

The systemic impunity and shrinking civic space in the Kyrgyz Republic

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organizations,

Deeply concerned about the accelerating erosion of human rights and civic freedoms in Kyrgyzstan, once considered an emerging democracy in Central Asia, which now faces an alarming rollback of fundamental rights and shrinking of civic space,

Alarmed by the adoption and enforcement of the so-called Foreign Representatives Law, which stigmatizes independent non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders, and by the **unconstitutional Government Decree** requiring additional registration of NGOs with the Ministry of Justice, further restricting freedom of association,

Condemning the politically motivated judicial harassment of human rights defenders, notably the **criminal case against human rights defender Kamil Ruziev**, arrested in September 2025, and **Azimzhan Askarov**, and the broader campaign of intimidation and retaliation against civil society,

Deeply concerned by the **refusal of law enforcement authorities to initiate criminal proceedings into the destruction of the office of Bir Duino**, an example of impunity and the lack of effective protection for CSOs,

Expressing grave concern over the **entry into force of a new Government Decree expanding access to citizens' personal data**, which holds NGOs responsible for data protection, thereby creating additional administrative pressure for CSOs,

Noting with alarm the rise of **Russian propaganda and hate speech** targeting activists, and journalists, fueling intolerance and hostility toward independent voices,

Concerned about the weakening of judicial independence and increasing pressure on the **Constitutional Court**, undermining the rule of law and access to justice,

Strongly condemning the initiative to **reinstate the death penalty** in October 2025, which contradicts Kyrgyzstan's Constitution and its international obligations under ICCPR, reversing one of the country's most important achievements — the abolition of capital punishment in 2007,

Deeply alarmed by the abolition of the **National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)** against torture, leaving victims of inhuman treatment without an independent oversight mechanism, while reports of torture, extrajudicial executions, and denial of access to lawyers persist,

Further concerned about the deteriorating situation of women, children, and persons with disabilities, who remain vulnerable to gender-based and sexual violence, with insufficient state protection and rehabilitation mechanisms,

Noting additionally that the **ban on peaceful assemblies and demonstrations has been repeatedly extended**, further restricting the constitutional right to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression,

Denouncing the prevailing culture of **systemic impunity** and the failure to investigate and prosecute violations by law enforcement and state officials, eroding public trust and creating an environment of fear and repression,

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FIDH and its members call on the authorities of Kyrgyzstan to:

- Immediately **cease all forms of judicial harassment** against human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society activists, and **drop politically motivated charges**;
- **Conduct an investigation** into the destruction of the office of Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan and bring those responsible to justice;
- **Reinstate the NPM** to prevent torture and ensure compliance with recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council and treaty bodies;
- **Refrain from reinstating the death penalty** and reaffirm commitment to international human rights obligations;
- **Repeal or substantially amend** the Law on Foreign Representatives and the unconstitutional decree on NGO registration;
- **Ensure access to justice** for all victims of violence, including women and girls with disabilities, and strengthen protection and rehabilitation services;

FIDH and its members further call on the international community to:

- Stand in **solidarity with CSOs** by providing flexible financial and political support to sustain their vital work;
- **Monitor and publicly condemn** ongoing human rights violations and the shrinking civic space in Kyrgyzstan through joint statements in multilateral fora;
- Use **all available international accountability mechanisms** to ensure justice for victims of torture, harassment, and repression;