EU-Supported Regional Conference on Torture Prevention
Almaty, 27-29 May 2014

Dushanbe, 27 May 2014 – At a conference on “The Role of Civil Society Institutions in the Prevention of Torture: Experience of the NGO Coalitions Against Torture in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan”, to be held in Almaty from 27 to 29 May 2014, an informal network of regional NGOs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be established to jointly combat torture.

The conference will bring together over 60 Central Asian NGO activists, representatives of international human rights groups and donor organizations. Foreign diplomats with an interest in strengthening torture prevention in Central Asia will also be among the conference participants.

The conference provides a platform for NGO activists and experts to share experience and know-how during panel discussions on topics including monitoring and documenting torture cases, providing legal aid to torture survivors, the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (“Istanbul Protocol”), and strategic advocacy and media work.

In addition, conference participants will set up working groups on topics of mutual interest such as an analytical working group to coordinate the monitoring of various aspects of freedom from torture and develop analytical materials at the regional level; a legal aid working group to exchange information on the practical aspects of the defense of torture victims; and an advocacy working group for joint advocacy activities at the national, regional and international levels. These working groups are envisaged to become an integral part of the coalitions’ future anti-torture work as they will become focal points on their respective topics of expertise and provide other coalition members with information and know-how.

The conference is being organized within the EU-funded project “Action for freedom from torture in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan”, which is being implemented by NGO coalitions against torture in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan together with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland) and the International Partnership for Human Rights (Belgium). Co-sponsors contributing to the Almaty conference are the Open Society Foundations and the National Endowment for Democracy.

It is planned to hold a second regional NGO conference on torture prevention in 2016 in Tajikistan.

For further information, please contact: Lenur Kerymov, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland), Project Coordinator, Mob. +48504080257, email: L.Kerymov@hfhrpol.waw.pl

This project is funded by the European Union
Delegation of the European Union
To the Republic of Tajikistan

Co-sponsors of the project:

NGO organizers of the conference: