

A Sobering Reality: Fundamental Freedoms in Central Asia under Continuous Threat

Side event at OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, on 25 September 2012

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 3

Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee/International Partnership for Human Rights/Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law/Initiative Group of Independent Human Rights Defenders of Uzbekistan/Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: After more than 20 years of independence, significant challenges remain for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in fulfilling OSCE human dimension commitments. Fundamental freedoms are under continuous threat. The discussion at this event will focus in particular on current challenges undermining the right to freedom of expression in these Central Asian countries, including restrictions on internet freedoms. Challenges to the rights to freedom of religion, as well as freedom of association and assembly will also be highlighted. International experts as well as human rights activists from the three Central Asian countries (among others, Yevgeni Zhovtis) will give their views on developments in these fields and discuss recommendations for how to address existing problems.

Refreshments will be provided