



## COI QUERY

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>TAJKISTAN</b>
<b>Main subject</b>	<u><a href="#">The Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) and treatment of relatives of Muhiddin Kabiri</a></u>
<b>Question(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <u><a href="#">Overview of the IRPT</a></u></li><li>2. <u><a href="#">Treatment by authorities of relatives of Muhiddin Kabiri, the leader of the IRPT (2019-2021)</a></u></li></ol>
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# COI QUERY RESPONSE - TAJIKISTAN

## The Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) and treatment of relatives of Muhiddin Kabiri

### 1. Overview of the IRPT

In June 1990, the Congress of Muslims in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) met in Astrakhan, Russia, and founded the pan-Soviet Islamic Renaissance Party (IRP).<sup>1</sup> The party's ideology was described as 'very close to mainstream Sunni Islamist movements like the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and the Pakistani Jama'at-i Islami', aiming to unify Muslims in the Soviet territory. It claimed to oppose 'ethnic conflict and nationalism', while rejecting terrorism in its official program of 1990.<sup>2</sup>

Although the party was initially banned in Central Asian countries, the Tajik branch of the IRP was founded on 6 October 1990, and 'became officially recognized in November 1991'.<sup>3</sup> The founder and first leader of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) was Said Abdulloh Nuri.<sup>4</sup>

In 1992, the IRPT joined the Government of National Reconciliation (GNR), a coalition 'formed with eight representatives from opposition groups'.<sup>5</sup> In the spring of 1992, the IRPT and other opposition, pro-democracy groups, started anti-government demonstrations in Dushanbe, and in May 1992 the opposition briefly seized power. As the violence escalated, the country found itself in civil war. In September 1992, President Rahmon Nabyev resigned, and was replaced by Emomali Rahmonov.<sup>6</sup> Opposition parties were 'banned by the Rakhmonov government in late 1992'<sup>7</sup> and similarly, in 1993, the Supreme Court also banned 'all opposition parties, leaving the Communist Party of Tajikistan as the only legal party'.<sup>8</sup> Members of the IRPT and other Islamist activists left the country in exile, and formed 'a united front, the Movement for Islamic Revival in Tajikistan [...] in Taloqan, Afghanistan, in 1993, with the IRPT at its core. In 1994 it became the dominant group in the United Tajik Opposition (UTO).'<sup>9</sup>

In 1996, a UN-sponsored cease-fire came into effect, and negotiations began between President Rakhmonov and Said Nuri, who led the UTO during the war. In June 1997, a power-sharing peace agreement was signed.<sup>10</sup> Opposition groups were allowed 'to be registered and integrate into

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<sup>1</sup> Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#); CFR, The Foreign Policy of the Central Asian Islamic Renaissance Party, 15 February 2000, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>2</sup> CFR, The Foreign Policy of the Central Asian Islamic Renaissance Party, 15 February 2000, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>3</sup> CFR, The Foreign Policy of the Central Asian Islamic Renaissance Party, 15 February 2000, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>4</sup> OCCRP, The Death of Tajikistan's Islamic Renaissance, 5 June 2018, [url](#); RFE/RL, Tajik Opposition Leader Said Abdullo Nuri Dies, 9 August 2006, [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#)

<sup>6</sup> BBC, Tajikistan profile – Timeline, 31 July 2018, [url](#); UNMOT, Tajikistan Background, 2000, [url](#); Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#)

<sup>7</sup> Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#)

<sup>8</sup> BBC, Tajikistan profile – Timeline, 31 July 2018, [url](#);

<sup>9</sup> Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> BBC, Tajikistan profile – Timeline, 31 July 2018, [url](#); Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#); Conciliation Resources, Tajikistan, 2001, [url](#)

Tajikistan's political arena' and were guaranteed 30 % 'of government posts at all levels'.<sup>11</sup> According to non-governmental organisation Conciliation Resources, by the year 2000, the IRPT 'had become one of the most powerful political parties in Tajikistan', even though it did not 'overcome the problem of regionalism and this has limited its influence'.<sup>12</sup>

### Events during the leadership of Muhiddin Kabiri

In August 2006, Muhiddin Kabiri became the new party leader, following the death of Said Abdulloh Nuri.<sup>13</sup> Although the IRPT was, at that point, 'the second-largest political party in Tajikistan', it began to steadily lose support.<sup>14</sup> In the March 2015 elections, the IRPT lost its only two seats in Parliament and all government posts.<sup>15</sup> The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE/ODIHR) stated that the elections had taken place 'in a restricted political space and failed to provide a level playing field for candidates', and 'were not administered in an impartial manner'.<sup>16</sup> In addition, Freedom House reported that, before the March 2015 elections, '[m]any IRPT members and their relatives were beaten, harassed, and imprisoned [...], with some reportedly tortured in custody or killed in prison'.<sup>17</sup>

Also in March 2015, after the elections, IRPT leader Muhiddin Kabiri left Tajikistan in a self-imposed exile, fearing being targeted by the regime.<sup>18</sup> On 16 June 2015, 'the state-controlled newspaper Jumhoriyat accused Kabiri of illegally buying property in 1999'.<sup>19</sup>

On 28 August 2015, the Tajik Ministry of Justice decided that IRPT should be dissolved,<sup>20</sup> due to its now limited geographical reach, alleging a violation of 'Article 3 of the "Law on Political Parties," which states that parties need to have operations in "most regions, cities and districts" of the country'.<sup>21</sup> The Ministry gave the IRPT ten days to shut down its activities.<sup>22</sup>

On 4 September 2015, an armed group attacked several government targets in Vahdat and in Dushanbe, killing at least nine police officers. On 8 September 2015, the Tajik government blamed the attacks on the deputy defense minister Abdulkhalim Nazarzoda, and claimed that Nazarzod was a member of the IRPT; however, the IRPT denied that Nazarzoda was a party member.<sup>23</sup> Nazarzoda was killed on 16 September 2015 'in a security operation'.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> RFE/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#)

<sup>12</sup> Conciliation Resources, The Islamic Renaissance Party, 2001, [url](#)

<sup>13</sup> RFL/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#); Jamestown Foundation, Tajikistan Bans Leading Opposition Party, 11 September 2015, [url](#)

<sup>14</sup> RFL/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#);

<sup>15</sup> RFL/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#); Global Freedom of Expression, The Case of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, 2015, [url](#); OSCE, Republic of Tajikistan Parliamentary Elections 1 March 2015 OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report, 15 May 2015, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>16</sup> OSCE, Republic of Tajikistan Parliamentary Elections 1 March 2015 OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report, 15 May 2015, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>17</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021, 3 March 2021, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> Central Asia Program, Interview with Muhiddin Kabiri, leader of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan in-exile, January 2016, [url](#), p. 1; Jamestown Foundation, Tajikistan Bans Leading Opposition Party, 11 September 2015, [url](#)

<sup>19</sup> Jamestown Foundation, Tajikistan Bans Leading Opposition Party, 11 September 2015, [url](#)

<sup>20</sup> Global Freedom of Expression, The Case of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, 2015, [url](#)

<sup>21</sup> Jamestown Foundation, Tajikistan Bans Leading Opposition Party, 11 September 2015, [url](#)

<sup>22</sup> Jamestown Foundation, Tajikistan Bans Leading Opposition Party, 11 September 2015, [url](#)

UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#)

<sup>23</sup> DW, Tajikistan launches crackdown after police attacks, 6 September 2015, [url](#); DW, Deadly attacks on Tajik ministries, US embassy shuts, 4 September 2015, [url](#); AJ, Tajikistan clashes leave 17 dead, 4 September 2015, [url](#); UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#)

<sup>24</sup> RFE/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#)

Also on 16 September 2015, the Tajik police arrested up to 50 IRPT members<sup>25</sup>, ‘including the party’s entire senior leadership’,<sup>26</sup> charging them with various ‘offenses such as participation in a criminal group, incitement of national, racial or religious hatred, murder, terrorism, appeals to violent change of the constitutional order, illegal possession or transfer of weapons, and armed rebellion’.<sup>27</sup> On 17 September 2015, the Prosecutor General accused Muhiddin Kabiri of ‘direct involvement’ in the 4 September attacks, claiming that Nazarzoda had acted on Kabiri’s orders.<sup>28</sup> On 28 September 2015, the lawyer of the detained IRPT members, Buzurgmekhr Yorov, was arrested and investigated on extremism-related charges and was given a 28 years jail term.<sup>29</sup> Amnesty International (AI) reported that Yorov was ‘allegedly being subjected to regular beatings – accompanied by threats, insults and harassment – by officials at the detention centre’.<sup>30</sup> Yorov’s lawyer, Nuriddin Mahkamov, was himself arrested and received 21 years in prison for on charges such as calling for the overthrow of the government and incitement of social unrest.<sup>31</sup>

On 29 September 2015, following the Prosecutor General’s request, the Tajik Supreme Court declared IRPT a terrorist organisation, banning all its future activities and any distribution of material related to the party.<sup>32</sup> On 8 October 2015, the US Embassy in Tajikistan released a statement highlighting the fact that, at that time, there was ‘no credible evidence that the IRPT as an organization was involved’ in the 4 September attacks.<sup>33</sup>

On 15 December 2015, the ‘government of Tajikistan detained 10 members of Muhiddin Kabiri’s family’. The family members were released soon after.<sup>34</sup>

In 2016, voters in Tajikistan approved in a referendum the ban on the formation of religious political parties<sup>35</sup>, ‘effectively preventing the IRPT from reforming’.<sup>36</sup>

On 2 June 2016 the two deputy party leaders of the IRPT, Saidumar Husaini and Muhammad Hayit, were sentenced to life in prison, while eleven other IRPT officials received to jail terms ranging from 2 to 28 years.<sup>37</sup> In December 2016, it was reported that Rahmatulloi Rajab, a senior IRPT leader who had received a 28 years jail term in the June trials, was put in solitary confinement and badly

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<sup>25</sup> UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#) Global Freedom of Expression, The Case of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, 2015, [url](#)

<sup>26</sup> HRW, Tajikistan: Opposition Activists Detained, 18 September 2015, [url](#)

<sup>27</sup> UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#)

<sup>28</sup> HRW, Tajikistan: Opposition Activists Detained, 18 September 2015, [url](#)

<sup>29</sup> UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#)

<sup>30</sup> AI, Tajikistan: Torture fears for detained human rights lawyer: Buzurgmekhr Yorov, 4 October 2017, [url](#)

<sup>31</sup> UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#); RFE/RL, Court In Tajikistan Convicts, Sentences Two Human Rights Lawyers, 6 October 2015, [url](#)

<sup>32</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on his mission to Tajikistan, 9 June 2017, [url](#), para. 41; UNOHCHR, Preliminary observations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye at the end of his visit to Tajikistan, 9 March 2015, [url](#); Global Freedom of Expression, The Case of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, 2015, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> United States of America, US Embassy in Tajikistan, United States Government Statement on Political Opposition in Tajikistan, 8 October 2015, [url](#)

<sup>34</sup> Freedom House, Family of Tajikistani Opposition Leader Harassed by Government, 15 December 2015, [url](#)

<sup>35</sup> DW, Tajikistan voters approve changes to extend president’s rule, ban religious parties, 23 May 2016, [url](#)

<sup>36</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021, 3 March 2021, [url](#)

<sup>37</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on his mission to Tajikistan, 9 June 2017, [url](#), para. 45; UN OHCHR, UN expert deplores harsh sentencing of Tajikistan opposition leaders and warns of radicalization, 7 June 2016, [url](#)

beaten.<sup>38</sup> According to sources, the beating took place because of the reporting of Rajab's son, Shukhrati Rahmatullo, at that time 'a journalist with the opposition TV station Payom.net'.<sup>39</sup>

In June 2017, a UN report stated that, after 'prominent member' of IRPT Ilhomjon Yakubov was seen featuring in a human rights-themed video, 'several of his relatives' homes have been confiscated and they have been forced to flee after threats of violence by other community members'.<sup>40</sup>

Also in 2017, 'Tajikistan amended legislation to allow courts to try and sentence suspects *in absentia*', and Muhiddin Kabiri's trial *in absentia* started in February 2018.<sup>41</sup> In October 2018, Kabiri was sentenced to life in jail, after being found guilty of 16 charges<sup>42</sup>, 'including inciting racial, national, regional, or religious hatred and plotting the violent overthrow of the government'.<sup>43</sup>

According to sources, Muhiddin Kabiri is currently based in Germany, where he was granted refugee status.<sup>44</sup>

## 2. Treatment by authorities of relatives of Muhiddin Kabiri, the leader of the IRPT (2019-2021)

Information on the treatment by Tajik authorities of relatives of Muhiddin Kabiri (the leader of the IRPT) in particular, was scarce among the sources consulted by EASO within time constraints.

On 18 October 2019, Radio Ozodi reported that the list of the National Bank of Tajikistan of individuals associated with terrorism had been expanded, to include Muhiddin Kabiri's son Abuzar Kabiri, his nephews Muhammadjon Kabirov and Emomali Kabirzoda, and his niece Bibirukiya Kabirova.<sup>45</sup> Muhiddin Kabiri himself was already on the list.<sup>46</sup> The Tajik authorities routinely add to the list the names of opposition politicians and activists, as well as journalists<sup>47</sup> 'who have fallen foul of the authorities'.<sup>48</sup>

Although not specifically related to the treatment of the relatives of Muhiddin Kabiri, the following

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<sup>38</sup> HRW, Tajikistan: Abuse of Dissidents' Families, 20 December 2016, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on his mission to Tajikistan, 9 June 2017, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>39</sup> HRW, Tajikistan: Abuse of Dissidents' Families, 20 December 2016, [url](#)

<sup>40</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on his mission to Tajikistan, 9 June 2017, [url](#), para. 46

<sup>41</sup> RFE/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#); RFE/RL, Outlawed Tajik Islamic Party Leader On Trial In Absentia, 1 February 2018, [url](#)

<sup>42</sup> Fergana, Tajik opposition figure extradited by Austria given 20 years in jail, 12 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>43</sup> RFE/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#); RFE/RL, Outlawed Tajik Islamic Party Leader On Trial In Absentia, 1 February 2018, [url](#)

<sup>44</sup> Eurasianet, Families of Tajik political prisoners plead for international help, 6 October 2021, [url](#); Kluczevska K., Kornvev O., Politics in the Tajik emigrant community complex, in *Revue d'études comparatives Est-Ouest* Volume 4, Issue 4, 2018, pages 27 to 58, available at Cairn, [url](#)

<sup>45</sup> Radio Ozadi (Радио Озоди), Нацбанк Таджикистана расширил список лиц, "связанных с терроризмом" (The National Bank of Tajikistan expanded the list of persons "associated with terrorism"), (unofficial translation by EASO), 21 October 2019, [url](#)

<sup>46</sup> Asia Plus, NBT divides the list of Tajik nationals having contacts with terrorists and extremists into two separate lists, 18 April 2018, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> Fergana, Opposition journalists and activists remain on new Tajik terrorism list, 28 May 2020, [url](#); OSCE, OSCE media freedom representative calls on Tajikistani authorities to remove names of journalists from list of people with connections to terrorists, 27 March 2018, [url](#)

<sup>48</sup> Fergana, Opposition journalists and activists remain on new Tajik terrorism list, 28 May 2020, [url](#)

information on treatment of other IRPT members and their relatives might be relevant for the purpose of this COI Query.

### **Treatment of other IRPT members and their relatives between 2019-2021**

Referring to events that occurred in 2019, Human Rights Watch highlighted the fact that the Tajik authorities 'regularly harass the Tajikistan-based relatives of peaceful dissidents who live abroad'. The source quoted anecdotal accounts of activists based in several European countries, who claimed that 'their relatives are regularly visited by security services who pressured them to denounce them and provide information on their whereabouts or activities and threatened them with imprisonment if their relatives continue their peaceful opposition work'.<sup>49</sup>

In January 2019, a media report by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) quoted statements by Tajikistan's government, claiming that IRPT was 'a "terrorist organization" with evolving ties in the global network of extremist groups', which recruited Tajik nationals 'to go to Syria and Iraq and join the ranks of jihadist groups, and even recently conspired with the militant group Islamic State (IS) to carry out attacks inside Tajikistan'.<sup>50</sup>

On 9 March 2019, the jailed deputy head of IRPT Mahmadali Hayit reportedly showed his wife, during a prison visit, 'injuries on his forehead and stomach that he said were caused by beatings from prison officials to punish him for refusing to record videos denouncing Tajik opposition figures abroad'.<sup>51</sup>

On 9 April 2019, IRPT member Naimjon Samiev was sentenced by a court in Khujand city to 15 years in prison on extremism charges.<sup>52</sup> Sources stated that he had been forcibly returned from Russia in December 2018.<sup>53</sup>

On 19 May 2019, a riot broke out in Kirpichniy prison, located in Vahdat district. According to official accounts, fighting took place between imprisoned members of Islamic State and jailed members of the IRPT, leading to the deaths of 29 prisoners and three prison guards. Among the victims were 'Said Kiemitdin Gozi, a founding IRPT member', and 'Abduusattor Karimov, a member of the IRPT's supreme political council'.<sup>54</sup> The authorities' accounts of the events were challenged by IRPT in a statement on 21 May 2019, where they reportedly accused the government of a cover-up.<sup>55</sup>

In August 2019, the United Nations Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the 'continued reports of torture or ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, particularly for the purposes of extracting confessions, including against human rights defenders and political opponents', and cited the cases of IRPT members Mahmadali Hayit, Rahmatullo Rajab, and of Zayd Saidov.<sup>56</sup> The Committee expressed similar views regarding the 'harassment and lengthy prison sentences' of IRPT leaders 'after unfair and closed trials [...] and the imprisonment of party members following the designation of the party in 2015 as "terrorist"'.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> HRW, World Report 2020, Tajikistan, 14 January 2020, [url](#)

<sup>50</sup> RFE/RL, 'We Have Succeeded In Surviving': An Interview With Exiled Tajik Islamic Party Leader Muhiddin Kabiri, 27 January 2019, [url](#)

<sup>51</sup> HRW, World Report 2020, Tajikistan, 14 January 2020, [url](#)

<sup>52</sup> Freedom House, Nations in Transit 2020, 2020, [url](#); RFE/RL, Former Tajik Opposition Member Jailed For 15 Years After Return From Russia, 9 April 2019, [url](#)

<sup>53</sup> RFE/RL, Former Tajik Opposition Member Jailed For 15 Years After Return From Russia, 9 April 2019, [url](#); HRW, World Report 2020, Tajikistan, 14 January 2020, [url](#)

<sup>54</sup> Eurasianet, Tajikistan: Authorities pin fresh deadly prison riot on Islamic State, 20 May 2019, [url](#)

<sup>55</sup> Eurasianet, Tajikistan: Opposition party accuses government of prison bloodshed coverup, 21 May 2019, [url](#)

<sup>56</sup> UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tajikistan, 22 August 2019, [url](#), para. 31

<sup>57</sup> UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tajikistan, 22 August 2019, [url](#), para. 53

According to non-governmental organisation Norwegian Helsinki Committee, starting from 26 November 2019, the Tajik authorities began subjecting Fatkhuddin Saidmukhidinov's brothers, as well as his father, to 'repeated interrogations, both in the Kabadiyanskoj region, where the family lives, and in Dushanbe, the country's capital to where they have been summoned by the security forces'. According to the source, Saidmukhidinov and his daughter were referred to by the police as 'terrorists, traitors and enemies of the people'.<sup>58</sup> Saidmukhidinov is a IRPT supporter and lives in Europe, as does his daughter.<sup>59</sup>

Referring to events that took place in 2020, Human Rights Watch reported that the Tajik authorities 'continued to harass Tajikistan-based relatives of peaceful dissidents, both in the country and abroad'.<sup>60</sup>

In March 2020, IRPT member Hizbullo Shoalizoda was refused refugee status in Austria and returned to Tajikistan,<sup>61</sup> where he was 'held incommunicado in a prison in Dushanbe upon his return and tortured to confess to being a member of the IRPT'.<sup>62</sup> However, the IRPT declared that Shoalizoda had never been a member of the party. In June 2020, 'he was sentenced to 20 years in prison on vague charges of "organizing activity of an extremist organization" and "treason"'.<sup>63</sup> While the Supreme Court of Austria declared Shoalizoda's extradition illegal and ordered his return, he 'remained in detention in Tajikistan as of March 2021'.<sup>64</sup>

On 25 June 2020, Asroriddin Rozikov, son of jailed IRPT member Zubaidullohi Rozik, was detained by the State Committee for National Security (GKNB).<sup>65</sup> He was subsequently charged 'of "organizing activity of an extremist organization"'.<sup>66</sup> In a report, the United States Department of State (USDOS) quoted relatives of Rozikov, who claimed that 'the motive for Rozikov's arrest was to pressure his father to condemn publicly the leadership of the IRPT'. USDOS further reported that on 18 December 2020, a Dushanbe court, 'following closed-door proceedings, found Asroriddin Rozikov guilty of participation in the activities of banned political parties or organizations and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment'.<sup>67</sup>

On 8 July 2020, Jannatullo Komil, the head of the bureau of IRPT in Germany, revealed that Tajik 'law enforcement bodies [had] arrested five members of his family and detained them for a week without charges'.<sup>68</sup> A separate source stated that overall, during June and July 2020, 'thirteen family members of Jannatullohi Komil [...] were harassed, detained, and questioned by Tajik authorities', who allegedly 'pressured them to testify on camera against' the IRPT'.<sup>69</sup>

On several occasions at the end of July 2020, five sons of Said Kiemitdin Gozi, one of the founding members of IRPT, were arrested on unknown charges. On August 2014, it was reported that two of the sons had been released, but the remaining three were still detained.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Tajikistan: Cease retaliation against activist's family members, 13 December 2019, [url](#)

<sup>59</sup> HRW, Tajikistan: Dissident's Family Interrogated, Threatened, 4 December 2020, [url](#); Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Tajikistan: Cease retaliation against activist's family members, 13 December 2019, [url](#)

<sup>60</sup> HRW, World Report 2021, Tajikistan, 14 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>61</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021, 3 March 2021, [url](#); Amnesty International, Tajikistan: Failure to Respect and Protect Fundamental Human Rights, May 2021, [url](#), para. 20

<sup>62</sup> Amnesty International, Tajikistan: Failure to Respect and Protect Fundamental Human Rights, May 2021, [url](#), para. 20

<sup>63</sup> HRW, World Report 2021, Tajikistan, 14 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>64</sup> Amnesty International, Tajikistan: Failure to Respect and Protect Fundamental Human Rights, May 2021, [url](#), para. 20

<sup>65</sup> USDOS, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Tajikistan, 30 March 2021, [url](#); HRW, World Report 2021, Tajikistan, 14 January 2021, [url](#); Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021, 3 March 2021, [url](#)

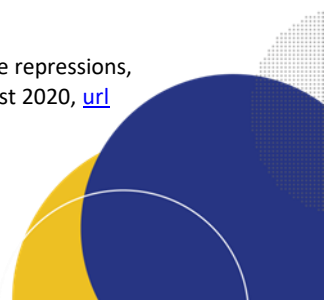
<sup>66</sup> HRW, World Report 2021, Tajikistan, 14 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>67</sup> USDOS, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Tajikistan, 30 March 2021, [url](#)

<sup>68</sup> USDOS, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Tajikistan, 30 March 2021, [url](#)

<sup>69</sup> HRW, World Report 2021, Tajikistan, 14 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>70</sup> Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021, 3 March 2021, [url](#); Eurasianet, Tajikistan: With elections come repressions, 18 August 2020, [url](#); Radio Ozodi, Relatives: Three sons of Said Qiyomiddin Ghazi have been arrested, 14 August 2020, [url](#)



On 27 August 2020, an 80-year-old man from Rudaki region, who was a former IRPT member, was detained by the police, being accused 'of illegal activities on behalf of the banned IRPT'. According to Human Rights Watch, the man had, for several years, given small sums of money to the relatives of jailed IRPT members. On 28 December 2020, the man was found 'guilty of "organizing activities of an extremist organization"', and sentenced to seven years in prison.<sup>71</sup>

On 19 November 2020, the brother and father of IRPT supporter Fatkhuddin Saidmukhidinov were again 'summoned, interrogated, and threatened' by the Tajik authorities, who allegedly demanded that Saidmukhidinov cease 'all his activities and shut down his social media accounts'.<sup>72</sup>

In February 2021, RFE/RL reported that, in 'recent weeks', Tajik authorities had jailed '[s]everal activists, government critics, and suspected supporters of banned opposition groups'. The report quoted Prosecutor General Yusuf Rahmon stating that 'those detained had provided "deceitful" information to "agitators abroad"'. According to the source, 'the term "agitators" is often used by Tajik officials to describe members of two banned opposition movements -- Group 24 and the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT)'.<sup>73</sup>

In a May 2021 report, AI quoted activists living in exile, including IRPT supporters, who claimed that 'in retaliation for their actions abroad[...], police and security services in Tajikistan threatened, detained, questioned and in some cases beat family members, including elderly relatives and children. Local authorities publicly shamed relatives branding them as "traitors" and "enemies of the state"'.<sup>74</sup> In July 2021, a media report stated that the family members of imprisoned IRPT leaders have been 'subjected to attacks and persecution in their own communities and by state authorities', referred to as "'traitors to the homeland'", and '[d]enied the right to work or emigrate'.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> HRW, Older People Not Spared in Tajikistan's Crackdown, 20 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>72</sup> HRW, Tajikistan: Dissident's Family Interrogated, Threatened, 4 December 2020, [url](#)

<sup>73</sup> RFE/RL, Tajikistan Increases Pressure On Opposition At Home, Abroad, 7 February 2021, [url](#)

<sup>74</sup> Amnesty International, Tajikistan: Failure to Respect and Protect Fundamental Human Rights, May 2021, [url](#), para. 20

<sup>75</sup> Asianews, Persecution of Tajik Islamists, 12 July 2021, [url](#)



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