



Dear Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee,

Oslo, 9 October 2020

To the "List of Issues" ahead of the review of Kyrgyzstan, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee wishes to add the following matters:

- Failure by Kyrgyz authorities to adequately address threats against journalists and media outlets in connection with uncovering corruption scandals, especially during the "Matraimov case"
- Kyrgyz authorities' refusal to follow recommendations from the UN Human Rights Committee and release human rights defender and political prisoner Azimzhan Askarov
- Kyrgyz authorities' guilt in ultimately causing human rights defender and political prisoner Azimzhan Askarov's death in prison
- Kyrgyz authorities' continued denial of entry to foreign human rights defenders and journalists, including Vitaliy Ponomarev (Russia), Mihra Rittman (USA) and Chris Rickleton (UK).
- Kyrgyz authorities' attempts to ban NHC/Memorial report on June 2010 events in the south of the country, including by declaring it as "extremist material" on the Ministry of Justice website.

The following issues may be better addressed by the UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, but we may include reference to them also here, as they are related to the overall political situation in the country and access to exercise of citizens' political rights:

- A general atmosphere of discrimination against ethnic minorities, including ethnic Uzbeks in the south of Kyrgyzstan
- Kyrgyz authorities' failure to adequately address instances of bride kidnapping and domestic violence and abuse of women

Best regards,

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