

Dear Colleague,

Please be informed that on April 29 the meeting of the Eurasian Ombudsmen Alliance (EOA) was held by video conference.

The human rights situation in the context of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) was discussed with the participation of Ombudspersons from Russia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Serbia and a number of other countries. The meeting was also dedicated to the rights of veterans of World War II.

In his speech, Mr. Arman Tatoyan welcomed the meeting of the EOA, considering it as a best example of international cooperation, which is an important platform in terms of protecting human rights and exchanging relevant experience.

In the first part of the meeting, the Defender noted that the protection of the rights of each of the participants of World War II is in the center of his attention: social guarantees, in particular, pension payments, medical service issues, etc. All of these issues are addressed in the annual and ad hoc reports of the Human Rights Defender.

During the meeting, Mr. Arman Tatoyan also referred to the peculiarities of the Human Rights Defender's activities and challenges in the protection of rights during the State of Emergency due to COVID-19.

The Defender indicated that the Defender's Office works in 24/7 regime. Reference was also made to the unprecedented growth of individual applications and hotline calls, which mostly concern the limitations of the freedom of movement during the State of Emergency, labor rights, family reunions, etc.

The Human Rights Defender underlined the importance of awareness-raising activities during the State of Emergency. The Defender presented the guide of the Human Rights Defender on the new coronavirus and human rights in the State of Emergency, that was published in braille, and translated into English and Russian, as well as into the languages of national minorities living in Armenia (Kurdish, Yazidi, Assyria, Hindi). A special guide for children has also been published.

The Human Rights Defender expressed special gratitude to the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Ms. Tatyana Moskalkova and the Human Rights Commissioner in Sverdlovsk region, as well as to the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic in supporting family reunions during the State of Emergency when state borders were closed.

The representatives of the National Human Rights Institutions who took part in the meeting emphasized the importance of effective cooperation between partner institutions from the perspective of human rights protection.

Best regards,

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