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| **УПОЛНОМОЧЕННЫЙ****ПО ПРАВАМ ЧЕЛОВЕКА****В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ ТАТАРСТАН** |  | **Commissioner****for Human Rights****in the Republic of Tatarstan** |
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**SPEECH**

**Of the Commissioner for human rights**

**in the Republic of Tatarstan**

**on the occasion of the 13th Asian**

**Ombudsman Association Conference**

Tehran, Iran

October, 8-9 2013

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**Human rights in the Republic of Tatarstan**

Please accept my greetings and kindest wishes to all members of the Asian Ombudsman Association. My name is Sariya Saburskaya and I am the **Commissioner for human rights in the Republic of Tatarstan.**It is a great honor to represent the Republic of Tatarstan in such a significant event.

First of all, I would like to tell you about Tatarstan, one of the biggest republics of Russian Federation.

Tatarstan is one of the most economically developed regions in Russia. Republic is located in the center of large industrial region of the Russian Federation at the crossing of important highways connecting East and West, North and South of the country.

The Republic of Tatarstan is rich in natural resources, powerful and diversified industry, high intellectual potential and qualified human resources. According to the 2010 All-Russian Population Census, the population of Tatarstan makes 3,786,400 people.

According to the authoritative international company Ernst&Young, in 2011 Tatarstan was recognized as the best region in Russia for doing business.

The president of the republic of Tatarstan is RUSTAM NURGALIYEVICH MINNIKHANOV.

Colors of the national Flag of the Republic of Tatarstan mean: green – green of spring, revival; white - color of purity; red - maturity, energy, force, life.

## The central figure of The State Emblem of the Republic of Tatarstan- a winged leopard - in antique times a deity of fertility and childrens’ patron. In the State Emblem of the Republic of Tatarstan a snow leopard – the patron of the republic and its citizens. The State Emblem of the Republic of Tatarstan asserts, such moral values, common to all mankind as good, justice, well-being of citizens, friendship between peoples, peace and progress.

Islam and Orthodox Christianity are the traditional confessions of the republic. As the meeting point of civilizations, a symbolic 'crossroads' of Eastern and Western, Asian and European religious and cultural traditions, Tatarstan has accumulated the richest experience of interethnic and interdenominational consensus.

Tatarstan is one of Russia’s most multiethnic region. According to 2010 All-Russian Population Census, representatives of over 173 ethnic groups live in Tatarstan, including 8 nationalities, the number of which exceeds 10,000 people: Tatars, Russians, Chuvashes, Udmurts, Mordovians, Maris, Ukrainians and Bashkirs.

Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and other confessions are also represented in Tatarstan. Keeping the balance of interests between the two major religions and equality of all religions before the law lies at the heart of inter-faith consent in the republic.

Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, the third capital of Russia; it’s one of the largest economic, scientific and cultural centers in the country. The 1,000th anniversary of Kazan was celebrated in 2005. About 1,2mln people – representatives of over 100 nationalities – live in Kazan in the atmosphere of cultural, religious and linguistic harmony.

The Republic of Tatarstan is one of the leading sports regions in Russia.

The provision of facilities for sports activities, sports venues construction in Tatarstan has laid the basis for the formation of healthy lifestyle among various strata of the population.

New forms of healthy lifestyle promotion and development of cultural and mass activities are widely used. Sports competitions among pupils, students, government and municipal employees, pensioners and disabled people are held.

The 27th **World Summer Universiade 2013 became t**he most significant event. 64 sports venues, 30 of which are newly constructed, were used during the Games.

The Kazan Universiade was the largest in the history of Student Games. 7980 athletes, 3798 officials from 160 countries, 2158 judges, 766 of which have international qualification, took part in the Games. Russian athletes took the first place in team classification, breaking all medal records of previous Universiades.

From 1990 three crucial documents were adopted in the republic - the Declaration of State Sovereignty, the Constitution and the Treaty with the Russian Federation on Delimitation of Jurisdictional Subjects and Mutual Delegation of Powers. The three documents together form the basis for legal state, political stability of the society, economic reforms.

The Constitution proclaims an individual, his rights and liberties are the highest value and the Republic of Tatarstan obliges to accept, observe and protect human and civil rights and freedom. The Tatarstan Constitution provides ~~for~~ such principles as universal suffrage, freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, right to participate in political parties and organizations, etc.

In accordance with the Tatarstan Constitution and the Law of the Republic of Tatarstan of March 03, 2000, № 95 «On the Ombudsman of the Republic of Tatarstan» from June 2000 the republic has the institution of the Commissioner for human rights in the Republic of Tatarstan.

Acting in compliance with the Article 26 of Law of the Republic of Tatarstan of March 03, 2000, No.95 “On the Ombudsman of the Republic of Tatarstan” the Ombudsman sends the Report on observance of the rights and liberties of man and citizen in the Republic of Tatarstan to thegovernment of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Sariya Saburskaya has been the Commissioner for human rights in the Republic of Tatarstan since July 8, 2010 till now.

Structureofthe work of the Commissioner for human rights

in the Republic of Tatarstanmainlyinvolves workingwith citizens' applications, visiting privateinstitutions, security checking, interaction with civilsociety, thelegal education ofcitizens.The work contains the partnership with the ministries and departments, public organizations.

As in recent years appraisal of the situation on observance of the rights and liberties of man and citizen in the Republic of Tatarstan is based on integration of results of examination of complaints that came to the Ombudsman in the Republic of Tatarstan, reports on inspections, information from state authorities and local government bodies, and information presented by Ombudsman’s public assistants, human rights non-governmental organizations and mass media, republican inter-department commissions and other sources.

The observance of human rights in important life spheres: the right to health protection, housing and work has been analyzed.

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| Description | Quantity | Percentage |
| Written complaints (other complaints) | 1341 | 54,56 |
| Verbal complaints (personal reception) | 1117 | 45,44 |
| Total quantity of complaints | 2458 | 100 |

In 2012 the Ombudsman has received 1341 complaints (any appeals being in written form or by e-mail). At personal reception 1117 complaints were considered.

On presentation you can see the main subjectof Citizens' Applications in 2012.

Measures had been taken on restoration of violated rights in 196 cases.

Most commonly the Ombudsman receives claims (other appeals) concerning housing problems, including matters of housing and public utilities service, and claims against law enforcement offices. Some claims on matters of housing and public utility service came during the telephone “hot” line; ~~quite~~a number of claims concerning relevant matter came during joint meetings with chiefs of law enforcement bodies.

Some contribution into Ombudsman’s activity both in the sphere of rendering assistance in restoration of violated civil rights, and in legal education of people (one more task that the Ombudsman has to execute according to the republican law) are made by voluntary assistants.
In accordance with the specific of work, the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Tatarstan is a member of many committees and working groups, and takes an active part in the work of these bodies.

Namely (on the slide )

• The National Board of the charity work
• National Interagency Commission to improve the quality of life and money laundering ,
• Conscription Commission of the Republic of Tatarstan,
• Government Commission of the Republic of Tatarstan on crime prevention ,
• Interdepartmental Commission for the recruitment and employment of foreign workers in the Republic of Tatarstan,
• Working group of the harmonization of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Tatarstan,
• Coordination session on law enforcement in the Republic of Tatarstan,
• The Council for the Disabled under the President of the Republic of Tatarstan,
• The Commission of oblivion in the Republic of Tatarstan.

The Commissioner for human rights in the Republic of Tatarstan takes an active part in the Conscription Commission of the Republic of Tatarstan

Today, according to many indexes, Tatarstan is a leader among subjects of the Russian Federation in sphere of citizens training for military service. In the republic pre-conscription work with young people is being improved effectively, military-patriotic education is developing, material and technical base is being strengthened.

The Central Competition Committee of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, who checked results that have being achieved in training of citizens for military service, organization and conduction of conscription in the year of 2012, gave a similar appraisal to pre-conscription work in the republic.

In 2012 the Republic of Tatarstan has won the competition among subjects of the Russian Federation in training of citizens to military service, organization and conduction of conscription to military service for the fifth time.

In order to prevent violation of conscripts’ rights and for the rapid response to facts of their violations the Ombudsman and his representatives continue accompanying conscripts to places, where they are going to do their call-up military service.

What is also very important, is membership in the Council for the Disabled people by the President of the Republic of Tatarstan.

There are 328 000 disabled people in the Republic of Tatarstan, including 14000 – disabled children. The Government of the Republic of Tatarstan executes purposeful work on development and realization of measures on improving of life quality for people with disabilities the Republican long-term target program “Barrier free environment” for the period of 2011 – 2015 that developed an account of interests of all categories of disabled people and it is aimed to provide their easily access to all facilities of different infrastructures was adopted on September 22, 2011.

Within 2012 work on promotion of people legal education has been executed in different forms: “The School of legal science”, “A Day of legal assistance”, telephone hot-line and other.

The popularity of such actions among~~st~~ people show that citizens, especially representatives of vulnerable categories of population, are in need of both taking non-recurrent legal opinion and receiving ~~of~~ deeper knowledge in different spheres of legal relationship with follow-on use of these knowledge in practice.

Iam also thesupervisor of the state informational system of the Republic of Tatarstan “Public Control”

As a tool ofevaluation ofpublicauthoritieson the Portalof state and municipalservices in the Republicof Tatarstanfor the purpose ofpublicizingthe problems ofpopulation.In April 2012state informational system of the Republic of Tatarstan called «public control» started functioning. «Public Control» – is a service aimed at solving social problems, requiring immediate actions by theauthorities, local governments and other organizations.

Citizens’ requests in 26 categories are considered in the system. The work of the system is regulated by Tatarstan President’s Order and Decree of Cabinet of Ministers.

Every user registered on the portal uslugi.tatarstan.ru can send a request and attach video or photo. The feedback must be given within 10 days.

International partnership includes the exchange of information, meetings and participating in activities. In 2012, the Office of the Commissioner visited the Special Rapporteur of the UN Council on Human Rights in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed, the delegation of diplomats of several countries-members of the European Union in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Tatarstan, the chairman of the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms Medzhlisa Turkmenistan Pirnazar Khudainazarov.

In July 2012 the Commissioner took part in the II Russian-American Forum on the Protection of Children in Chicago (USA), where the exchange of experiences on the prevention of child abuse had been made, and in August2012-an international conferenceof ombudsmenin Bishkek(Kyrgyzstan), which issued areport on "Accessible environment as a basis for the legal community."

The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Tatarstan, Women of Tatarstan and the National Center for the Prevention of Violence "Anna" with the support of the United Nations office in the Russian Federation inform you about the international conference on "Muslim woman in the modern world” that will take part in March 2014 in Kazan, which dedicated to issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women. I invite you to attend the conference.

**Thank you for your kind attention!**