

(Translated from Russian)

Information on E. Urlaeva and M. Eshonkulova

In the course of an investigation that has been carried out, it has been established that on 6 October 2016 a signal was sent to the police control room at the Buka District Department of Internal Affairs (ROVD) in Tashkent Province, stating that unknown persons had been noted in the district carrying unidentified electronic equipment and large bags and behaving in a suspicious manner. Under those circumstances, a detachment of ROVD officers was dispatched to the location, and they invited the unknown persons to come to the premises of the Department of Internal Affairs to provide clarification and establish their identities and the purpose of their visit.

During discussion the identities of these citizens were established — Elena Mikhajlovna Urlaeva and [REDACTED], who were resident in Tashkent and presented themselves as journalists.

In view of the fact that under article 3 of the Protection of the Profession of Journalist Act, a journalist is a person who is employed by the mass media of the Republic of Uzbekistan or a foreign State or who works on a contractual basis and is engaged in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on a defined topic, the law enforcement officers made a lawful demand that they present documents attesting to the legality of their journalistic activity.

However, E. Urlaeva and [REDACTED] were unable to present the relevant documents confirming their journalistic activity.

Following discussion with E. Urlaeva and [REDACTED] and clarification of the legislation governing the procedure of journalistic activity, the above-mentioned persons left the premises of the Department of Internal Affairs.

During the investigation, it has also been established that the facts adduced in the statement concerning the use of physical force by law enforcement officers and the complaints of seizure of personal effects could not be confirmed.

With regard to the occurrence on 6 October 2016, neither E. Urlaeva nor [REDACTED] has thus far applied to the relevant bodies concerning unlawful actions by law enforcement officers, whereas there is a statement by E. Urlaeva concerning the fact of her arrest by officers of the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs in Bukhara Province.

Concerning the arrest of E. Urlaeva and M. Eshonkulova on 10 October 2016, the following has been established.

On 10 October 2016, an application was received at the Mirzo Ulugbek District Directorate of Internal Affairs in Tashkent City from Ms. E.M. Urlaeva concerning unlawful actions by officials of the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs in the form of illegal arrest, seizure of video equipment, destruction of notes and breakage of a camera. The application was duly registered according to the legal procedure laid down.

In accordance with the principle of considering applications at the appropriate location (territoriality), this application was forwarded to the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs in Bukhara Province on 13 October 2016. Concerning the officials of the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs, an internal investigation is currently under way.



It has been established that on 9 October 2016 in Olot District, outside the "Bogishamol" catering complex in the vicinity of the cotton field, [REDACTED] prevention inspectors from the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs, in the course of preventive work with the population on the cotton harvest, observed two suspicious women who did not live in the locality.

In order to establish their identities, the prevention inspectors made themselves known, invited the women to go to the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs and accompanied them there.

During the preventive work the identities of E. Urlaeva and M. Eshonkulova had been established.

On arrival at the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs, E. Urlaeva and M. Eshonkulova refused to give explanations and complained of feeling unwell, in connection with which a request for first aid was made; when it was provided, they were found not to need medical care.

E. Urlaeva and M. Eshonkulova spent approximately three hours in the Olot District Department of Internal Affairs and left the Department once their identities had been established. Equipment was returned to its owners undamaged.

The documents compiled on 2 November 2016 have reached the Office of the Procurator of Olot District in Bukhara Province and a pre-investigation check is currently under way, in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

[REDACTED]