

RITA KARASARTOVA

FACING 15 YEARS IN PRISON

FOR PEACEFULLY PROTESTING

Kyrgyzstan

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



RITA KARASARTOVA

 Kyrgyzstan

Rita Karasartova loves spending time with her children, practising yoga, and sewing *chapans*, the traditional quilted jackets worn by people in Kyrgyzstan. But since October 2022 Rita's life has been turned upside down. She was arrested and spent months detained in a cramped cell, denied access to healthcare and unable to see or speak to her family. Now she is under house arrest and a strict curfew.

Rita is a human rights defender and an expert in civic governance. For over a decade she dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated by a corrupt and unreliable legal system. She leads the non-governmental Institute for Public Analysis and is a member of the United Democratic Movement of Kyrgyzstan, fighting against poverty and injustice.

Alongside 26 others, Rita was arrested for opposing a new border agreement that gave control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. The group called for people to peacefully demonstrate against the agreement, demanding transparency from the government. Like others, Rita feared Uzbekistan would restrict or prohibit access to water, a scarce resource in the region where loss of access could have devastating consequences.

Rita and the others were initially detained for organizing "mass disorder", and she was charged with attempting to "violently overthrow the government", which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

Demand Rita Karasartova's freedom.



WRITE TO THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR

Demand Rita is immediately released from house arrest, all charges against her dropped and that she can carry out human rights activities without fear of retaliation.

ADDRESS:

General Prosecutor
A. Toktonaliev Street, 139
Bishkek
720040
Kyrgyz Republic

EMAIL: statement@prokuror.kg

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/prokuraturakg

SALUTATION: Dear General Prosecutor

HASHTAG: #W4R23

KEEP RITA'S HOPE ALIVE

Let Rita know she is not alone by sending your messages and drawings of friendship and hope.

ADDRESS:

Rita Karasartova
c/o Civic Initiatives
Abdrakhmanova 204
Office 14
Bishkek
710040
Kyrgyz Republic

EMAIL: freedomrita@protonmail.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/rita.karasartova

HASHTAG: #W4R23

December 2023

Index: EUR 58/6989/2023 English

Front page image: © Private, © Toychubek Artyk uulu/Kloop.kg

Back page image: © Kloop.kg, © Toychubek Artyk uulu/Kloop.kg