



EUROPEAN UNION



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PRI IN CENTRAL ASIA

## POST-RELEASE

### EXPERTS DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF DEATH PENALTY AND LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

On 21 June 2013 working group meeting on theme “Death penalty and life imprisonment as types of punishment” was held in Dushanbe.

Organizers of the event were the Committee of legislation and human rights of Parliament of Tajikistan and Penal Reform International office in Central Asia, within the framework of the project funded by European Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

MPs of Republic of Tajikistan, workers of Presidential Administration of Republic of Tajikistan, Constitutional Court, General Prosecutor and other state authorities, representatives of non-governmental and international organizations, independent experts took part in discussion.

After discussion of possible perspectives of development of this issue, both representatives of state authorities and civil society came to an agreement about refusal of considering referendum about abolition of death penalty. Participants agreed to necessity of wide informational campaign to explain importance of abolition of death penalty instead of referendum. According to experts, referendum in this issue unrepresentative and unused in other countries. Besides that analyses of criminological situation after ten-year moratorium on death penalty confirm necessity of abolition of death penalty, as moratorium didn't provoke the increase of criminal neither on initial nor following stages.

Second serious issue of the discussion was the alternative measures for death penalty. Human rights defenders reminded, that international standard, also prison investigation of this issue doesn't support imprisonment without possibility of release.

In 2004 Tajikistan declared a moratorium on setting and application of death sentence. In 2010 Commissioner for human rights in Republic of Tajikistan intended for complete abolition of death penalty. At the same year by President Decree was created the working group for researching of social and legal aspect of possibility of abolition of death penalty. The President in the annual appeal in 2013 determined the importance of attitude to death penalty as the issue, requiring definitive decision.

For today according to PRI's data, number of prison population of Tajikistan is almost 9000 person, or 130 person per100.000 citizen of civil population. More than 50 people serve life imprisonment. For period from 2001 till 2003 133 death sentences was executed (2001- 68 death sentences, 2002 – 31 sentences, 2003- 34 sentences). Burial ground of people sentenced for death penalty restricted and relatives are not informed on this.

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