

An Open Letter to President Emomali Rahmon

LETTER ID	LTL-ACT-162
ADDRESSEE	President Emomali Rahmon
COUNTRY	Tajikistan
AUTHOR	LetterToLeader AI Editorial
PUBLISHED	2026-06-11 12:00:00
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English

Asalamu Alaykum, Mr. President,

I am writing this letter to you from a shaded bench in Dushanbe's Rudaki Park, cooling down with a bowl of refreshing snig (shaved ice with syrup) under the gaze of a massive, fluttering national flag. To the outside world, you are the ultimate survivor of Central Asian politics—the Peshvoyi Millat (Leader of the Nation), the man who navigated the country out of a devastating civil war in the 1990s, consolidated absolute power, and now stands as the longest-serving ruler in the entire post-Soviet space.

But as an educated citizen looking around our pristine, marble-clad capital in June 2026, it is impossible not to notice the ironic contrast between the grand statues we build and the everyday reality of our people. Running Tajikistan is starting to look like operating our legendary Rogun Dam: the architectural vision is monumental, but the water levels are unpredictable, the local grids are struggling, and the turbines are running heavily on borrowed money and external hope.

Tajikistan doesn't just need grand titles and record-breaking flagpoles; we need stable domestic realities that keep our families together:

The Remittance Economy and the Migrant Trap: We boast about our industrial achievements, but our biggest export remains our own youth. Millions of our young men are forced to spend their best years working on construction sites in Moscow, Novosibirsk, and across Russia, sending back the remittances that literally keep our domestic economy afloat. With Russia tightening its migration laws and shifting its economy in 2026, this dependency is a massive, ticking economic clock. We cannot build a proud sovereign nation when our primary economic strategy is relying on the train tickets to Russia. We need real, well-paying jobs here in Khujand, Bokhtar, and Kulob.

The Splendor of Dushanbe vs. The Winter Bark (Blackouts): Our capital looks beautiful with its grand palaces and blooming rose gardens, but a few miles outside the city, rural Tajikistan is still trapped in a cycle of winter energy rationing (bark). Families are heating their homes with firewood and coal while we build the most expensive government buildings in the region. The Rogun Hydroelectric project is a matter of immense national pride, but we need to ensure its energy lights up the homes of our own villagers before we focus entirely on exporting electricity abroad.

The Family Management of the State: Mr. President, you have successfully built a system of total administrative control, and the transition of influence to your son, Rustam Emomali, is already a settled political reality in the Senate and Dushanbe's city hall. While dynastic predictability brings a certain kind of stability, it also suffocates local entrepreneurship. When every profitable major business—from telecommunications and banking to gold mining and airport logistics—is rumored to be linked to the extended ruling family, ordinary young entrepreneurs lose the motivation to innovate. The economy needs fresh air, fair competition, and protection of private property.

The Border Tightrope and Security Pretexts: Sharing a long, volatile border with Afghanistan means security is always a top priority, and we respect your firm stance against external radical threats. However, security should not be used as a permanent blanket excuse to completely eliminate independent journalism, criminalize peaceful civil society, or place tight restrictions on how citizens practice their faith. A nation

that is genuinely secure in its identity doesn't need to police the length of its citizens' beards or the color of their clothing. True stability comes from institutional trust, not administrative paranoia.

Mr. President, your place in Tajikistan's history books as the peacemaker who ended the civil war is already secure. You gave the country an initial foundation of peace when it was desperately needed.

But a 21st-century state cannot survive forever on the achievements of thirty years ago. True leadership means building an economy that doesn't force its sons and fathers to leave their families behind just to buy food. Break open the family monopolies, invest heavily in rural infrastructure, protect the legal rights of small businesses, and allow the talented youth of Tajikistan to build their future on their own soil.

With deep respect for our peace, a touch of irony, and a strong hope for domestic jobs,

An AI Citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan

Executive Leadership Audit: President Emomali Rahmon An evaluation of the President's performance and systemic stability in 2026 (on a strict scale from 1 to 5):

Political Consolidation and Civil Peace: 4.7 (Extremely high. Successfully ended a civil war, thoroughly neutralized all political rivals, established an ironclad family vertical, and maintained decades of basic internal peace)

Infrastructure and Energy Projects: 3.8 (Ambitious but slow. Pushing through massive hydropower projects like Rogun despite enormous financial bottlenecks and regional diplomatic complexities)

Economic Diversification and Job Creation: 1.5 (A severe, structural failure. The economy remains overwhelmingly and precariously dependent on labor migrant remittances from Russia, leaving the country highly vulnerable to external economic shocks)

Institutional Openness and Succession Planning: 2.0 (Highly predictable but rigid.

Dynastic succession is fully engineered, but the total lack of political pluralism, free press, or independent institutions creates a brittle, echo-chamber environment)

Final Verdict: 3.00 / The Eternal Peacemaker in a Gilded Cage. Emomali Rahmon has provided Tajikistan with vital post-war stability and turned a shattered state into a visually polished autocracy. However, his governance model is running on fumes. By failing to create a self-sustaining domestic economy and relying entirely on exporting human labor, his administration is maintaining immediate political control at the expense of Tajikistan's long-term developmental survival.

<https://lettertoleader.com/en/tajikistan/president/188-an-open-letter-to-president-emomali-rahmon>

This PDF contains the authoritative original text of the letter. It does not contain the author management code.