



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UN OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA**

Ref.: No C-34/25 - 411

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the letter of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Ref.: AL TJK 1/2025 dated 23 April 2025), has the honour to kindly convey further information regarding the case of Ms. Rukhshona Khakimova.

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 9 June 2025

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva



Translated from Russian

Information regarding the relevant individual case

Ref.: AL TJK 1/2025

The Office of the Procurator General of Tajikistan has considered the joint letter of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan, regarding the request for information on the criminal case against Rukhshona Zokirovna Khakimova, together with the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Committee for National Security and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Supreme Court on the issue raised noted that Ms. Khakimova was convicted by the criminal division of the Supreme Court on 5 February 2025 under articles 36 (1) and 305 (2) (c) (Treason with the use of official position) of the Criminal Code and was sentenced to 8 years' deprivation of liberty to be served in a ordinary regime correctional colony in accordance with article 63 of the Criminal Code. Ms. Khakimova filed a cassation appeal against the judgment of the Court, which was upheld by the criminal division of the Supreme Court on 2 April 2025, and the judgment remained unchanged.

Regarding the Special Rapporteurs' argument that a copy of the court's judgment was not provided to Ms. Karimova's defence counsel, it was noted that, in accordance with article 350 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a copy of the court's judgement must be provided to the convicted person, the public prosecutor and, except in cases heard in closed court, the defence counsel within 24 hours of its delivery.

Given that the criminal case was heard in a closed court session, a copy of the court's judgment was not provided to the defence counsel, and it was handed to Ms. Khakimova herself on 12 February 2025.

The Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice regarding this issue noted that Ms. Khakimova was transferred to correctional colony No. 3/8 of the Central Internal Affairs Department on 22 April 2025, after the court's judgment came into legal force, to continue serving her sentence.

Ms. Khakimova received two visits while serving her sentence. Furthermore, on 8 May 2025, she was granted extended visits with close relatives (parents, husband, children) for three days and, on 16 May 2025, she was granted short visits with her husband.

The Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the necessary conditions had been set in place for ensuring genuine freedom of speech and the plurality of opinions. The law prohibits the censorship or persecution of critics and provides for liability in the event of violations of freedom of the press and other media. To ensure freedom of speech, articles in the Criminal Code that provided for liability and punishment for libel and insult have been removed.

The monopolization of the press and other media is prohibited, and the lawful activities of journalists are protected by law.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Committee on National Security stated that the Ministry and the Committee had not initiated any investigative actions or criminal proceedings against Ms. Khakimova for the purpose of conducting an initial inquiry and pretrial investigation.

In response to information provided by the competent authorities of Tajikistan regarding the questions raised by the Special Rapporteurs concerning the criminal case against Ms. Khakimova, the Office of the Procurator General wishes to report the following.

On 12 June 2024, criminal case No. 23338 was initiated and, on 21 June 2024, in accordance with article 18 of Act No. 1095 of 26 July 2024, the State Secrets Act, this criminal case was classified as "secret".

On 2 July 2024, as part of the investigation into this criminal case, Ms. Khakimova was summoned and examined as a witness in accordance with the article 198 (Procedure for summoning and examining witnesses) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On the same day, by decision of the members of the investigative team, Ms. Khakimova's residence, located at [REDACTED] Dushanbe, was searched in accordance with the article 192 (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and a procedural document (a search report) was drawn up. A laptop containing information relevant to the criminal case was found and seized as physical evidence.

At the same time, in accordance with article 192 of the Criminal Code, the Sino District Court in Dushanbe was notified of the results of the search of the home by letter No. 9/195 sod-24 dated 2 July 2024.

On 28 August 2024, a criminal case was initiated against Ms. Khakimova under articles 36 (1) and 305 (2) (c) of the Criminal Code. She was informed of the decision to prosecute on the same day, and her signature was obtained.

On 28 August 2024, Ms. Khakimova was questioned as a suspect in the presence of her own lawyer, [REDACTED] (licenced attorney, certificate [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]) and travel restraints were imposed on her as a preventive measure.

From July 2024 until the time a judgment was pronounced with respect to Ms. Khakimova, she was at large and had not been detained or remanded in custody.

On 14 October 2024, Ms. Khakimova was charged under article 36 (1) and 305 (2) of the Criminal Code. Her lawyer, [REDACTED], was present and familiarized with the decision.

On 21 October 2024, Ms. Khakimova and her lawyer, [REDACTED], fully familiarized themselves with the criminal case file and signed a document attesting to the fact that they had done so. No applications were filed by them. Given that the criminal case against Ms. Khakimova was classified under the State Secrets Act of 26 July 2024, the case was tried in a closed court session.

After the court's judgment entered into legal force on 12 April 2025, Ms. Khakimova was held in the correctional facility from April to May 2025, received two visits and was also granted two extended and short visits to meet and communicate with close relatives (parents, husband, children).

It should be noted that the criminal prosecution of Ms. Khakimova is not related to the performance of her professional journalistic duties. It was initiated for criminal acts committed outside the scope of her professional activities and is the subject of a preliminary investigation.
