

August 30, 2022

H.E. Emomali Rahmon
Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
Palace of the Nation
Republic of Tajikistan
Dushanbe, 734001

Dear President Rahmon,

I am writing to protest the recent wave of harassment and intimidation of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) employees in Tajikistan (known locally as Radio Ozodi) and their families, as well as your government's ongoing efforts to prevent Radio Ozodi from operating freely.

I have previously enumerated the tactics used by your government to harass and intimidate Radio Ozodi journalists and their family members in Tajikistan – and abroad [*letter attached*]. Such episodes have occurred more often in the months following the May 2022 unrest in your country's Gorno Badakhshan region. Radio Ozodi and Current Time journalists and their family members have suffered physical attacks and had equipment stolen from them (with no demonstrated willingness by Tajik authorities to investigate the cases or hold perpetrators accountable), endured online and verbal abuse, and been temporarily detained and threatened with prosecution for no apparent reason.

These repressive actions against Radio Ozodi, our journalists, and their family members are unacceptable, and directly contradict all previous public pronouncements by you and your government about Tajikistan's support for freedom of the press.

Mr. President, as I said when we met in Zurich in 2019, RFE/RL and Radio Ozodi adhere to the highest journalistic standards, and will not compromise these standards because of government threats or intimidation. At the time, you expressed your appreciation for Radio Ozodi's work, and said that you wanted Radio Ozodi to remain in Tajikistan.

If Tajik authorities continue on this path of unjustifiable harassment of our independent journalists, RFE/RL will be forced to review our continued operations in your country.

Sincerely,



Jamie Fly
President and Chief Executive Officer
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty