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Kyrgyzstan: Amnesty International welcomes the commitment to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, and urges investigation into the June 2010 violence

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Kyrgyzstan

Amnesty International welcomes Kyrgyzstan's active engagement with the UPR process and its acceptance of the majority of recommendations made by other states. The organization is concerned, however, at increasing restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and association in Kyrgyzstan, ongoing discrimination and violence against minority groups, and the continued failure to effectively investigate human rights violations committed in the context of the June 2010 violence.

Amnesty International welcomes Kyrgyzstan's acceptance of recommendations aimed at combating torture and other ill-treatment, including by ensuring that the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture is adequately resourced and remains independent.¹ The organization also welcomes commitments to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment related to the 2010 violence, with particular attention paid to allegations made by members of ethnic minorities.² Amnesty International is disappointed, however, that Kyrgyzstan rejected recommendations to adapt current recruitment guidelines with a view to increasing the representation of ethnic minorities in the police and the security forces,³ and to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.⁴ Moreover, to the organization's dismay that not a single state called for the immediate release of prisoner of conscience Azimjan Askarov.

Amnesty International welcomes Kyrgyzstan's acceptance of recommendations to protect the rights to freedom of expression and association for all, including human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society groups,⁵ and to refrain from adopting legislation that could limit the exercise of those rights.⁶ However, right now the parliament is considering draft legislation on "foreign agents", which, if adopted, could criminalize the work of human rights defenders and severely restrict the activities of NGOs in receipt of foreign funding.

While noting Kyrgyzstan's acceptance of recommendations to investigate allegations of violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons,⁷ the organization is concerned that its rejection of recommendations to enact legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Kyrgyzstan*, A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 117.16 (Switzerland), 117.17 (Chile), 117.47 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

² A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 117.48 (United States of America), 117.50 (Czech Republic), 117.53 (Republic of Korea), 117.97 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 117.98 (Argentina), 117.99 (Mexico).

³ A/HRC/29/4, recommendation 118.17 (Germany).

⁴ A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 118.18 (Czech Republic), 118.19 (Poland), 118.20 (Canada).

⁵ A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 117.111 (Uruguay), 117.112 (Belgium).

⁶ A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 117.102 (Austria), 117.103 (Canada), 117.104 (Finland), 117.105 (Norway).

⁷ A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 117.42 (Sweden), 117.43 (Slovenia).

sexual orientation⁸ and to withdraw the draft law on “formation of positive attitude to non-traditional sexual relations”,⁹ reflects a lack of real commitment to protecting LGBTI rights.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Kyrgyzstan on 24 June 2015 during its 29th session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

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⁸ A/HRC/29/4, recommendations 118.20 (Canada), 118.22 (Chile), 118.24 (Netherlands).

⁹ A/HRC/29/4, recommendation 118.21 (Austria).