



**FREEDOM
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**FREE
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Committee to Protect Journalists

**Joint Submission by the Committee to Protect Journalists, Freedom for Eurasia,
and the Free Russia Foundation**

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Executive summary

1. As organizations promoting freedom of expression and the rule of law, this submission focuses on the Kyrgyz Republic's (Kyrgyzstan) compliance with international human rights obligations related to freedom of expression and press freedom and on progress made since the last review in 2020.
2. In particular, the concerns raised in this submission relate to:
 - Constitutional amendments and legislation increasing state control over media
 - Death, torture, or ill-treatment of detained journalists¹
 - Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists
 - Physical attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists
 - Denial of a right to a fair trial and appeals process
 - Invocation of anti-state and other charges against journalists
 - Blocked access to and censorship of journalists' online content.
3. We also identify a general failure of Kyrgyzstan to meaningfully implement recommendations from the previous Universal Periodic Review ("UPR") relevant to these issues.

Human rights instruments referred to in this submission

4. Kyrgyzstan adopted a new constitution on April 11, 2021. The preamble provides that the people of the Kyrgyzstan "reaffirm[] the commitment to protect and respect human and civil rights and freedoms," "declar[e] the recognition of universal human principles and values," and are "filled with a determination to promote social justice, economic prosperity, education, science and spirituality."²
5. Article 10 of the Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of expression. Specifically, "[t]he mass media shall be guaranteed the right to receive information from state and local self-government bodies and disseminate it, and the right to freedom of expression."³ Article 10(2) provides that "[c]ensorship is not allowed in the Kyrgyz Republic. The mass media are free and shall carry out their activities in accordance with the law."⁴
6. Similarly, Article 32 provides that "[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought and opinion" as well as "the right to freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of the press," among other things.⁵ Article 33 establishes the right to "freely seek, receive, store, use and disseminate information" and protections for the right of access to information.⁶ Article 63 provides that "[l]aws restricting freedom of speech, press and media shall be prohibited."⁷ However, these rights are not unqualified. Article 10(4) provides that, "[i]n order to protect the younger generation, activities that contradict moral and ethical values and public conscience of the people of the Kyrgyz Republic may be restricted by law" and "[a] list of activities to be

restricted and information to be restricted in access and dissemination shall be established by law.”⁸

7. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the principle of freedom of opinion and expression, noting that “the right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”⁹ Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 protect the right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence, and the prohibition on arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.¹⁰
8. Kyrgyzstan ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the “Covenant”) in 1994. The Covenant guarantees the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.¹¹ Article 19 sets forth that everyone “shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.”¹²
9. Kyrgyzstan ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the “Convention”) in 1997. The Convention prohibits torture and directs authorities to promptly and impartially investigate alleged acts of torture.¹³
10. The Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1988), which are not binding but provide authoritative interpretation guidance. Principle 10 provides that an individual “who is arrested shall be informed at the time of his arrest of the reason for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.”¹⁴ Principle 11 sets forth that a person “shall not be kept in detention without being given an effective opportunity to be heard promptly by a judicial or other authority.”¹⁵

Implementation of recommendations from previous review

11. Our commentary on the recommendations supported from the previous UPR cycle are contained in the matrix of relevant recommendations in Annex 1. Five recommendations that were supported or noted can be considered “partially implemented.” Those recommendations are contained in the following themes: (i) Recommendations 140.58, 140.59, and 140.63 for Theme: Prevention of torture, (ii) Recommendation 140.75 for Theme: Administration of justice & fair trial, and (iii) Recommendation 140.78 for Theme: Freedom of opinion and expression & access

to information. Numerous other recommendations relevant to freedom of expression and press freedom that were supported are “not implemented.”

Update on situation for freedom of expression since the last review

General observations

12. There are several areas of concern raised in this submission. Threats to freedom of expression and press freedom are occurring on multiple fronts: (i) constitutional amendments and legislation increasing state control over media, (ii) death, torture, and ill treatment of detained journalists, (iii) arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists, (iv) physical attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists, (v) denial of the right to a fair trial and appeals process, (vi) invocation of anti-state and other charges against journalists, and (vii) blocked access to and censorship of journalists’ online content. All of these factors are limiting the right to freedom of expression and press freedom in Kyrgyzstan. These issues must be simultaneously addressed by the state in order to ensure the aforementioned rights.

Specific issues of concern

13. For each of the themes below, a detailed list of incidents reported between 2020 and October 2024 is contained in Annex 2.

Constitutional amendments and legislation increasing state control over media

14. Since 2020, Kyrgyzstan has implemented numerous constitutional and legislative reforms that narrow press freedoms and freedom of expression, and concentrate power over civil society in the hands of a few high-ranking government officials. These include April 2021 amendments to the Kyrgyz Constitution and recent legislation granting the government sweeping power over the media.
15. Of particular concern are the April 2021 constitutional amendments, which are unduly broad and provide additional avenues for the government to take direct action against journalists and media outlets.¹⁶ The amendments also grant the President vast power over civil liberties, and appointment and removal powers over the judiciary. Such powers limit Kyrgyzstanis’ ability to assert their rights against those rights’ purported guarantor.¹⁷
16. Also of significant concern are the numerous laws passed that restrict press freedom. The August 2021 “Law on Protection from Inaccurate (False) Information” allows the government to unilaterally and extrajudicially shutter websites that contain information it deems false or inaccurate—a power the government has put to use several times since its enactment.¹⁸ The

April 2022 “Law on the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic” made the broadcaster a state agency, tightening state control over its editorial policy.¹⁹ And the April 2024 amendments to the “Law on Non-Commercial Organizations” impose onerous requirements on non-profit organizations that receive foreign funds, and subject them to the threat of arbitrary suspension or dissolution.²⁰ Many of Kyrgyzstan’s leading independent media have been run by non-profits.

Death, torture, or ill-treatment of detained journalists

17. Kyrgyz journalists endured mistreatment in prison over the past five years. Journalist and human rights defender Azimjon Askarov, who was serving a life sentence despite a 2016 U.N. Human Rights Committee determination that he had been tortured and arbitrarily detained, died in July 2020 after being denied access to a COVID-19 test.²¹ Additionally, Temirov Live director Makhabat Tajibek kyzy reported being assaulted while imprisoned in 2024.²²

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists

18. Kyrgyzstan has significantly ramped up arbitrary scrutiny of journalists since 2020, detaining and imprisoning them for long periods of time in retaliation for independent reporting, including reporting on the government or government officials. Affected journalists range from journalists working for well-known media outlets to social media bloggers.
19. Of particular concern, in May 2020, the Kyrgyzstan Supreme Court upheld the life sentence of Azimjon Askarov, who had been imprisoned since 2010. The charges against Askarov, which included incitement to ethnic hatred and complicity in the murder of a police officer, were reportedly brought in retaliation for his coverage of inter-ethnic conflict in Kyrgyzstan.²³
20. In another concerning instance, narcotic police officers extrajudicially raided the offices of Temirov Live and arrested journalist Bolot Temirov upon allegedly finding drugs in his possession. The raid came days after a Temirov Live video detailed alleged corruption by family members of the head of the State Committee for National Security. The government later filed additional charges against Temirov following his further reporting. In November 2022, Temirov was stripped of his Kyrgyz citizenship, forcibly deported to Russia, and barred from entering Kyrgyzstan for five years.²⁴
21. In January 2024, following the publication of further journalistic investigations into alleged corruption by senior government officials, Kyrgyzstan detained an additional 11 current and former Temirov Live journalists on charges of “calling for disobedience and mass riots.” On

October 10, 2024, four of the eleven were convicted, with two receiving prison sentences of at least five years.²⁵

22. Several other journalists have been detained,²⁶ including while covering elections,²⁷ or arrested and held in lengthy pre-trial detention in retaliation for their reporting.²⁸

Physical attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists

23. The past five years have seen a great number of incidents of harassment and intimidation of journalists in Kyrgyzstan, including physical attacks. Many such incidents have occurred in response to reporting critical of the government, or to prevent journalists from reporting on unfolding events. Especially in the wake of the October 2020 parliamentary elections, journalists encountered a wave of violence from both government and private actors.
24. On Election Day 2020, numerous journalists were prevented from reporting on polling places.²⁹ Some of these disruptions turned physical,³⁰ while others became violent.³¹ Harassment continued over the following days. Some physical attacks came at the hands of unidentified protestors,³² while others were perpetrated by police officers.³³ Other attacks occurred virtually, such as the bombarding of Radio Azattyk's website by thousands of threatening messages.³⁴
25. Aside from the 2020 election, a number of other concerning instances have involved physical attacks and intimidation of journalists. Of particular concern was the assault of journalist Bolot Temirov by three unidentified men in Bishkek.³⁵ In another incident, four men severely beat journalist Baktursun Jorobekov, forcing him to apologize on camera to a subject of one of his reports.³⁶
26. There have also been numerous instances of harassment and intimidation of journalists by Kyrgyz police and government officials. In several separate incidents, local Kyrgyz police and State Committee for National Security officers interrogated journalists and their families, raided journalists' offices and homes, and threatened to press charges against journalists if they did not delete or change their reporting.³⁷

Denial of a right to fair trial and appeals process

27. Over the past five years, several journalists have faced fair trial violations and lack of due process before Kyrgyz courts. In particular, the trials of Bolot Temirov and the other Temirov Live defendants have been marred by procedural violations.

28. Bolot Temirov’s conviction for passport forgery was upheld, and he was expelled from the country. Temirov challenged his summary deportation on the basis that it violated the statute of limitations and because the relevant statute under which he was charged did not provide for such a sanction. Temirov’s unsuccessful Supreme Court appeal in August 2023 saw his defense counsel muzzled and briefs in his favor inexplicably discarded, before a judge who assumed Temirov’s guilt.³⁸
29. Eleven additional Temirov Live journalists, detained in January 2024 on charges of “calling for disobedience and mass riots,” faced numerous irregularities, including arrests without warrants and lack of notice of the charges against them or reasons for detention.³⁹

Invocation of anti-state and other charges against journalists

30. Since 2020, Kyrgyzstan has increased oversight and arbitrary enforcement against media organizations, including under the “Law on Protection from Inaccurate (False) Information” and the “Law on Non-Commercial Organizations.” The government has blocked access to, and sometimes temporarily or permanently shuttered, media organizations in response to their investigative reporting.
31. Several journalists and news outlets have been charged with anti-state and other similar charges. For instance, in March 2022, the State Committee for National Security charged Next TV and its director with “inciting interethnic hatred,” securing a three-year probationary sentence for the latter.⁴⁰ And in January 2024, the Committee sealed the offices of 24.kg for investigation of a “propaganda of war” case, reopening the outlet only after its ownership changed hands.⁴¹
32. Several bloggers, activists, and journalists have been charged with “inciting mass riots,” either for promoting peaceful protests⁴² or for publishing exposés of government misconduct.⁴³

Blocked access to and censorship of journalists’ online content

33. Kyrgyzstan has cracked down on the press in recent years, including by blocking access to and censoring journalists’ reporting. The government has used different organs of the state to investigate, prosecute, and harass media organizations, sometimes shuttering outlets entirely.
34. In October 2022, the Ministry of Culture blocked the websites of Radio Azattyk—the local service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty—following a report on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border conflict. The government subsequently froze Azattyk’s bank accounts and initiated criminal proceedings, securing a court-ordered shuttering of the outlet. In July 2023, the government reversed the shuttering of Azattyk after it removed the report.⁴⁴

35. In August 2023, the Bishkek Prosecutor’s office filed an application to shutter Kloop Media in response to sharply critical reporting of the government. The government blocked Kloop’s websites and secured a court-ordered liquidation of the outlet in February 2024. Kloop’s appeal was thrown out on dubious procedural grounds, and the Supreme Court upheld the decision in July 2024.⁴⁵
36. Kyrgyzstan has initiated criminal and other types of investigations of several other news outlets in response to critical reporting, including Kaktus.media,⁴⁶ Res Publica,⁴⁷ PolitKlinika,⁴⁸ and Novye Litsa.⁴⁹

Recommendations to Kyrgyzstan by the submitting organization

Constitutional amendments and legislation increasing state control over media

37. Restore the independence of the judiciary by amending Articles 66, 70, 85, 95, 105, 109, and 116 of the Constitution, which concentrate power in the President, Prosecutor, and Ombudsman that would normally fall to the judicial and legislative branches.
38. Repeal or amend Article 10(4), which could be weaponized against journalists and media organizations, among others, to chill reporting, speech, and expression.
39. Amend the “Law on Non-Commercial Organizations” to preclude application to journalists, media outlets, and other media workers, and otherwise align the act with international human rights standards.
40. Repeal the “Law on Protection from Inaccurate (False) Information” that has been used to censor independent reporting and exert pressure on critical media. Ensure that defamation disputes are resolved exclusively under civil law and that any decisions to restrict the right to freedom of speech and freedom of the media are subject to judicial review.

Death, torture, or ill-treatment of detained journalists

41. Take measures to end all forms of torture, violence, neglect, and other ill-treatment inflicted on journalists, including the use of excessive force and physical beatings.
42. Ensure prompt and thorough investigations into the torture, physical abuse, neglect, and ill-treatment of journalists, and bring all perpetrators, including conspirators, to justice to ensure accountability.

43. Ensure that journalists who are detained are held in safe and sanitary conditions, have adequate access to food, water, bedding, and medical care, and are not subject to degrading treatment or neglect.
44. Ensure the government promptly and in full transparency pursues and finalizes an independent, effective, and impartial investigation into the torture, physical abuse, and/or neglect of Azimjon Askarov and Makhabat Tajibek kyzy and brings all those responsible to justice to ensure accountability.

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists

45. Take measures to end arbitrary detention, interrogation, and arrest of journalists.
46. Take measures to end the practice of detaining and charging journalists and members of the media with crimes in retaliation for publishing certain content or viewpoints, and for covering elections, military conflicts, and politically sensitive topics. Adopt a policy which does not conflate coverage with support.
47. Ensure that all journalists are granted the right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court in a timely manner.
48. Take measures to end lengthy pre-trial detention of journalists or detention without access to a lawyer.
49. Abolish lengthy detention without trial or in the absence of a formal charge or complaint, and ensure that arrests and detentions comply with international human rights law.
50. Conduct an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the lengthy pre-trial detention of journalists and take appropriate measures against those responsible for the violation of rights.
51. Release all jailed journalists arbitrarily detained for acts of free expression and press coverage and cease the practice of arresting journalists for such acts.
52. Release any journalists who continue to be held in lengthy pre-trial detention who have not been brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law and/or have not been accorded a trial within a reasonable time or who are appealing their conviction.
53. Immediately release Temirov Live journalists Makhabat Tajibek kyzy and Azamat Ishenbekov—who are serving 6- and 5-year prison terms, respectively, and accord them an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations.

54. Terminate the probation of, and release from any government surveillance (e.g., travel bans), the other two recently convicted current and former Temirov Live staffers, Aktilek Kaparov and Aike Beishekeyeva.

Physical attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists

55. Take measures to end intimidation of, threats to, and physical attacks on journalists by state and non-state actors.
56. Promptly and effectively investigate threats and attacks against journalists and media offices, including both physical and virtual threats and attacks, and end impunity for perpetrators of intimidation or violence against journalists and media offices.
57. Take measures to bring to justice those responsible for attacks on, and threats to, journalists and media offices to ensure accountability.
58. Establish an effective mechanism to protect at-risk journalists, in particular those covering protests, elections, military conflicts, and politically sensitive topics, that is tailored to address the needs of journalists, with necessary budget and staffing allocations for its full implementation.

Denial of a right to fair trial and appeals process

59. Ensure that all journalists are granted the right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court in a timely manner.
60. Ensure that the right of journalists to adequately prepare their defense is protected.
61. Ensure that the presumption of innocence of journalists is respected.
62. Conduct an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the expulsion from Kyrgyzstan and forced deportation to Russia of Bolot Temirov, founder of Youtube-based investigative outlet Temirov Live, the stripping of his Kyrgyz citizenship, and the prohibition on his entering Kyrgyzstan for five years, and take appropriate measures against those responsible for the violation of his rights.

Invocation of anti-state and other charges against journalists

63. Stop the arrest and detention of journalists for covering elections, military conflicts, and politically sensitive topics. Adopt a policy which does not conflate coverage with support.

64. Stop using the “Law on Protection from Inaccurate (False) Information,” Article 105 of the Constitution, and other laws, like Criminal Code Article 278, to retaliate against media outlets that cover protests against the government or express a critical viewpoint of the government.
65. Remove any disproportionate limits to freedom of expression from Kyrgyzstan laws and codes.
66. Guarantee the confidentiality of journalists’ sources.
67. Remove from legislation any penalties of imprisonment for violations of laws on freedom of speech and the press.

Blocked access to and censorship of journalists’ online content

68. Ensure that the government, including local authorities, does not arbitrarily shut down broadcasting stations and other media outlets or prevent them from operating.
69. Prohibit governmental officials from wielding the “Law on Protection from Inaccurate (False) Information” as a threat to force media outlets to remove reporting or refrain from engaging in certain kinds of coverage.
70. Ensure that media are presumed to be entitled to access to newsworthy events, especially sessions of the Kyrgyzstan parliament, other government meetings purportedly open to the public, and election-related activities.
71. Ensure that confiscated equipment from media outlets and broadcasting stations is promptly restituted or that adequate compensation is paid.
72. Establish a new independent broadcast regulator with narrowly defined powers.
73. Ensure that independent and self-regulatory associations are able to operate freely and without interference.

References

¹ The submitters define “journalists” as people who cover news or comment on public affairs in print, in photographs, on radio, on television, or online. Writers, editors, publishers, producers, technicians, photographers, camera operators, and directors of news organizations are all included. See Committee to Protect Journalists, “Frequently Asked Questions”, available at: <https://cpj.org/about/faq/>.

² See Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, enacted on May 5, 2021, Preamble, English translation available at: <https://constsof.kg/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/constitution-of-the-kyrgyz-republic.pdf>.

³ *Id.* at Article 10.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at Article 32.

⁶ *Id.* at Article 33.

⁷ *Id.* at Article 63.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ United Nations General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19, available at: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

¹⁰ *Id.* at Articles 8 – 11.

¹¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 19(1) and 19(2), available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading>.

¹⁴ Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, Principle 10, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/body-principles-protection-all-persons-under-any-form-detention>.

¹⁵ *Id.* at Principle 11.

¹⁶ American Bar Association (Jun. 5, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan: Media Crackdown Continues, In Violation of International Human Rights Law,” p. 6, available at: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/reports/special-tribunals-against-hrds/kyrgyzstan-media-crackdown-continues-may2024/.

¹⁷ American Bar Association (Jun. 5, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan: Media Crackdown Continues, In Violation of International Human Rights Law,” pp. 6-7, available at: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/reports/special-tribunals-against-hrds/kyrgyzstan-media-crackdown-continues-may2024/.

¹⁸ American Bar Association (Jun. 5, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan: Media Crackdown Continues, In Violation of International Human Rights Law,” p. 8, available at: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/reports/special-tribunals-against-hrds/kyrgyzstan-media-crackdown-continues-may2024/; Media Policy Institute (Aug. 23, 2021), “President signs law to protect against false information,” available at: <https://media.kg/news/prezident-podpisal-zakon-o-zashhite-ot-lozhnoj-informaczii/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (Aug. 10, 2021), “Kyrgyzstan parliament approves ‘false information’ bill,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2021/08/kyrgyzstan-parliament-approves-false-information-bill/>.

¹⁹ Committee to Protect Journalists (Nov. 9, 2021), “Kyrgyzstan drafts law to bring state-funded broadcaster under closer presidential control,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2021/11/kyrgyzstan-drafts->

[law-to-bring-state-funded-broadcaster-under-closer-presidential-control/](#); Media Policy Institute (Apr. 6, 2022), “Parliament in third reading approves return of OTRK to the status of state channel,” available at: <https://media.kg/news/parlament-v-tretem-chtenii-odobril-vozhrazenie-otrk-statusa-goskanala/>.

²⁰ American Bar Association (Jun. 5, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan: Media Crackdown Continues, In Violation of International Human Rights Law,” p. 9, available at: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/reports/special-tribunals-against-hrds/kyrgyzstan-media-crackdown-continues-may2024/; Committee to Protect Journalists (Oct. 25, 2023), “CPJ calls on Kyrgyzstan parliament to reject Russian-style ‘foreign agents’ bill,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2023/10/cpj-calls-on-kyrgyzstan-parliament-to-reject-russian-style-foreign-agents-bill/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (Mar. 15, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan parliament approves ‘foreign agents’ law,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2024/03/kyrgyzstan-parliament-approves-foreign-agents-law/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (Apr. 2, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan president signs Russian-style ‘foreign agents’ law,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2024/04/kyrgyzstan-president-signs-russian-style-foreign-agents-law/>.

²¹ Committee to Protect Journalists (Feb. 24, 2020), “Kyrgyzstan Supreme Court to hear appeal of journalist Azimjon Askarov,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2020/02/kyrgyzstan-supreme-court-to-hear-appeal-of-journalist/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (May 13, 2020), “CPJ condemns Kyrgyz supreme court decision upholding Azimjon Askarov’s life sentence,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2020/05/cpj-condemns-kyrgyz-supreme-court-decision-uphold/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (Jul. 25, 2020), “Journalist Azimjon Askarov dies in prison in Kyrgyzstan,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2020/07/journalist-azimjon-askarov-dies-in-prison-in-kyrgyzstan/>.

²² American Bar Association (Jun. 5, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan: Media Crackdown Continues, In Violation of International Human Rights Law,” p. 15, available at: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/reports/special-tribunals-against-hrds/kyrgyzstan-media-crackdown-continues-may2024/; Committee to Protect Journalists (Apr. 9, 2024), “Kyrgyzstan releases 4 Temirov Live journalists; CPJ calls for dropping of charges against all 11,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2024/04/kyrgyzstan-releases-4-temirov-live-journalists-cpj-calls-for-dropping-of-charges-against-all-11/>.

²³ Committee to Protect Journalists (Feb. 24, 2020), “Kyrgyzstan Supreme Court to hear appeal of journalist Azimjon Askarov,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2020/02/kyrgyzstan-supreme-court-to-hear-appeal-of-journalist/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (May 13, 2020), “CPJ condemns Kyrgyz supreme court decision upholding Azimjon Askarov’s life sentence,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2020/05/cpj-condemns-kyrgyz-supreme-court-decision-uphold/>; Committee to Protect Journalists (Jul. 25, 2020), “Journalist Azimjon Askarov dies in prison in Kyrgyzstan,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2020/07/journalist-azimjon-askarov-dies-in-prison-in-kyrgyzstan/>.

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