

TAJIKISTAN

Most prisoners are Muslims, allegedly belonging to banned movements: Tabligh Jamaat, Salafists and Muslim Brothers.

Most prisoners are Sunni Muslims who are followers of **Tabligh Jamaat**. This movement has been banned in Tajikistan since 2006 although it does not use or advocate violence. It does not call for the overthrow of the political regime in Tajikistan either.

Other Muslims sentenced to prison terms are said to be **Salafists**. It must be said that their teachings are in egregious contention with Article 5 of the ICCPR which reads as follows:

Nothing in the present Covenant may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms recognized herein or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the present Covenant.

Salafists promote an “Untermensch” worldview in which Muslims are superior to and have more rights than non-Muslims, men are superior to and have more rights than women. They promote segregation between men and women. They promote judicial practices (shariah) which blatantly contradict Article 7 of the ICCPR: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

While such teachings and practices are unacceptable from a human rights point of view, sentencing ‘controversial’ imams and preachers to prison terms because they promote such an ideology is a violation of human rights. Imprisoning them is not a solution to the security issue that they may pose. Although it is the right of a state to protect its population against radicalization and nefarious foreign ideologies that promote degrading and inhumane treatments, its policies must remain in line with international human rights standards.

Other Muslims were accused of membership in the **Muslim Brothers**, which is listed as a terrorist organization in Russia and a number of Muslim majority countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE... It is not clear whether those prisoners were really members of that organization but they were not sentenced for committing violent acts. Their arrest and their imprisonment are clear violations of human rights.

Only one **Christian** is known to be in prison.

Protestant

Bakhrom KHOLMATOV (Pastor)

Age: 42 years

Date and place of arrest: On 10th April 2017, in Tajikistan's northern Sogd Region

Charges: Singing extremist songs in church and so inciting 'religious hatred'. The National Security Committee (NSC) claimed that songs based on Biblical passages, such as "Praise God, oh the godless country", "God's army is marching", and "Our fight is not against flesh and blood" are "extremist and call on people to overthrow the government".

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 189, Part 1 ("Inciting national, racial, local or religious hatred or dissension, humiliation of national dignity, as well as propaganda of the superiority of citizens based on their religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using the mass media").

First court decision: On July 2017, he was sentenced to three years in prison by Khujand City Court.

Last court decision: On 18th August 2017, his appeal was rejected by Sogd Regional Court.

Place of detention: First at the National Security Committee secret police in Dushanbe

Other information: He is the pastor of the Sunmin Sunbogym (Good News of Grace) Protestant Church in the regional capital Khujand. Sunmin Sunbogym Protestant Church in Khujand was officially registered with the State Committee for Religious Affairs in 1993 as a "missionary centre". In early February 2017, the NSC secret police, together with the State Committee for Religious Affairs and other law-enforcement agencies, began raiding Sunmin Sunbogym's affiliated congregations in Sogd Region.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2276 ,

http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2291,

http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2298, <https://vom.com.au/tajikistan-pastor-imprisoned-three-year-term/>

Jehovah's Witness

Daniil ISLAMOV

Age: 18 years

Place of residence: Dushanbe

Date and place of arrest: On 22nd April 2017, Dushanbe

Charges: Refusing to wear the military uniform and taking the military oath

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 376, Part 1 (punishes evasion by an enlisted serviceman of fulfilment of military service obligations by way of inflicting on oneself injury (self-mutilation) or evasion by simulation of sickness or by other deception)

Last court decision: On 13th October 2017, he was sentenced to six months imprisonment, by Judge Alisher Rafikozda, Chair of Qurghonteppa Military Court in the southern Khatlon Region.

Place of detention: Temporary detention prison in Kurganteppa.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2312
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2327

Muslims

Sunni Muslims

Gufron ANVAROV

Date and place of arrest: Between 9th and 14th May 2016, in the Kanibadam District of Sogd

Charges: Membership of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Organisation

Statement of the defendant: It is not known if he confirms or denies his belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-2 (Membership in a banned organisation, punishable by a fine of 1,000-2,000 Somoni [approximately €117 – €235 Euro] or by imprisonment from two to five years, with deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to three years)

Last court decision: He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Place of detention: Khujand District Police Detention Centre

Other Information: He was arrested alongside Kobil SANGINOV, Khurshed BOFAROV, Alisher OLIMOV and Dovud OKHUNOV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180 ,
<http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>

Khurshed BOFAROV

Date and place of arrest: Between 9th and 14th May 2016, in the Kanibadam District of Sogd

Charges: Membership of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Organisation

Statement of the defendant: It is not known if he confirms or denies his belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-2 (Membership in a banned organisation, punishable by a fine of 1,000-2,000 Somoni [approximately €117 – €235 Euro] or by imprisonment from two to five years, with deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to three years)

Last court decision: He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Place of detention: Khujand District Police Detention Centre

Other Information: He was arrested alongside Kobil SANGINOV, Gufron ANVAROV, Alisher OLIMOV and Dovud OKHUNOV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180 ,
<http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>

Imam Sulaymon BOLTUYEV

Date and place of arrest: In late March 2016, in Sogd Region

Charges: Inciting religious hostility

Statement of defendant: He denies the accusations.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 189, Part 1 (Actions, which lead to arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility, or dissension, humiliating national dignity, as well as propaganda of the exclusiveness of citizens by a sign of their relation to religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using means of mass media, shall be punishable by up to five years of restriction of liberty or imprisonment)

Other information: Imam Boltuyev of the cathedral Mosque in Guliston was arrested alongside Imam Maksud URUNOV of the cathedral Mosque in Kanibadam, Imam Abdujamil YUSUPOV of the cathedral Mosque in Bobojon Gofurov District, and three other unidentified imams, two of whom were from Khujand and Kanibadam. Additional information about the cases against them, trial dates or their condition have not been forthcoming. As of 1 November, he was still awaiting his trial.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2172

Alisher OLIMOV

Date and place of arrest: Between 9th and 14th May 2016, in the Kanibadam District of Sogd

Charges: Membership of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Organisation

Statement of the defendant: It is not known if he confirms or denies his belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-2 (Membership in a banned organisation, punishable by a fine of 1,000-2,000 Somoni [approximately €117 – €235 Euro] or by imprisonment from two to five years, with deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to three years)

Last court decision: He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Place of detention: Khujand District Police Detention Centre

Other Information: He was arrested alongside Kobil SANGINOV, Gufron ANVAROV, Dovud OKHUNOV and Khurshed BOFAROV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180 ;
<http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>

Doyud OKHUNOV

Date and place of arrest: Between 9th and 14th May 2016, in the Kanibadam District of Sogd

Charges: Membership of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Organisation

Statement of the defendant: It is not known if he confirms or denies his belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-2 (Membership in a banned organisation, punishable by a fine of 1,000-2,000 Somoni [approximately €117 – €235 Euro] or by imprisonment from two to five years, with deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to three years)

Last court decision: He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Place of detention: Khujand District Police Detention Centre

Other Information: He was arrested alongside Kobil SANGINOV, Gufron ANVAROV, Alisher OLIMOV and Khurshed BOFAROV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180 ,
<http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>

Kobil SANGINOV

Date and place of arrest: Between 9th and 14th May 2016, in the Kanibadam District of Sogd

Charges: Membership of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Organisation

Statement of the defendant: It is not known if he confirms or denies his belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-2 (Membership in a banned organisation, punishable by a fine of 1,000-2,000 Somoni [approximately €117 – €235 Euro] or by imprisonment from two to five years, with deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to three years)

Last court decision: He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Place of detention: Khujand District Police Detention Centre

Other information: He was arrested alongside Alisher OLIMOV, Gufron ANVAROV, Dovud OKHUNOV and Khurshed BOFAROV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180 ,
<http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>

Imam Maksud URUNOV

Date and place of arrest: In late March 2016, Sugd Region

Charges: Inciting religious hostility

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 189, Part 1 (Actions, which lead to arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility, or dissension, humiliating national dignity, as well as propaganda of the exclusiveness of citizens by a sign of their relation to religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using means of mass media, shall be punishable by up to five years of restriction of liberty or imprisonment)

Place of detention: Detention Centre in Sogd

Other information: He is the Imam of the cathedral Mosque in Kanibadam and was arrested alongside Imam Abdujamil YUSUPOV of the cathedral Mosque in Bobojon Gofurov District, Imam BOLTUYEV of the cathedral Mosque in Guliston and three other unidentified imams, two of whom were from Khujand and Kanibadam. Additional information about the cases against them, trial dates or their condition have not been forthcoming. As of 1 November, he was still awaiting his trial.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2172

Imam Abdujamil YUSUPOV

Date and place of arrest: In late March 2016, Sugd Region

Charges: Inciting religious hostility

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 189, Part 1 (Actions, which lead to arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility, or dissension, humiliating national dignity, as well as propaganda of the exclusiveness of citizens by a sign of their relation to religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using means of mass media, shall be punishable by up to five years of restriction of liberty or imprisonment)

Other information: He is the Imam of the cathedral Mosque in Bobojon Gofurov District and was arrested alongside Sulaymon BOLTUYEV of the cathedral Mosque in Guliston, Imam Maksim URUNOV of the cathedral Mosque in Kanibadam and three other unidentified imams, two of whom were from Khujand and Kanibadam. Additional information about the cases against them, trial dates or their condition have not been forthcoming. As of 1 November, he was still awaiting his trial.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2172

http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Tablighi Jamaat

Mulloh ABDULLOH

Place of residence: Qurghonteppa

Date and place of arrest: In 2009

Charges: Suspicion of being a leader of the banned Tablighi Jamaat in Qurghonteppa

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307 (Public calls for extremist activity)

Other information: Trial and sentencing information is unknown, but he is in prison.

Source: https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF_AR_2016_Appendix7.pdf

Payrayjon ASHUROV

Age: 32 years

Place of residence: Isfara

Date of arrest: In January 2015

Charges: Suspicion of membership in the banned Tablighi Jamaat

Last court decision: He was sentenced to three years in prison.

Source: https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF_AR_2016_Appendix7.pdf

Amrokhon ERGASHOV

Age: 68 years

Place of residence: Kulob

Date and place of arrest: In 2015

Charges: Suspicion of membership in the banned Tablighi Jamaat

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code article 187 (Organising a criminal community or organisation), article 195 (Illegal buying, selling, keeping, transportation or carrying of weapons, ammunitions or explosives), and article 307 (Public calls for extremist activity).

Last court decision: He was sentenced to twelve years in prison.

Source: https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF_AR_2016_Appendix7.pdf

Abdulloh ISHOGOV

Age: 38 years

Place of residence: Isfara

Date and place of arrest: In January 2015

Charges: Suspicion of membership in the banned Tablighi Jamaat

Last court decision: He was sentenced to three years in prison.

Source: https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF_AR_2016_Appendix7.pdf

Zarif NURIDDINOV

Age: 34 years

Place of residence: Isfara

Date of arrest: In January 2015

Charges: Suspicion of membership in the banned Tablighi Jamaat

Last court decision: He was sentenced to three years in prison.

Source: https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF_AR_2016_Appendix7.pdf

Salafists

Abdumajid ABDUKADIROV

Age: 34 years

Date and place of arrest: In January 2016, in Bobojon village in the Sogd Region

Charges: Participation in the banned Salafi Muslim Movement

Statement of the defendant: He claims that the only thing presented as evidence was that he prayed differently and taught not according to the Hanafi school of jurisprudence, but the Salafi school of jurisprudence.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Article 307-3 Part 2 (Punishes participation in the activity of political parties, social, religious, or other organisations liquidated or banned by a court for extremist activity with imprisonment of five to eight years)

Last court decision: On 18th April 2016, he was sentenced to seven year prison terms by Sogd Region's Bobjon Gofurov District Court.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Imam Khamid KARIMOV who leads the mosque in Bobojon village.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Otabek AZIMOV

Date and place of arrest: In April 2016, in Dushanbe

Charges: Membership of the banned Salafi movement and participating in extremist activities

First court decision: On 14th April 2016, he was sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment.

Last court decision: The case went to the court of appeals but the outcome is not yet known.

Other information: The court refuses to divulge any information as to why the sentences are so harsh or what crimes were committed until after the appeals have been heard. He was convicted alongside Romish BOBOYEV, Abdurahmon ISMOILOV and Khurshed SUVANOV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Romish BOBOYEV

Date and place of arrest: In April 2016, in Dushanbe

Charges: Membership of the banned Salafi movement and participating in extremist activities

First court decision: On 14th April 2016, he was sentenced to sixteen years imprisonment.

Last court decision: The case went to the court of appeals but the outcome is not yet known.

Other information: The court refuses to divulge any information as to why the sentence is so harsh or what crimes were committed until after the appeals have been heard. He was convicted alongside Otabek AZIMOV, Abdurahmon ISMOILOV and Khurshed SUVANOV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

<https://news.tj/en/news/four-jailed-dushanbe-membership-salafist-movement>

Fazliddin GADOYEV

Place of residence: City of Roghun

Date and place of arrest: In March 2016, in the village of Kalai Nav in Rogun

Charges: Participation in the banned Salafi Muslim movement and praying in the Salafi style

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 189, Part 1 (Actions, which lead to arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility, or dissension, humiliating national dignity, as well as propaganda of the exclusiveness of citizens by a sign of their relation to religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using means of mass media, shall be punishable by up to five years of restriction of liberty or imprisonment)

Last court decision: In August 2016, he was sentenced to 3 ½ years imprisonment by a court in Dushanbe.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

<https://news.tj/en/news/18-residents-roghun-jailed-public-calls-forcible-changes-constitutional-order>

Abdurahmon ISMOILOV

Date and place of arrest: In April 2016, in Dushanbe

Charges: Membership of the banned Salafi movement and participating in extremist activities

First court decision: On 14th April 2016, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Last court decision: The case went to the court of appeals but the outcome is not yet known.

Other information: The court refuses to divulge any information as to why the sentence is so harsh or what crimes were committed until after the appeals have been heard. He was convicted alongside Otabek AZIMOV, Romish BOBYEV and Khurshed SUVANOV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

<https://news.tj/en/news/four-jailed-dushanbe-membership-salafist-movement>

Farhod KARIMOV

Age: 31 years

Date and place of arrest: In January 2016, in Bobojon village in the Sogd Region

Charges: Participation in the banned Salafi Muslim Movement

Statement of the defendant: He claims that the only thing presented as evidence was that he prayed differently and taught not according to the Hanafi school of jurisprudence but the Salafi school of jurisprudence.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-3 Part 2 (Punishes participation in the activity of political parties, social, religious, or other organisations liquidated or banned by a court for extremist activity with imprisonment of five to eight years)

Last court decision: On 18th April 2016, he was sentenced to a seven-year prison terms by the Sogd Region's Bobjon Gofurov District Court.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Imam Khamid KARIMOV who leads the mosque in Bobojon village.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Imam Khamid KARIMOV

Date and place of arrest: In January 2016, in Bobjon village in the Sogd Region

Charges: Participation in the banned Salafi Muslim movement

Statement of defendant: He said that his "only guilt was active propagation of Islam in Sogd and teaching others to do so."

Article of criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-3 Part 2 (Punishes participation in the activity of political parties, social, religious, or other organisations liquidated or banned by a court for extremist activity with imprisonment of five to eight years), and 189, Part 1 (Actions, which lead to arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility, or dissension, humiliating national dignity, as well as propaganda of the exclusiveness of citizens by a sign of their relation to religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using means of mass media, shall be punishable by up to five years of restriction of liberty or imprisonment).

Last court decision: On 18th April 2016, he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment by the Sogd Region's Bobojon Gofurov District Court.

Other information: He was arrested alongside four members of his Mosque, Muhammadsayid SAYIDOV, Abdumajid ABDUKADIROV, Mirzomuhammad RAHMATOV and Farhod KARIMOV.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Imam-hatyp Muboroksho KHASANOV

Date and place of arrest: In March 2016, in the Kalai Nav village of Rogun

Charges: Participating in the banned Salafi Muslim Movement and for praying in the Salafi style

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Criminal Code Article 189, Part 1 (Actions, which lead to arousing national, racial, local or religious hostility, or dissension, humiliating national dignity, as well as propaganda of the exclusiveness of citizens by a sign of their relation to religion, national, racial, or local origin, if committed in public or using means of mass media, shall be punishable by up to five years of restriction of liberty or imprisonment)

Last court decision: Unknown.

Place of detention: Unknown.

Other information: The imam was arrested alongside the village doctor Fazliddin GADOYEV and twenty-five others. They were taken to the Firdavsi Police in Dushanbe. Some of the younger prisoners have been released. The family members believe that their relatives were actually arrested for wearing their beards long in the Salafi manner.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Mirzomuhammad RAHMATOV

Age: 32 years

Date and place of arrest: In January 2016, in Bobojon village in the Sogd Region

Charges: Participation in the banned Salafi Muslim Movement

Statement of the defendant: He claims that the only thing presented as evidence was that he prayed differently and taught not according to the Hanafi school of jurisprudence but the Salafi school of jurisprudence.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-3 Part 2 (Punishes participation in the activity of political parties, social, religious, or other organisations liquidated or banned by a court for extremist activity with imprisonment of five to eight years)

Last court decision: On 18th April 2016, he was sentenced to seven year prison terms by the Sogd Region's Bobjon Gofurov District Court.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Imam Khamid KARIMOV who leads the mosque in Bobojon village.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Muhammadi RAHMATULLO (Alias. Mullah Muhammadi)

Age: 43 years

Date and place of arrest: On 11th February 2016

Charges: Three charges, including inciting religious enmity and being a leader of the banned Salafi movement

First court decision: Eight years in prison

Other information: He is a conservative leader of a Tajik Salafist movement. No information has been provided on the date or outcome of official legal proceedings or place of detention.

Source: <http://www.eurasianet.org/node/77276>

<http://www.eurasianet.org/search/node/RAHMATULLO>

<https://rus.ozodi.org/a/27866677.html>

https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF_AR_2016_Appendix7.pdf

Muhammadsayid SAYIDOV

Age: 35 years

Date and place of arrest: In January 2016, in Bobojon village in the Sogd Region

Charges: Participation in the banned Salafi Muslim Movement

Statement of the defendant: He claims that the only thing presented as evidence was that he prayed differently and taught not according to the Hanafi school of jurisprudence but the Salafi school of jurisprudence.

Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code: Criminal Code Article 307-3 Part 2 (Punishes participation in the activity of political parties, social, religious, or other organisations liquidated or banned by a court for extremist activity with imprisonment of five to eight years)

Last court decision: On 18th April 2016, he was sentenced to a seven-year prison term by the Sogd Region's Bobjon Gofurov District Court.

Other information: He was arrested alongside Imam Khamid KARIMOV who leads the mosque in Bobojon village.

Source: http://forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180

Khurshed SUVANOV

Date and place of arrest: In April 2016, in Dushanbe

Charges: Membership of the banned Salafi movement and participating in extremist activities

First court decision: He was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Last court decision: The case went to the court of appeals but the outcome is not yet known.

Other information: The court refuses to divulge any information as to why the sentence is so harsh or what crimes were committed until after the appeals have been heard.

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2180