

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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KYRGYZSTAN: END DISCRIMINATION AND TACKLE IMPUNITY

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME ON KYRGYZSTAN

Amnesty International welcomes Kyrgyzstan's cooperation with the UPR and its acceptance of 193 out of 232 recommendations, including recommendations on eradicating torture and ill-treatment, combatting domestic violence, and the inclusion of people with disabilities. We regret that key recommendations on eliminating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation¹ and recommendations to set up an independent body to investigate torture and other ill-treatment² were merely noted.

The human rights defender, Azimjan Askarov, died in detention on 25 July this year despite repeated calls for his release in view of the risk to his health of the COVID-19 pandemic.³ Azimjan Askarov was sentenced to life imprisonment in September 2010 under false charges and following a trial that did not meet international fair trial standards, and he alleged that he was tortured while in detention. The authorities must now thoroughly and impartially investigate the cause of Azimjan's death and ensure that anyone found responsible is held accountable.

We remain concerned that people with physical and mental disabilities face many barriers to inclusion in Kyrgyzstan, including being unable to access public buildings, such as schools, government institutions and hospitals, and public transport in violation of Article 9 of the CRPD. Furthermore, The Civil Code retains provisions making it possible to deprive people with mental disability of legal capacity, and to appoint a guardian over them in violation of Article 12 of the CRPD.

LGBTI people continue to face discrimination and violence by state and non-state actors. The LGBTI rights group Labrys has still not succeeded in bringing to justice the suspected perpetrators of a violent attack in 2015 on its office and on a private event.

Finally, we urge the Kyrgyzstani authorities to follow through with the implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle of its UPR to carry out full and impartial investigations into the human rights violations that occurred during the June 2010 ethnic violence, with special attention to allegations made by members of the Uzbek minority.

BACKGROUND

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Kyrgyzstan on 28 September during its 45th session. The above text is Amnesty International's statement on the outcome prior to the adoption of the report of the review. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the UPR review through its submission on Kyrgyzstan– <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR5809772019ENGLISH.pdf>

¹ Recommendations 140.30 (Chile), 140.32 (France), 140.33 (Germany), 140.34 (Honduras), 140.35 (Iceland), 140.37 (Ireland), 140.41 (Mexico), 140.42 (Netherlands), 140.46 (Portugal), 140.49 (Spain), 140.52 (Uruguay), 140.209 (Denmark), 140.216 (Switzerland).

² Recommendations 140.57 (Chile), 140.61 (Germany), 140.65 (Switzerland), 140.66 (Austria)

³ Recommendation 140.87 (Finland)