

# Emomali Rahmon

*(unofficial CV)*

**Emomali Rahmon**<sup>1</sup> (born October 5, 1952) has served as the head of state of the Republic of Tajikistan since 1992, under the position of President since 1994.

Rahmon was born to a peasant family in Kulob, in the Kulob Oblast, now part of Khatlon province. In 1971-1974 he served in the Soviet Armed Forces. As an apparatchik rising through the nomenklatura, his original power base was as chairman of the collective state farm of his native Dangara. In 1982, he graduated from the Tajik State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Between 1976 and 1988, Rahmon was the Chairman of the Union Committee of the collective farm in the Dangara region of Kulob province. He also held various positions in leading Government divisions at that time.

In 1990, Rahmon was elected a people's deputy to the Supreme Council of the Tajik SSR. President Rahmon Nabiyev resigned in the first months of the Civil War in Tajikistan in August 1992. Akbarsho Iskandarov, Speaker of the Supreme Soviet, became acting president. Iskandarov resigned in November in an attempt to end the civil unrest. The Supreme Soviet met in Khujand and abolished the position of president that same month. Rahmon, then the Speaker of Parliament, became the head-of-government.

During the civil war that last from 1992 to 1997, Rahmon's rule was opposed by the United Tajik Opposition. As many as 100,000 people died during the war. Rahmon survived an assassination attempt in April 1997 in Khujand, as well as two attempted coups in August 1997 and in November 1998.

On November 6, 1994, Rahmon was elected to the newly created post of president of Tajikistan, and he was sworn in on November 16. Following constitutional changes, he was re-elected on November 6, 1999 to a seven-year term, taking 97% of the vote. On June 22, 2003, he won a referendum that would allow him to run for two more consecutive seven-year terms after his present term expired in 2006. The opposition alleges that this amendment was hidden in a way that verged upon electoral fraud. Rahmon was re-elected in a controversial election on November 6, 2006, with about 79% of the vote according to the official results.

He is leader of the People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan, which dominates the Tajik legislature.

The international community has repeatedly criticized the Rahmon administration's record on human rights and press freedom.

He is married to Azizmo Asadullayeva and has nine children. US diplomatic cables that were leaked by Wikileaks in 2010 corroborate the massive scale of corruption that Rahmon and his family are involved in. A cable dated 16 February 2010 from the US embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital, describes how Rahmon runs the country's economy for his own personal profit. Rahmon and his family control the country's major businesses, including the largest bank, and they "play hardball to protect their business interests, no matter the cost to the economy at large". Tajikistan's sole industrial exports are aluminium and hydroelectricity. According to the cable, most of the revenues from the "technically state-owned Tajik Aluminium Company (Talco) end up in a secretive offshore company controlled by the president" and "the state budget sees little of the income".

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<sup>1</sup> Original surname was Rahmonov, which included the Russian ending *-ov*, added to the first name of the father of Muslim Central Asian men in the 19th century to create surnames as a result of the influence of the Russian Empire. In March 2007, Rahmonov announced that he had dropped the *-ov* ending urged other Tajiks to follow his example and return to their cultural and national roots.