’ imprisonment. The alleged perpetrator did not appear at the next court hearing proving a medical certificate indicating his poor medical conditions and then left the country. As a result, the court changed the order from travel restrictions to put Idiev in detention and ordered the Khatlon regional Police Department to put the defendant on the wanted list.

### **Strategic litigation**

Strategic litigation requires use of judicial and administrative processes in cases important from the standpoint of public interests to ensure changes in the law or judicial or administrative practice, identify gaps in the law (indicating directions to the legislator), ensuring correct interpretation and therefore implementation of provisions, widely disseminating the negative practices.

In 2014, Coalition members agreed that it is necessary to conduct strategic litigation to establish a sustainable practice with regards to judgements on compensation for victims of torture and ill-treatment.

Damage caused to an individual as a result of torture and ill-treatment should be compensated in the manner prescribed for by the CPC and the Civil Code of the Republic of Tajikistan. The body conducting the criminal prosecution is required to explain to the victim of torture their right to file a motion for compensation for material and moral damage and the procedure for lodging such a claim<sup>2</sup> .

In 2018, special attention was paid to strategic litigation for compensation for non-pecuniary damage for an ineffective investigation. In addition, the Coalition continues to increase the practice of filing Amicus Curiae opinions, with the support of the international experts from the

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution of the Supreme Court Plenum #1 as of 25 June 2012 “On application of criminal and criminal procedure legislation to combat the torture”

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. The amicus curiae options are filed draw the court's attention to arguments or information that the parties may not have presented, such as the effects of a particular court ruling on the interests of certain third parties. Nowadays, it was already proved that the courts recognition of the amicus opinions in dealing with civic and criminal cases can have a positive impact in decision making process.

However, at the moment, the Tajik courts are not using the amicus curiae briefs while dealing with the cases on torture and ill-treatment.

### **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).

#### **Assessment of the state of the state forensic medical service of the Republic of Tajikistan**

The working group under the Ministry of Health and the SZN of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the NGO Center for Human Rights conducted an analysis and assessment of the objective state of the forensic medical service of the Republic of Tajikistan. In this direction, an assessment of the material and technical base and an assessment of their compliance with the established standards (requirements) was carried out. Also, an assessment of the level of appropriation of expert institutions and sources of funding (budgetary and extrabudgetary), an assessment of the personnel potential of the country's experts.

#### **Monitoring of medical institutions of the Ministry of Health and social protection of the population RT**

The working group under the Ministry of Health and social protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan together with the NGO Center for Human Rights and members of the Working Group on Rehabilitation conducted monitoring of medical institutions (trauma departments, ambulance, forensic centers) in the Dushanbe-RRP regions (Tursunzade, Vahdat) Khatlon region, Sogd region (Khujand, Isfara, Istaravshan). 230 doctors and 46 forensic experts

were surveyed to determine the situation of the medical examination of the detainees associated with the production, as well as on the practical application of the Protocol of the medical examination of the detainees (approved by the order of the Ministry of Health and social protection of the population RT on 01.11.2014).

The results of the monitoring will be presented in March 2019, which will also include the results of a survey conducted among physicians and forensic experts, as well as the results of an assessment of the current state of the forensic medical service of the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan.

### **Analysis of the internal regulations of the psychiatric service**

A lawyer from the NGO “Human Rights Centre” in cooperation with the psychiatric experts conducted analysis of the internal regulations (18 annexes) of the psychiatric service governing the procedures for organizing and conducting psychiatric examinations in criminal and civil cases in accordance with national legislation and international standards. At the result of this activity, a detailed review and recommendations were presented by the international expert from “Physicians for human rights” <http://notorturetj.org/en/analytics/general-overview-and-recommendations-organizational-aspects-mental-healthcare-tajikistan>

Concrete recommendations were also presented to each relevant paragraph of the psychiatric service regulations. At the same time, the international expert strongly recommended the adoption of the Mental Health Act. The recommendations were submitted to the experts and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for further decision.

The results of the analysis were discussed during the Round Table, which was held on 19 December 2018, and jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Institute for Legal studies and Advanced Training of the General Prosecutor Office, and the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation in Tajikistan. The Round table was attended by 23 persons, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, the SCNS, Drug Control Agency, the Commissioner for Human Rights, Agency for State Financial Control and Fight against Corruption, Tajik National University, the psychiatric service of the Ministry of Health, representative of the organization "Physicians for human rights".<sup>3</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/news/v-dushanbe-sostoyalas-prezentaciya-rezultatov-analiza-normativno-pravovyh-aktov-0>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/news/v-dushanbe-sostoyalas-prezentaciya-rezultatov-analiza-normativno-pravovyh-aktov-0>

On 27 December 2018, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare issued Order No. 1157 approving regulations for the Mental Health Service and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

A working group under the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in cooperation with the NGO “Human Rights Center”, prepared recommendations for the National Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee against Torture for 2019-2022. In particular, proposals were made for the development of a State program for the rehabilitation of victims of torture and trainings for medical staff, creation of an institute for non-governmental (independent) forensic examination, creation of a medical department which will work independently from the Main Department for the Execution of Penalties under the Ministry of Justice and the development of a concept for the creation of a separate medical service to organize medical care for prisoners and persons serving sentences, etc.

In 2019-2020, the activities under the Istanbul Protocol will be directed to the development of a state program for the rehabilitation of victims of torture and conducting trainings of health workers, assistance in the development of legal acts for the establishment and operation of institutions for non-state judicial expertise.

In January 2018, in cooperation with the **experts from "Physicians for human rights"** the Coalition held a **two-day workshop** for lawyers and doctors on the medical documentation of torture cases. Subsequently, **a series of meetings** was held (June 11-14, 2018) with lawyers and doctors, at which an international expert provided consultancies on individual cases of the Coalition against Torture.

### **Training for members of the monitoring group of medical institutions**

On 25-27 July 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, a three-day training was held to train specialists on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol and the specifics of monitoring medical institutions. The training was conducted in the framework of the project "Action for Freedom from Torture in Tajikistan" supported by the European Union and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. The training was attended by 18 participants, including 17 forensic medical experts and 1 lawyer.  
<http://notorturefj.org/news/trening-po-podgotovke-specialistov-o-standartah-stambulskogo-protokola-dlya-vypolneniya>

## **Publications**

On 1 May 2018, the Ministry of Justice jointly with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection approved the “Procedure for organizing medical care for persons serving sentences in places of deprivation of liberty”. The mentioned Procedure was developed by the Main Department for the Execution of Penalties under the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in accordance with the standards of the Istanbul Protocol. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and UNDP, the document was published in 20 copies in Tajik and Russian and handed over to the Medical Department of the Main Department for the Execution of Penalties under the Ministry of Justice.

In January 2019, with the support of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation (OSIAF) - Tajikistan, a compilation of the regulatory and legal acts of the Mental Health Service of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan were published in 100 copies in Tajik and Russian. The compilations were disseminated among the psychiatrists.

### **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 Defence, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Tajikistan, the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court and 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.

The NGO “Office of civil liberties” in cooperation with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Tajikistan conducts human rights monitoring in military units, assists in developing a response mechanism on complaints and allegations from military personnel, as well as conducts activities to increase the capacity of the commanding personnel and legal awareness among the soldiers. In all these areas Government provides opportunities to develop the response mechanisms regarding the alleged cases of torture and ill-treatment as well as awareness raising campaigns.

In November 2018, the NGO “Office of civil liberties” organized a study tour to Georgia to learn from the best practice of ensuring the rights of the military personnel in the Armed Forces. The official Tajik delegation included the representatives of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner RT, the Military Prosecutor's Office, the Border Troops of the SNSC, and the Interior Troops of the MIA. At the results of the study tour, the Working group prepared a report and developed recommendations for reforming military service in Tajikistan, which was submitted to the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. It is foreseen to develop a plan for gradual reform of military service in order to strengthen respect for human rights in the armed forces.

In 2018, NGO “Office of civil liberties” continued its activities on rehabilitation of victims of torture and ill-treatment in military units and their families, with the supported of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

### **Prevention of torture and ill-treatment in the Army**

In 2018, the organization conducted 14 meetings with soldiers, officers, commanders and interrogators of military units in Sughd and Khatlon regions and Districts of Republican subordination. The purpose of the meetings was to raise the legal awareness about the rights of military personnel, improve the commanding staff’s skills in prevention ill-treatment in military units and on thorough investigation of such cases. The meetings participants received knowledge about the requirements of the Law “On the Status of Military Personnel”, the requirements of the Concept for Political and Educational Work in the Armed Forces, the instructions for strengthening military discipline, regulations and orders in the armed forces, as well as the methodological guidelines for the prevention of hazing, suicide and criminal offences in the armed forces. During the meetings, special attention was paid to the observance of the rights of military personnel, non-statutory relations, as well as the prevention of the growth of extremism and terrorism among soldiers.

### **Legal Assistance**

The organization's lawyers provide consultancies on legal, medical and fitness for military service issues. In 2018, 402 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.

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.

In 2018, the organization's lawyers provided legal assistance to 15 applicants, including conscripts, military personnel and members of their families. On 15 appeals, the 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.

In 2018, the organization participated in three criminal cases involving torture and ill-treatment in the army. In one case, lawyers were able to obtain a conviction and in two other cases, activities are ongoing.

In addition, in 2018, the organization provided legal assistance to family members of three soldiers M. Mansurov, A. Bokeyev and B. Nasriddinov to recover moral damages. All three cases are at the stage of judicial review.

### **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 2018, the organization provided rehabilitation services for 28 people, including 4 soldiers and 24 members of their families. The beneficiaries underwent medical examination and clinical and laboratory diagnostics. Kholov Imomiddin, Mirzoyev Shahbol, Nasriddinov Bahriiddin and Sha'banov Kurbonali received assistance for continuous medical examination and support therapy. The rehabilitation services also included such procedures as physiotherapy, immunomodulatory and corrective therapy. In addition, 13 people received sanatorium/spa resort treatment. In four cases, the victims were provided with psychological rehabilitation.

### **Monitoring**

Since 2014, the NGO "Office of Civil Liberties", in cooperation with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, has been conducting human rights monitoring in military units. During this period, human rights monitoring has been conducted in 21 military units of the Ministry of Defense throughout the country.

In 2018 NGO "Office of Civil Liberties" continued the human rights monitoring in military units of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan. Monitoring was carried out in five military units in Rasht district, in Istaravshan, B. Gafurov district of Sughd region; in Kulyab and in Bokhtar of Khatlon region. The monitoring covered fifty conscripts and fifty officers.

The results of the monitoring demonstrated certain positive changes, even in the most remote military units, such as: provision of clothing and uniforms for soldiers, observance of sanitary and hygienic norms, quality of meals, leisure rooms, repair of showers and toilets, improvement of the quality of medical care in military units, training classes, appearance of libraries and information boards, surveillance cameras equipped throughout the territory of military units, there are visible board with the military prosecutor's office hotline numbers and complaint boxes. At the same time, there are still some issues, including lack of shops, closed gyms and utility rooms in military units.

The results of the monitoring demonstrated that human rights violations start already with the recruitment commission and the medical examination of conscripts. Soldiers are unaware of their rights and the mechanisms for their protection, as well as of the right to complain and the location of complaint boxes.

### **Publications for 2018**

- **Compilation of national legislation in the field of conscription and military service:** This is the seventh edition of the organization and is highly in demand for lawyers, human rights activists, judges, prosecutors, military structures and law enforcement agencies.
- **Infographics:** In 2018 four infographics were updated: "Rights and duties of a conscript"; "How much is the life of a soldier?"; "Rights of soldiers"; "Torture in the army".
- **Report on the situation with the practice of moral reparations.** The report reflects analysis of the military courts of the Republic of Tajikistan practices on consideration of claims for compensation of moral damages from military personnel and their families.
- **Manual for medical personnel of the recruitment commissions.** Eight different manuals for eight categories of medical personnel of the recruitment commissions were published in Tajik.
- **Soldier's handbook.** The handbook was developed based on the recommendations received from the officers of military units of the Sughd region. It also includes sections about the history of the Tajik people, soldiers' songs, the text of the oath. In addition, the handbook contains useful

and necessary information about the military service, from the moment of arriving to the military unit and until the end of military service.

#### **Work with Mass Media:**

- Seniors, goats and morons. What awaits the conscripts captured for the Tajik army: <https://fergana.agency/articles/102687/>
- Young Tajiks are afraid to join the army because of raids and hazing. [https://reporting.cabar.asia/ru/molodye-tadzhiki-boyatsya-idti-sluzhit-v-armiyu-iz-za-oblav-idedovshhiny/?fbclid=IwAR27N\\_d3wvMubzEQHvzqiNH9g2CzpZ\\_IPOA6sTOLXNp5FKQwaRho\\_oyWUSM](https://reporting.cabar.asia/ru/molodye-tadzhiki-boyatsya-idti-sluzhit-v-armiyu-iz-za-oblav-idedovshhiny/?fbclid=IwAR27N_d3wvMubzEQHvzqiNH9g2CzpZ_IPOA6sTOLXNp5FKQwaRho_oyWUSM)
- Young Tajiks Fear to Soldier Due to Raids and hazing <https://reporting.cabar.asia/en/young-tajiks-fear-to-soldier-due-to-raids-and-dedovschina/>
- Press release: A lawyer and relatives of a 21-year-old soldier who died in the Tajik army 10 days before demobilization, still can't get a fair punishment for officers. [http://freedom.tj/2018/09/25/press-reliz/?lang=ru&fbclid=IwAR3Mvbn3BhQ8N6GOFiWDe\\_mfphziRUZcmWfZ4r6wto2mZXezWQyh1jYWSEc](http://freedom.tj/2018/09/25/press-reliz/?lang=ru&fbclid=IwAR3Mvbn3BhQ8N6GOFiWDe_mfphziRUZcmWfZ4r6wto2mZXezWQyh1jYWSEc)
- Free legal assistance to recruits and military personnel <http://freedom.tj/2018/09/13/besplatnaya-pravovaya-pomoshh-prizyvnikam-i-voennosluzhashhim/?lang=ru&fbclid=IwAR0B-E7wLxqMnSI6ikjBooRLLON2HbLiweHJSUxhuJixDz3HysCNe72qzMM>  
Dilrabo Samadova: I am crying with the soldiers' mothers  
<https://www.ozodi.org/a/dilrabo-samadova-tajikistan-asia/29086794.html>
- A promotional video about the activities of the Office of Civil Liberties and hotline numbers was created. The video was broadcast on radio and television for two months. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wwbrqU5DyA&feature=share>

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

During the annual meeting of the Coalition, 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.

### **National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights until 2030.**

In 2018, the Government of Tajikistan initiated the process of development of the National Strategy for the protection of Human Rights until 2030. The process was led by the Department of Human Rights guarantees of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan 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 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 in 2019.

### **UN human rights Treaty bodies**

Preparation and submission of the NGO Report to the UN Committee against Torture. In May 2018 the UN Committee against torture scheduled the review of the third periodic report of Tajikistan on the implementation of the UN Convention against torture. The Coalition against Torture in cooperation with the International Partnership for Human Rights prepared the NGO Shadow Report to the UN Committee against Torture, which is available in Russian and English.<sup>4</sup> A separate thematic submissions were prepared by other Coalition's members.

Advocacy at the UN Committee against Torture. The Coalition members participated in the 63rd session of the UN Committee against Torture, which was held in Geneva. During the official briefing for NGOs, representatives of the Coalition presented the Shadow report on the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture in Tajikistan.

Promotion of the Coalition's recommendations at the national level. The draft National Plan on the implementation of the recommendations of the UN CAT was presented on October 25, 2018. The meeting was organized at the initiative of the Department on Human Rights Guarantees of the President’s Executive Office of the Republic of Tajikistan and in cooperation with the Civil society Coalition against torture and impunity in Tajikistan and OHCHR in Central Asia. The meeting was attended by more than 60 persons, representatives of state bodies, civil society and

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<sup>4</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/reports/npo-tadzhikistana-podgotovili-sovmestnyy-doklad-v-komitet-oon-protiv-pytok>

international organizations. After the meeting, the Coalition summarized all submitted the civil society recommendations for the consideration of the Governmental Working Group. Most of the presented recommendations were reflected in the final version of the draft national plan.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Coalition member organizations took active participation in preparation of NGO Shadow report about the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Tajikistan. In particular, the report covered the situation with domestic violence, rights of women with disabilities, women living with HIV, women prisoners, etc. A separate thematic report was also submitted by the Coalition's Monitoring Group. The Coalition members participated in the Official NGO briefing of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on 31 October 2018, where the participants discussed the main challenges in the area of discrimination against women and presented certain recommendations. Vast majority of the civil society recommendations have been reflected in the Committee's concluding recommendations.

### **Strategy of the European Union on Central Asia**

*EU-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.

The tenth round of dialogue was held on 25 October 2018. 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.

### **Conference "Strengthening Civil Society in Central Asia", 15-16 November 2018, Brussels**

The representatives of the Coalition against Torture took part in the conference "Strengthening Civil Society in Central Asia" organized by the European Parliament together with the European Endowment of Democracy. The representative of the Analytical Center of the Coalition spoke at

the panel discussion on “Developing Regional Cooperation: Building Cross-Border Cooperation among Civic Activists and Human Rights Defenders”

### **3.7. EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT**

**Training sessions for employees of the prosecutor bodies on responding and effective investigate of torture related cases.** In April 2018, the NGO “Human Rights Centre”, in cooperation with Centre for Advanced Training for the Procurator-General's Office staff, conducted training sessions on methods for verifying and investigating of the alleged cases of torture and other forms of cruel treatment. Principles of the investigation and effective documentation of torture in accordance with the standards of the Istanbul Protocol".

The training sessions were held on 11-14 April in Dushanbe, 18-21 April in Bokhtar, Khatlon Province and 25-28 April in Khujand, Sughd Province of Tajikistan. The trainings were attended by 86 prosecutor officers: 26 - in Dushanbe, 28 - in Khatlon region and 22 - in Sughd region.

**Training for lawyers on compensation for moral damages for torture victims and members of their families.** On 30-31 March 2018 the Civil Society Coalition against torture and impunity in Tajikistan in cooperation with the Union of Lawyers of Tajikistan and with the financial support of the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia and the OSCE Program Office in Tajikistan conducted a two-day training for 25 lawyers on strategies and techniques of filing claims for compensation for moral harm to the victims of torture and ill-treatment. The training was conducted by the International expert Elena Volochai (Kiev, Ukraine), one of the leading Experts in this sphere.

**Training for lawyers, social workers, psychologists - specialists working with victims of torture** was conducted by the Public Foundation "Legal Initiative", that coordinated the activities of the Rehabilitation Group of the Coalition against torture. The training was held on June 8-9 in Buston city of Sughd region. The training was dedicated to the development of plans and protocols for ensuring the confidentiality in working with clients - victims of torture and their relatives, providing them legal assistance and rehabilitation services, including medical, social and psychological assistance.

**Training for lawyers on mechanisms and strategies for the protection of victims of torture** was held in June and July 2018. The training was conducted by the NGO “Law and Prosperity” that coordinates the activities of the Legal Aid Group of the Coalition, in cooperation with the Union of Lawyers of Tajikistan. The three 3-day trainings were attended by 67 lawyers from the city of Dushanbe, Regions of Republican Subordination, GBAO, Sughd and Khatlon regions.

On **5-6 October**, a two-day training was held at the Sarob sanatorium to **strengthen the capacity of the training centre of the Union of Lawyers of Tajikistan** on international standards and national legislation on freedom from torture, basic guarantees of the rights of detainees and persons deprived of their liberty. Twenty-five lawyers received the training. A special feature of this training was that the trainers were practicing lawyers themselves.

**Training sessions for lawyers of the Union of Lawyers of the Republic of Tajikistan** on "Peculiarities of child protection in criminal proceedings, including children of victims and witnesses of crime" were held by the Public Foundation “Legal Initiative”, which was attended by 38 lawyers of the Union of Lawyers and 12 lawyers from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan. Training sessions were held on 8 and 9 November, 23 and 24 November and 7 and 8 December and focused on the specifics of child protection in criminal proceedings, including international and national protection standards, as well as the psychological characteristics of minors and psychosocial approaches to working with them.

**Training for lawyers of the Union of Lawyers of the Republic of Tajikistan** “Features of child protection in criminal proceedings, including children of victims and witnesses of crime” was held by the PF “Legal Initiative”, which was attended by 38 lawyers of the Union of Lawyers of the Republic of Tajikistan and 12 lawyers of free legal assistance of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan. The trainings took place on November 8-9, November 23-24 and December 7-8 and were devoted to the features of child protection in criminal proceedings, including international and national standards of protection, as well as the psychological characteristics of minors and psychosocial approaches to working with them.

**Training on juvenile justice issues for trainees of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan** was conducted by the Public Foundation “Legal Initiative”, which was attended by 60 trainees from Dushanbe, Sughd province, GBAO, Regions of the Republican Subordination and Khatlon province. The training took place on 18-20 and 21-23 October 2018 and covered

two areas: the first stage of the training was devoted to the legal mechanisms for the protection of children's rights, including international principles; while during the second part of the training the participants learnt about the psychological aspects of work with children, especially in the process of interrogations. The legal aspects included such topics as international mechanisms for the protection of the rights of the child, the principles of the rights of the child, the judicial system for the protection of the rights of the child, national mechanisms, interviewing and interrogating the child in accordance with the requirements of international standards, etc. The training was organized in the framework of the training. Other topics covered included the use of court rooms for hearing cases involving children and the participation of a defence counsel, a psychologist, a tutor and a legal representative in cases where the child is a victim or witness of a crime. Psychological aspects related to the treatment of children during the hearing of cases and which psychological aspects must be taken into account during the questioning of the child. What may be the psychological consequences for a child if he or she has been subjected to torture and unlawful methods of investigation, including violence and abuse. The role of the family in the upbringing and development of the child, as well as issues such as age-related changes during the development of the child and how adults need to respond to these features of age-related development without violating the rights of the child.

**Training for the staff of the Centers for Continuing Education and Child Rights Departments of Khujand, Kanibadam, Penjikent, Isfara and B. Gafurov district of Sughd region** on conducting social work with children in conflict with the law and their families. The training was held on November 26-28, 2018 and was held by the Public Foundation “Legal Initiative”. The training was attended by 25 people, including social workers and heads of additional education centers, responsible secretaries of the Commission on the Rights of the Child of the Executive Body of State Power in Khujand, Kanibadam, Penjikent, Isfara and B. Gafurov district of Sughd region. The training focused on the protection of child rights in the justice system, diversion from the justice system and the provision of rehabilitation and reintegration services that include social and psychological services.

### **Adult Learning Trainings**

In 2018, 10 judges, 10 staff of the Service for the Prevention of Crime and Offences among Children and Young Persons of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and 5 officers of the General Prosecutor’s Office received training in human rights education methods and techniques. The training was conducted by the Public Foundation “Legal Initiative”. It is foreseen to continue the cooperation with the mentioned agencies in the sphere

of awareness raising on the issues related to child protection in criminal proceedings through development of a training module and educational materials.

### **Youth development**

As part of its work to support youth initiatives and nurture a new generation of human rights defenders in 2018, the NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” held two camps on human rights and civic education.

From 18 to 24 August 2018, 30 young Tajik activists took part in the Summer School on Human Rights. During five days, the leading human rights experts, human rights defenders and journalists trained young activists from all regions of Tajikistan in human rights, national and international mechanisms of human rights protection, legislation on advocacy and advocacy and other topics. The School’s participants were enabled to reflect the received knowledge during the moot courts and exchange experience with their colleagues and peers. The School was organized by the NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” with financial support from the Open Society Assistance Foundation Institute - Tajikistan and the International Bar Association (IBAHRI).

<http://freedom.tj/2018/08/21/letnaya-shkola-po-pravam-cheloveka-2018/?lang=ru>

<https://www.osiaf.tj/ru/2018/08/27/1-shkola-3/>

The second Summer camp on civic education with the participation of 25 young people took place from 13 to 18 August. The camp was held by the NGO “Office of Civil Liberties” as part of the project "Support to youth initiatives aimed at youth activation and capacity building" with the financial support of OSI Budapest. <http://freedom.tj/2018/08/16/barguzorii-lageri-talimii-tobistona/>

### **Information sessions**

In 2018 information sessions were continued in the regions of the country to raise awareness about the standards of OPCAT, NPM models, analysis of national legislation on compliance with the OPCAT standards. Information sessions were organized by the Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law in partnership with the Department Human Rights Guarantees of the Executive Office of the President and the Commissioner for Human Rights in Tajikistan. As in 2017, it was decided to combine the information sessions on OPCAT with the information sessions of the UPR and the national consultations on the second National plan of Action for the implementation of the UPR recommendations. This approach proved its effectiveness, since the issues of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CAT, establishment of an NPM and

information about the activities of the Monitoring group, are among the recommendations received by Tajikistan for the second cycle of UPR. The consolidation of efforts allowed conducting the information sessions on a very high level, with the participation of the Head of the Department of Human Rights Guarantees of the Executive Office of the President, the Ombudsman, representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office and academics. Information sessions were held in Faizabad (5 July), Lakhsh (6 July), Ashta (20 July), Kanibadam (22 July), Khovaling (3 August), Baljuvan (4 August), Darvaz (22 August) and Khorog (23 August). The information sessions were attended by more than 250 people - representatives of ministries and agencies on the ground, civil society and media. For more details, please refer to: <http://notorturetj.org/news/v-tadzhikistane-proshla-seriya-informacionnyh-sessiy-po-voprosam-ratifikacii-fakultativnogo>

Experts from the Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law developed **posters on the rights of persons in psychiatric institutions and the rights of children in semi-closed institutions**. The posters are available by clicking the following links: <http://notorturetj.org/library/pamyatka-poluchatelya-uslug-pacienta-v-psihiatricheskom-uchrezhdenii>  
<http://notorturetj.org/library/pamyatka-o-pravah-detey-nahodyashchihsya-v-zakrytyh-i-poluzakrytyh-detskih-uchrezhdeniyah>  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/library/ittilonoma-baroi-mizochon-bemoron-i-muassisai-bemorikhoi-rukhi>  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/library/ittilonoma-oid-ba-khukukkhoy-kudakone-ki-dar-muassisakhoy-pushidanimpushidai-kudakon-choygir>

### **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 2018, 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, co-financing of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Zigrid Rausing Trust)
- "Support to the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan" (with financial support from the OSCE Programme Office in Tajikistan)
- "Online broadcasting of the interactive dialogue of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in the UN Committee against Torture on implementation of its obligations under the Convention against Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment" (with the financial support of the World Organization against Torture), as well as with the financial support of the Open Society Institute Assistance Fund in Tajikistan, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Development Program.

**Online broadcasting of the official hearing of Tajikistan's national report to the UN Committee against Torture** on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was organized on 4 May 2018 in the capital complex "Dushanbe - Plaza", which was attended by more than 50 representatives of the judicial, law enforcement and state agencies, representatives of international organizations and embassies, representatives of civil society and the media from Dushanbe city and from other cities.<sup>5</sup>

The event received wide coverage in local media, in particular:

1. <https://news.tj/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20180505/komitet-protiv-pitok-oon-k-vlastyam-tadzhikistana-u-nas-mnogo-voprosov>
2. <http://notorturetj.org/news/komitet-protiv-pytok-oon-k-vlastyam-tadzhikistana-u-nas-mnogo-voprosov>
3. <http://www.toptj.com/News/2018/04/20/komitet-protiv-pytok-oon-vyslushaet-tadzhikistan>

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<sup>5</sup> The official delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, which presented the report, was headed by Yusuf Rahmon, Prosecutor General of the Republic. The delegation also included Abdujabbor Sattorzoda, head of the Human Rights Guarantees Department of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan; Alamsho Alamshozoda, first deputy head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ilkhom Mahmudzoda, deputy head of the Main Penal Corrections Department of the Ministry of Justice; Said Umarzoda, 1st Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection; and Ombudsman Zarif Alizoda, as an independent observer.

4. <https://news.tajinfo.org/2018/05/06/komitet-protiv-pytok-oon-k-vlastyam-tadzhikistana-u-nas-mnogo-voprosov/>
5. <http://today.tj/obschestvo/13990-komitet-protiv-pytok-oon-k-vlastyam-tadzhikistana-u-nas-mnogo-voprosov.html>

### **Action to mark International Day for the Protection of Torture Victims - 26 June**

On 26 June 2018, the Coalition organized its traditional photo exhibition dedicated to torture victims and members and families in three cities of Tajikistan: Dushanbe, Khujand and Bokhtar,<sup>6</sup> 18 stories were presented during the photo exhibition.<sup>7</sup>

The event was attended by more than 100 representatives of State bodies, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State National Security Committee, the Prosecutor's Office, courts, international and diplomatic organizations, Mass media and civil society, and individuals wishing to support victims of torture and ill-treatment and their relatives.

The photo exhibitions featured a videos based on the story of a 17-year-old Khushvaxt, victim of torture. This was the first criminal case that was initiated under the article "torture" of the Criminal Code of Tajikistan and on which a conviction was passed.

On the eve of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the multimedia campaign material "Torture happens! No to Torture!" was also launched on the Coalition's Facebook page. The material tells the stories of 18 victims of torture<sup>9</sup>, with infographics "How much is the life of victims of torture and ill-treatment worth in Tajikistan?"<sup>10</sup>

During the event in Dushanbe, the winners of the Coalition's competition for the best journalistic materials on issues relating to torture were announced:<sup>11</sup>

- Radio Ozodi journalist Mullorajab Yusufi for his article "How Much Does a Soldier's Life Cost?";
- Asia-Plus correspondent Sairakhmon Nazriev for a series of materials about the investigation into the death of Shaartuz Tolibjon Dustov; and
- Independent journalist Biloli Shams for articles about the complaint of two residents of Temurmaliq district about the torture of their relatives by police.

All three journalists received prizes and commemorative diplomas of the Coalition.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/antipytochnaya-koaliciya-tadzhikistana-provodit-fotovystavku-v-podderzhku-zhertv-pytok>

<sup>7</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/pytki-est-pytkam-net-multimedia>

<sup>8</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/video/kak-tadzhikistan-boretsya-s-pytkami>

<sup>9</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/pytki-est-pytkam-net-multimedia>

<sup>10</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/skolko-stoit-zhizn-zhertv-pytok-i-zhestokogo-obrashcheniya-v-tadzhikistane-infografika>

<sup>11</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/analytics/v-tadzhikistane-vystupili-protiv-pytok>

The most active user of the Coalition's website and social media sites was also awarded: civil society activist Khursheda Rakhimova received a commemorative diploma.

### **Campaign on the International Human Rights Day and the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) <sup>12</sup>**

Banners featuring excerpts from the UDHR (the text of the preamble and 11 articles), as well as related quotes by state officials and human rights defenders<sup>13</sup> were displayed in different parts of Dushanbe in Russian, Tajik and English languages. The campaign was widely covered on the website and social networking pages of the Coalition.<sup>14</sup>

OSI Tajikistan and the Coalition held a competition on social media,<sup>15</sup> asking people to take a photo of the campaign quote they liked most, explain their choice and post this photo with the hashtag #knowyourright. The campaign lasted until 29.12.2018. The winners were awarded with memorable prizes.<sup>16</sup>

Human rights calendars for 2019: To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the UDHR, ICHRP coordinated the preparation of a desk calendar for 2019, on behalf of the Coalition. Under every month the calendar includes an article from the UDHR and two comments— one from a civil servant and one from a Tajikistani human rights defender. The calendars were distributed among Coalition partners <sup>17</sup>.

"Mobile Legal Assistance": On 10 December 2018, in four districts of Dushanbe, the action "Mobile Legal Assistance" was carried out, where Coalition lawyers provided free legal advice on various human rights related issues to the public. As a result, more than 50 people received free legal advice.

Exhibition of drawings and essays dedicated to Human Rights Day. In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders, the Office of Civil Liberties held an essay and drawing competition on the theme "Draw human freedom". As a result of the contest,

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<sup>12</sup> The activities were carried out with the financial support of the Open Society Assistance Fund Institute in Tajikistan, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Development Program, Zigrig Rausing Trust and EU Delegation in Tajikistan.

<sup>13</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/stati-vseobshchey-deklaracii-prav-cheloveka-na-bannerah-v-dushanbe>

<sup>14</sup> 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

<sup>15</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/vnimanie-konkurs>

<sup>16</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/ya-znayu-svoi-prava-v-dushanbe-podvedeny-itogi-konkursa-posvyashchennogo-70-letiyu-vseobshchey>

<sup>17</sup> <http://notorture.tj.org/news/nastolnyy-kalendar-o-pravah-cheloveka>

120 drawings and 55 essays were received from all over Tajikistan on the theme of human rights, including torture in the army, unfair criminal prosecution and police violence against young people.

<http://freedom.tj/2018/12/10/namoishi-jambastii-ozmuni-kashinidani-rasm-va-navishtani-esse-baxshida-ba-ruzi-huquqi-inson/>

**The Coalition’s website “Freedom from Torture”** - [www.notorture.tj](http://www.notorture.tj) , [www.notorture.tj.org](http://www.notorture.tj.org)

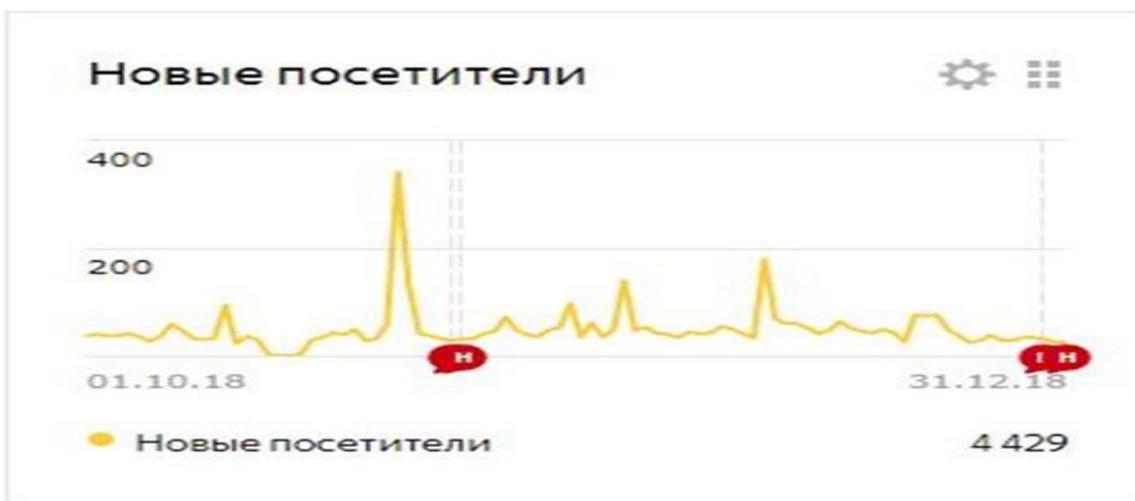
Coalition website is maintained in three languages: Russian, Tajik and English and has been functioning since 2012. In addition, the Coalition is represented in social networks.

During the reporting period (January - December 2018), the media group published 394 materials were published by the media group on the website Notorture.tj.org, including 168 in Russian, 195 in Tajik and 31 in English. Among them, 177 pieces were placed in the Media Center section, 53 - analytics, 18 - monitoring, 40 - opinion and 106 - other pieces.

Geographical coverage of the site: the largest coverage of the readers of the site, after Tajikistan, is: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Turkey. Usually 58.5% of traffic is generated from direct visits to the site, 26.8% from search engines, 8.09% from social networks, 4.14% from internal transitions and 2.47% in other cases.



During 2018, the number of visitors to the website of the Coalition of Civil Society against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan [www.notorture.tj.org](http://www.notorture.tj.org) increased by 4,429, totaling 166,429. The age category of visitors was as follows: 18-24 years old - 15.7%; 25-34 years old - 29.7%; 35-44 years old - 23.7%; 45-54 years old - 24.3%; 55 years old and older - 4.81%; the rest - 1.79%.



**Promotion of the site and pages of the Coalition in social networks.** Currently, the Coalition website also has its pages in social networks:

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

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

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

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

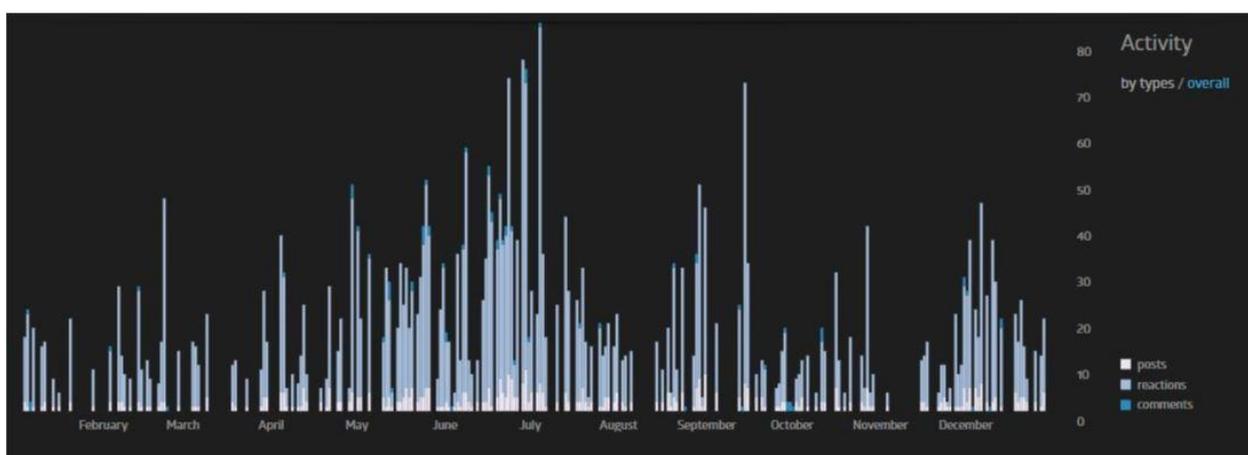
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWfjfabt9tacFgj-rcJZqtw>

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

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

Instagram: notorture.tj

All materials posted on the Coalition website in 2018 were published on social pages on Facebook, Telegram, Twitter, Odnoklassniki, photo materials - in Instagram, and audio materials were posted on soundcloud, plus.google and youtube. It should be noted that since 2017, advertising of the site on all social pages was absent.



On Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/NoTortureTj> The number of views in 2018 made 103,300, which is 37200 views more compare to 2017, (in 2017 - 66 100).

On Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/notorture.tj> in 2018 the number of views amounted to 684000, which is 30306 more than in 2017.

### **Journalistic investigations, judicial chronicles, Media coverage of individual cases of torture and ill-treatment**

The Coalition's Media Group also includes a group of professional journalists that allowed for a wider coverage of cases of torture and ill-treatment in the country. During 2018, the Coalition's Media Group, in cooperation with other groups, produced about 300 media content: journalistic investigations and judicial chronicles - 25, press releases - 7, media reviews - 11, analytical materials, articles, reports and pocket books - 16, infographics, multimedia, interviews - 10, etc.

Leading Tajik media outlets ("Vecherka", "Avesta", "Radio Ozodi", "Asia Plus", "Faraj", "Sugdnews", "Akhbor.com", etc.) publish or cite information from Coalition sources. It should be noted that journalists work closely with lawyers and lawyers of the Coalition, forensics experts, doctors and other specialists in the process of preparing media materials.

During the reporting period, the Coalition's Media Group in cooperation with the Legal Aid Group conducted about 25 journalistic investigations and judicial chronicles' coverage:

<b>№</b>	<b>Name of the media content</b>	<b>Online Reference</b>
1.	Temurmalik: Complaints from two women about the torture of their loved ones	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/temurmalik-shikoyati-du-zan-az-shikancha-shudani-nazdikonashon">http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/temurmalik-shikoyati-du-zan-az-shikancha-shudani-nazdikonashon</a>
2.	The trial of Dustov: Idiev refused to testify	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/murofi-i-margi-dustov-idiev-az-dodani-nishondod-dast-kashid">http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/murofi-i-margi-dustov-idiev-az-dodani-nishondod-dast-kashid</a>
3.	Nine positive trends in Coalition's activities	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/nukh-tamoyuli-musbat-dar-faoliyati-etilof">http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/nukh-tamoyuli-musbat-dar-faoliyati-etilof</a>
4.	Isfara: the gardener was tortured	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/isfara-">http://notorturetj.org/tj/analytics/isfara-</a>

		<a href="#">zardoluparvar-shikancha-shudaast</a>
5.	The case of Uktammjon Igamov: two years after his death in Khujand pre-trial detention facility, ineffective investigation and impunity.	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/analytics/delo-uktamdzhona-igamova-dva-goda-so-dnya-smerti-v-sizo-hudzhanda-neeaktivnoe">http://notorturetj.org/analytics/delo-uktamdzhona-igamova-dva-goda-so-dnya-smerti-v-sizo-hudzhanda-neeaktivnoe</a>
6.	The price of torture and a beaten kidney is a little over \$1,000	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/analytics/cena-zapytki-i-otbituyu-pochku-chut-bolshe-1-tys">http://notorturetj.org/analytics/cena-zapytki-i-otbituyu-pochku-chut-bolshe-1-tys</a> <a href="https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20180816/goibovu-poteryavshemu-ot-pitok-v-militsii-pochku-mvd-tadzhikistana-viplatilo-1-tis">https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20180816/goibovu-poteryavshemu-ot-pitok-v-militsii-pochku-mvd-tadzhikistana-viplatilo-1-tis</a>
7.	The Lawyer filed a lawsuit against the Prosecutor General's Office on the death of Ismonboy Boboyev	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/analytics/advokat-podelu-smerti-ismonboya-boboeva-podal-v-sud-na-genprokuraturu">http://notorturetj.org/analytics/advokat-podelu-smerti-ismonboya-boboeva-podal-v-sud-na-genprokuraturu</a>
8.	"For eight years, the father sought punishment for the perpetrators who bore his son to death."	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/analytics/vosem-letotec-dobivalsya-nakazaniya-dlya-vinovnyh-do-smerti-zapytavshih-ego-syna">http://notorturetj.org/analytics/vosem-letotec-dobivalsya-nakazaniya-dlya-vinovnyh-do-smerti-zapytavshih-ego-syna</a>
9.	«A man death at police detention», «Abdurasul Nazarov's case»,	<a href="https://www.ozodi.org/a/a-man-death-at-police-detention-/29140011.html">https://www.ozodi.org/a/a-man-death-at-police-detention-/29140011.html</a> <a href="https://www.ozodi.org/a/abdur-asul-nazarov-case/29145674.html">https://www.ozodi.org/a/abdur-asul-nazarov-case/29145674.html</a>
10.	Abdurasul's relatives: "Victims of police violence, we want justice". VIDEO (Mirzonabi Holikzod)	<a href="https://www.ozodi.org/a/a-man-death-at-police-detention-/29140011.html">https://www.ozodi.org/a/a-man-death-at-police-detention-/29140011.html</a>
11.	“MIA: Dustov was taken to hospital alive”	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/tj/news/kormandoni-shvkd-dustovro-ba-bemorhona-zinda-ovarda-budem">http://notorturetj.org/tj/news/kormandoni-shvkd-dustovro-ba-bemorhona-zinda-ovarda-budem</a>
12.	The police officers beat my brother with their fists and a whip. ....	<a href="http://akhbor.com/-p5930-170.htm">http://akhbor.com/-p5930-170.htm</a>
13.	It's an internal investigation. What caused the death of Abdurasul Nazarov?	<a href="https://www.ozodi.org/a/abdur-asul-nazarov-case/29145674.html">https://www.ozodi.org/a/abdur-asul-nazarov-case/29145674.html</a>
14.	The death of A. Nazarov the day after his arrest.	<a href="https://www.ozodi.org/a/abdurahmon-nazarov-died/29134847.html">https://www.ozodi.org/a/abdurahmon-nazarov-died/29134847.html</a>
15.	Internal Affairs Department in Dusti	<a href="http://notorturetj.org/tj/news/navbatdori-">http://notorturetj.org/tj/news/navbatdori-</a>

	district: we have registered the victims.	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/murofiai-ba-kayd-girifta-budem">shvkd-dar-nokhiyai-dusti-chabrdidakhoro-ba-kayd-girifta-budem</a>
16.	The trial of Dustov: Idiev refused to testify	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/murofiai-margi-dustov-idiev-az-dodani-nishondod-dast-kashid">http://notorture.tj/analytics/murofiai-margi-dustov-idiev-az-dodani-nishondod-dast-kashid</a>
17.	The death of Tolibjon Dustov will be re-examined.	<a href="http://notorture.tj/news/sababi-margi-tolibchon-dustov-az-nav-tashhis-meshavad">http://notorture.tj/news/sababi-margi-tolibchon-dustov-az-nav-tashhis-meshavad</a>
18.	MIA: Dustov was taken to hospital alive.	<a href="http://notorture.tj/news/kormandoni-shvkd-dustovro-ba-bemorhona-zinda-ovarda-budem">http://notorture.tj/news/kormandoni-shvkd-dustovro-ba-bemorhona-zinda-ovarda-budem</a>
19.	The trial for the death of Tolibjon Dustov has launched.	<a href="http://notorture.tj/news/murofiai-sudi-vobasta-ba-margi-tolibchon-dustov-shuru-shud">http://notorture.tj/news/murofiai-sudi-vobasta-ba-margi-tolibchon-dustov-shuru-shud</a>
20.	An unfinished case or when the police, the prosecutor and the court merge	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/parvandai-n-okomil-yo-vakte-milisa-prokuror-va-sud-muttakhid-meshavand">http://notorture.tj/analytics/parvandai-n-okomil-yo-vakte-milisa-prokuror-va-sud-muttakhid-meshavand</a>
21.	As a result of torture, Hushbaht became a "salafi"	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/hushbaht-takhti-ozoru-shikancha-ichboran-salafi-shud">http://notorture.tj/analytics/hushbaht-takhti-ozoru-shikancha-ichboran-salafi-shud</a>
22.	Kulyab: Complaint by a woman whose brother was tortured and charged with a crime.	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/kulob-shikoyati-zane-ki-barodarashro-shikancha-karda-gunokhi-nokardaro-ba-u-bor-kardand">http://notorture.tj/analytics/kulob-shikoyati-zane-ki-barodarashro-shikancha-karda-gunokhi-nokardaro-ba-u-bor-kardand</a>
23.	April: new cases and complaints of torture	<a href="http://notorture.tj/press/aprel-kaziyakhoi-nav-va-shikoyat-az-shikancha">http://notorture.tj/press/aprel-kaziyakhoi-nav-va-shikoyat-az-shikancha</a>
24.	Relatives of one prisoner claim that he was beaten up	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/nazdikoni-yak-zindoni-iddao-dorand-ki-u-latukub-shudaast">http://notorture.tj/analytics/nazdikoni-yak-zindoni-iddao-dorand-ki-u-latukub-shudaast</a>
25.	Temurmaliq: Complaints from two women about the torture of their loved ones.	<a href="http://notorture.tj/analytics/temurmaliq-shikoyati-du-zan-az-shikancha-shudani-nazdikonashon">http://notorture.tj/analytics/temurmaliq-shikoyati-du-zan-az-shikancha-shudani-nazdikonashon</a>

### Press-reviews:

- 1) More attention to the torture cases and encouragement of lawyers, 05.01.2018

<http://notorture.tj/press/tavachchukhi-beshtar-ba-shikancha-va-kadrtonii-advokatkho>

- 2) January-February: recognition of torture, 05.03.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/yanvar-fevral-etirofi-mavchudiyati-shikancha>
- 3) Media Review for January-February 2018: Coalition Annual Report and New Investigation of the Ismonboy Boboyev Case, 13.03.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/press/obzor-smi-za-yanvar-fevral-2018-godovoy-otchet-koalicii-i-novoe-rassledovanie-dela-ismonboya>
- 4) The soldier's mother cries together with the lawyers. ..., 10.04.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/modari-sarboz-kham-megiryad-khomii-khukuk-kham>
- 5) April: new cases and complaints of torture, 11.05.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/aprel-kaziyakhoi-nav-va-shikoyat-az-shikancha>
- 6) May: Concerns Over the beatings of Soldiers, 11.06.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/may-nigaroni-az-kholatkhoi-latukubi-sarbozon>
- 7) Media review for March-April 2018: possible torture in Sino-2 OMVD and raid on epileptic, 24.05.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/press/obzor-smi-za-mart-aprel-2018-goda-vozmozhnye-pytki-v-omvd-sino-2-i-oblava-na-epileptika>
- 8) The Minister's statement: Let the crime remain unsolved, but do not use torture!, 10.07.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/takidi-vazir-chinoyat-nokushoda-monad-kham-shikancha-nakuned>
- 9) Prosecutor's General confession: There are many complaints of torture., 10.08.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/etirofi-prokuraturai-general-shikoyat-az-shikancha-ziyod-ast>
- 10) Summarizing activities related to the prevention of torture, 10.09.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/tj/press/natichagiri-az-faoliyatkhoi-vobasta-ba-peshgirii-shikancha>
- 11) July-August 2018 media review: reopening screening 11 times and interrogation in nude video, 11.09.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/press/obzor-smi-za-iyul-avgust-2018-vozobnovlenie-proverki-11-raz-i-dopros-v-obnazhennom-video>

#### **Press-releases:**

1. In Sogd, ex-officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State National Security Committee were convicted of torture, 06 July 2018.  
<http://notorturetj.org/news/v-sogde-eks-sotrudniki-mvd-i-gknb-osuzhdeny-za-primeneniie-pytok>
2. Lawyers in Khatlon region trained on the techniques of providing protection to torture victims, 17.07.2018.

- <http://notorturetj.org/news/advokaty-hatlonskoy-oblasti-obuchilis-tehnikam-zashchity-zhertv-pytok>
3. The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Tajikistan for the fourth time will investigate the criminal case on the death of a resident of Vahdat, 24.07.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/news/genprokuratura-rt-v-chetverty-raz-nachnet-rassledovanie-ugolovnogo-dela-po-faktu-smerti>
  4. Training on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol for monitoring medical facilities, 26.07.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/news/trening-po-podgotovke-specialistov-o-standartah-stambulskogo-protokola-dlya-vypolneniya>
  5. Final training on strategies and techniques for the protection of victims of torture was held in Sughd, 03.08.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/news/v-sogde-sostoyalsya-zavershayushchiy-trening-po-strategiyam-i-tehnikam-zashchity-zhertv-pytok>
  6. ANONS! To the attention of mass media and other interested parties, 23.08.2018  
<http://notorturetj.org/news/anons-vnimaniyu-smi-i-drugih-zainteresovannyh-lic>
  7. A series of information sessions was held in Tajikistan, 03.09.2018.  
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#### **Infographics/Multimedia/Interviews:**

- 1) Tajikistan: the State fights against torture<sup>18</sup>
- 2) Can torture or ill-treatment of detainees be eliminated??<sup>19</sup>
- 3) What is a preliminary investigation?<sup>20</sup>
- 4) What's an investigation?<sup>21</sup>
- 5) “How much is the life of victims of torture and ill-treatment worth in Tajikistan? ” (Rus)<sup>22</sup>
- 6) “How much is the life of victims of torture and ill-treatment worth in Tajikistan? ” (Taj)<sup>23</sup>
- 7) Amicus Curiae (Taj), 29.09.2018<sup>24</sup>, Amicus Curiae (Rus)<sup>25</sup>
- 8) “Torture happens! No to Torture!” (multimedia) (Taj)<sup>26</sup>
- 9) “Torture happens! No to Torture!” (multimedia)<sup>27</sup>
- 10) Tajikistan: the State fights against torture <sup>28</sup>

### Rubric “Opinion”

1. Saimumin Kabirov: An innocent man goes to jail under torture, while the criminal roams free.<sup>29</sup>
2. Gulnora Aminova: No one wants to listen to the victims of torture - neither during the investigation nor in court. <sup>30</sup>
3. Gulchehra Rakhmonova: All the kids are here. <sup>31</sup>
4. Таҳмина Дҷураева: «Все посещения закрытых учреждений проводятся без уведомления»<sup>32</sup> (Таҳмина Ҷураева: Ҳамаи боздидҳо аз муассисаҳои пушида бе огоҳсоии пешакӣ сурат мегиранд, 10.10.2018 <http://notorturetj.org/tj/dialog/takhmina-churaeva-khamai-bozdidkho-az-muassisakhoi-pushida-be-ogokhsozii-peshaki-surat>)
5. Shoira Davlatova: “The constant exchange of information allows us to respond immediately to torture allegations”<sup>33</sup> (1. Шоира Давлатова: Гуруҳи расонаӣ фарогири иттилооти марбут ба шиканча аст 09.10.2018 <http://notorturetj.org/tj/dialog/shoira-davlatova-gurukhi-rationai-farogiri-ittilooti-marbut-ba-shikancha-ast>)

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<sup>21</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/news/cto-takoe-dosledstvennaya-proverka-infografika>

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<sup>23</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/tj/news/khayoti-kurbonyoni-shikancha-va-munosibati-berakhmona-dar-tochikiston-chand-pul-meistad>

<sup>24</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/tj/news/amicus-curiae-infografika>

<sup>25</sup> <http://notorturetj.org/news/amicus-curiae-infografika>

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