

<b>Country/entity</b>	Tajikistan
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	The Bishkek Memorandum
<b>Date</b>	18 May 1997
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

### Tajikistani Civil War (1992 - 1997)

Ethnic marginalization formed a key feature in the Tajikistani Civil war when liberal democrat and Islamic groups from the Garm and Gorno-Badakhshan took up arms against the government of President Rahmon Nabiyev. Members of Nabiyev's government were predominantly from the regions of Leninabad and Kulyab. Anti-government protestors took to the street following the 1991 presidential elections, which caused the government to hand out arms to pro-government militias. Following clashes, anti-government factions captured the President and forced him to resign at gun-point. A new government under the Kulyabi native, Emomali Rahmonov, who fended off democratic and Islamist militias. Eventually, with support from Islamist factions in Afghanistan, the opposition united under the United Tajik Opposition umbrella. In 1994, the UN deployed a peacekeeping force to monitor the 1994 ceasefire agreement. A peace agreement was signed in 1997 and completely removed the Leninabad 'old guard' from power.

Close  
Tajikistani Civil War (1992 - 1997)

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government
<b>Peace process</b>	Tajikistan peace process
<b>Parties</b>	(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV President of the Republic of Tajikistan  (Signed) A. NURI Leader of the United Tajik Opposition
<b>Third parties</b>	(Signed) G. MERREM Special Representative of the Secretary-General
<b>Description</b>	Memorandum between the leaders accompanying Protocol on Political Issues and the Protocol on Military Issues. Agreed that the Commission on National reconciliation would immediately begin its work. Includes Protocol on Political Issues (18/05/1997) which is coded separately.

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**Agreement document**

[TJ\\_970518\\_BishekMemorandum.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**Groups**

**Children/youth** No specific mention.

**Disabled persons** No specific mention.

**Elderly/age** No specific mention.

**Migrant workers** No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/national group** No specific mention.

**Religious groups** No specific mention.

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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**Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/ secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/ unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 4, Annex II, para 2

In this context, the next serious step forward was taken in solving the problems on the agenda of the inter-Tajik talks - a protocol on political questions was signed, which includes agreements on such basic issues as the adoption of the reciprocal-pardon act and the amnesty act; the inclusion of 25 per cent of the representatives of the United Tajik Opposition as members of the Central Electoral Commission for a transitional period; reforming the Government by including Opposition representatives in it on the basis of a quota; lifting the bans on activities by the political parties and movements of the United Tajik Opposition and the mass information media after the completion of the second phase in the implementation of the Protocol on Military Questions. In the context of the provisions of the Protocol on Military Questions, agreement was also reached on deploying in Dushanbe a contingent of the armed units of the United Tajik Opposition numbering 460 persons and also 40 persons to protect the members of the Commission on National Reconciliation.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral  
commission**

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**Political parties  
reform**

Governance→Political parties reform→Other political parties reform  
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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**Civil society**

No specific mention.

**Traditional/  
religious leaders**

No specific mention.

**Public  
administration**

No specific mention.

**Constitution**

No specific mention.

## **Power sharing**

### **Political power sharing**

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level  
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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### **Territorial power sharing**

No specific mention.

### **Economic power sharing**

No specific mention.

### **Military power sharing**

No specific mention.

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## **Human rights and equality**

### **Human rights/RoL general**

No specific mention.

### **Bill of rights/similar**

No specific mention.

### **Treaty incorporation**

No specific mention.

### **Civil and political rights**

No specific mention.

### **Socio-economic rights**

No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles  
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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**Land, property and environment**

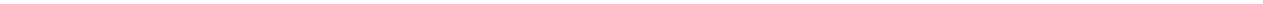
**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian  
rights or access** No specific mention.



## **Security sector**

**Security Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces** Page 4, ANNEX II, para 2  
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**Withdrawal of foreign forces** No specific mention.

**Corruption** No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime** No specific mention.

**Drugs** No specific mention.

**Terrorism** No specific mention.

**Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper  
Page 4, Annex II, para 2

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**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** Page 4, Annex II, para 3

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition agreed in subsequent talks held in Tehran and Moscow to solve the problem of exchanging prisoners of war and imprisoned persons in all its aspects and devise an appropriate mechanism for that purpose.

**Vetting** No specific mention.

**Victims** No specific mention.

**Missing persons** No specific mention.

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** Page 4, Annex II, para 4

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition agreed that, as a result of the Bishkek meeting, the obstacles that had arisen recently in the negotiation process had been eliminated and the prerequisites for successfully continuing the talks had been met. They agreed that the Commission on National Reconciliation would begin its work immediately after the signing of the general agreement on peace and national accord in Tajikistan.

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory** (Signed) G. MERREM Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

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