

An appeal to the people of the world regarding the atrocities against Muslims in Russia

The Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a political party, whose ideology is Islam. This party works in Russia. It calls to Islam, propagating the Islamic thoughts by means of discussions in society, by peaceful means exclusively, which is demanded by Islam. Allah ta'aala says in Qur'an,

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

"There is no compulsion in religion" [Surah al-Baqarah 2:256]

However, unprecedented cruelty has been and is being perpetrated against the peaceful callers to Islam. Without doubt, Bashkortostan, a republic of Russia, has taken the lead in these oppressions. In the last decade, local authorities organized a mass campaign of persecution against Muslims. Their operations began in 2004, after an official banning of the Hizb and were characterized by particular cruelty and lawlessness by the security agencies.

We, the shabab of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, wish to draw the world's attention to crimes against people who try to live according to their religion, who only say: "My Lord is Allah and my deen is Islam".

For seven years so far, the Russian authorities in Moscow turn a blind eye to the actions of security officials in Bashkortostan. They are not concerned in the least when people are tortured and killed for their outlook on life. The Kremlin wishes to implant fear into any ideological opposition to it in the country. But its efforts will be in vain, because we call to Islam voluntarily and realize what may happen to us in this way.

No reason is given for this oppression. Officially there was no trial, but these Muslims are maligned in the mass media.

Muslims are simply hated, openly and without restraint.

The facts of this oppression are described below. We refer to only one republic of the Russian Federation in this material, Bashkortostan. However consider that this situation is similar throughout the country, both in relation to Muslims generally and to members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir in particular.

Firstly, we relate the most recent crime against six Muslims, arrested on October 21, 2011 in Sibaj. Six houses were searched, perpetrating many violations. These men were cruelly tortured over twelve hours. They were punched and kicked, they were blindfolded and the officers placed bags over their heads. They were beaten with a polypropylene pipe. They were suffocated in gas masks. The officers took their trousers off and beat their buttocks, threatening to rape them. They were beaten with metal crowbars which were forced into their mouths. They were forced to wear tight handcuffs for eight hours. The officers pulled out hairs from their beards and burnt them and performed other similar brutalities. The officers broke four ribs of one of the Muslims. Criminal proceedings have been filed under Article 282, Clauses 1 and 2, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. This crime is the peak of a relentless struggle against Islam over seven years.

After a baseless verdict by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 14 February

2003, in which Hizb-ut-Tahrir, an Islamic political party, was declared terrorist, the security agencies initiated inhuman repression against the Muslims of the country. The Federal Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Bashkortostan permitted themselves flagrant violations of human rights and all standards of international law. The investigation agencies and the judges who willingly gave guilty verdicts, in spite of all facts exposing the trumped-up charges, are both partners in this lawlessness.

A special-forces raid, unprecedented in its cruelty, was launched in December 2004 by the Federal Security Service in towns of Bashkortostan. The Federal Security Service organized it particularly to highlight that the Supreme Court declared legally that Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a terrorist organization. Mass searches took place where weapon and ammunition were planted in the homes of Muslims. Arrested persons were tortured for the purpose of extracting forced confessions of participation in terrorist activity. Security agencies' officers then came to prisons and beat them nearly to death. A Supreme Court sentenced nine persons on August 4, 2005,

1. Alibayev Marsel Uralovitch, born in 1974, sentenced to eight years of high security imprisonment.
2. Ahmetsafin Musa Sharifovich, born in 1977, sentenced to seven years and six months of high security imprisonment.
3. Gabdrahmanov Rinat Rifovich, born in 1968, sentenced to eight years and six months of high security imprisonment.
4. Gayanov Bulat Marsovich, born in 1972, sentenced to seven years and six months, high security imprisonment.
5. Gayanov Salavat Marsovich, born in 1976, sentenced to five years, high security imprisonment.
6. Gayanov Mars Gabdullovich, born in 1951, sentenced to four years and six months, conditional sentence
7. Gumerov Ilgiz Railjevich, born in 1978, sentenced to three years and six months of general imprisonment.
8. Ryadinskiy Vitaliy Nikolaevich, born in 1976, sentenced to eight years of high security imprisonment.
9. Saveljev Evgeniy Anatoljevich, born in 1984, sentenced to four years and six months of general imprisonment.

A representative of the committee of "Civil Assistance" and a human rights organization, "Memorial," stated that, *"Criminal prosecution in connection with affiliation to Hizb-ut-Tahrir, including the nine persons who were sentenced yesterday, is persecution based on ideological motives. The declaration by Kasjyanov A.A, a chief of the department of public prosecution in the Republic of Bashkortostan, is confirmation of this. He mentioned in conversation with the wife of one of the prisoners, "Nobody says that they are terrorists, but we have a judgment of the Supreme Court ... "*

As for the charges of possession of weapons and explosives, we have information that they were planted on Alibaev and Gabdrahmanov. Weapons were also planted during searches in Ryadinskiy and the brothers Gayanov's houses, but the men were not charged under Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Russia Federation. This indirectly confirms the defense plea of case fabrication, under this article, in relation to Alibayev and Gabdrahmanov. The circumstances of the appearance of ammunition in Gumerov's house allow us to presume of

provocative elements.”

These human rights organizations also have information that law enforcement officers committed many violations of law, from the time of detention and during the entire preliminary investigation. A body of evidence, for charges under articles about affiliation with a banned organization and organizing a crime ring, was being extracted under torture and psychological intimidation, including insults against the accused' religious sentiments.

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation ruling of 14 February 2003, regarding the declaration of fifteen Muslim organizations as terrorist and their banning, took place in closed court, in the absence of any representatives from these organizations. The decision of the court was not even published. The imams of mosques were not made acquainted with the text of the judgment, so they were not able to explain it to their congregation i.e. to the very people whose interests that decision directly affects.

Memorial, the human rights organization, itself has only received the official text of the decision in July, 2005, full two years after the ruling came into effect. Memorial received it only after a second request directed by Gannushkina SA, a member of Council under Russia's President on Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights, to Lebedev V.M, the President of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The first requested was directed by Gannushkina S.A. to Lebedev V.M. in July, 2004 but was ignored.

Thus, the document, limiting the rights and freedom of a citizen, appeared classified, which is forbidden by Russian Federation legislation.

Even after sentencing, Muslims are not left alone and they continue to be oppressed by the prison administration.

The security agencies did not dare to undertake new repression in relation to Muslims for a long time after such a resounding verdict. However since April, 2008, they renewed persecution of Muslims in Bashkortostan with full force, tortures and judicial trial as mere formality. So, since April, 2008 there has been a new wave of repression in the towns of Bashkortostan.

More than thirty Muslims were arrested on 4 April, 2008, twenty-two houses of believers were searched by security agencies. In 2004, they planted weapons to imprison Muslims, but now it is enough to find Islamic literature. The result is that six citizens from Ufa were accused of affiliation with Hizb-ut-Tahrir. They were sentenced to effective detention. The prisoners are:

1. Shakirov Albert Zakievich, born in 1966
2. Lukmanov Azat Razifovich, born in 1975
3. Minnibaev Tagir Fanisovich, born in 1981
4. Shamil Sharipov, born in 1977
5. Rustam Latypov, born in 1976
6. Ajrat Ahmetshin, born in 1977

Then citizens from Bajmak and Sibaj were also arrested and imprisoned:

1. Ajnur Sagadeev, born 1982
2. Ajnur Bajsuakov, born in 1979
3. Alexey Putintsev, born in 1976

Muslims from Meleuz region were also arrested:

1. Rustam Rahmatullin, born in 1984

2. Marat Ismagilov, born in 1982

Citizens from Davlekanovo were also imprisoned.

All these arrests were accompanied by beating the accused in order to extract the "necessary" testimonies for investigation.

The arrests continued in 2009 in Djurtjuli and in Ufa and there were about twenty detentions with glaring violations of human rights. Six shabab were sentenced on 22 September:

1. Rustam Latypov, born in 1976

2. Shakirov Albert Zakievich, born in 1966

3. Lukmanov Azat Razifovich, born in 1975

4. Ildar Muhametdinov, born in 1975

5. Shamil Husnijarov, born in 1982

6. Ilgiz Salahov, born in 1975

In 2010, there were similar troubles for Muslims in Tuimazy, Meleuz and Mrakovo where criminal cases and sentences imprisonment took place.

2011 has become the peak of the lawlessness of the security agencies in Bashkortostan. On 17 March, armed people in body armor burst into a flat where Muslims gathered together to drink tea. All the men were taken away to a local police precinct. The lawlessness of security agencies became intolerable and on 25 March, 2011, Muslims organized a peaceful approved protest in order to demand their rights. But the Republic authorities set security agencies upon the Muslims instead of trying to even understand the reason for such protest. On 6 April, dozens of participants of the protest were arrested and tortured by officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and FSC. Criminal proceedings under Article 282, Clause 2, were instituted against eight persons:

1. Shamil Galimov, born in 1980

2. Rustem Galljamov, born in 1984

3. Michae IToptygin, born in 1983

4. Ildar Ibragimov, born in 1975

5. Ruslan Zajnullin, born in 1991

6. Ajrat Ahmetshin, born in 1977

7. Mansur Sharipov, born in 1988

8. Alexey Hamadeev, born in 1981

As for all of the Muslims' complaints filed about torture and ridicule, the security agencies pretended to send them to higher authorities, though in reality they remained in their drawers! Muslims of Bashkortostan are defenseless against the lawlessness of the security agencies to this day. The officers are like predator incited by the blood of their prey into a feeding frenzy, with unrelenting cruelty. They continue to oppress and fabricate criminal cases in relation to the Muslims. Moreover in their hatred of Muslims, they began to persecute their wives who have infants. These women were also charged by officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Bashkortostan:

1. Shakirova Lilija Ramilevna, born in 1982, mother of four children

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2. Mannapova Julia Kazihanovna, born in 1984, mother of two small children,

3. Minibaeva Elmira Junirovna, born in 1985, mother of two children

They are also accused of extremism.

The actions of the officers of security forces in Bashkortostan are like the actions of a vicious animal, because their cruelty and brutality can not be explained. Sharipov Mansur Maratovich was dreadfully beaten in pre-trial prison №1 on September 2011 in Ufa. Nobody was punished, although the beating fact has been confirmed by the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights.

The scope of arrests extends every day. There is no city where Muslims are protected by the law. Trial proceedings are underway in Birsik, Salavat and Ufa. Sentences are passed with gross violations of the legislation of the Russian Federation and of the norms of international law. Three Muslims' houses were searched in mid-September in Sterlitamak where books of Hizb-ut-Tahrir were found out. A criminal case was filed.

On 8 October 8, 2011 Ufa, the armed FSC officers burst into the flat where four Muslims lived and did a search. Arrested persons were taken away to "torture cells" located on 19 Krupskaya Street, a building of FSC administration. In Bashkortostan, dozens of Hizb-ut-Tahrir members were processed through similar "rooms" during the years of the banning of Hizb-ut-Tahrir activity.

O people! You possess minds and thus are capable of distinguishing good from evil! You have to ask Russia and its authorities about such treatments to its people. Who gave Russia the right to abduct, arrest and torture people only because they possess and stand by their own views?!

Allah ta'ala says in the Qur'an,

(مِنْ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَنْتَظِرُ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا)

"Among the Believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: of them some have completed their vow (to the extreme), and some (still) wait: but they have never changed (their determination) in the least". **[Surah al-Ahzab 33:23]**

The spokesman of media office

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