

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO KYRGYZSTAN**

### **BELGIUM**

- Which concrete measures do the Kyrgyz authorities intend to take in order to ensure a free and diversified press?
- More specifically, are there any plans to amend or abrogate Kyrgyzstan's current Broadcasting Law?
- How are the Kyrgyz authorities going to ensure that those responsible for acts of violence, harassments and intimidations against journalists do not remain unpunished?
- With regard to freedom of religion and belief, which concrete measure do the Kyrgyz authorities intend to take in order to guarantee the freedom of individuals or communities to manifest their religion or belief both publically and in private?
- More specifically, are there any plans to amend or abrogate Kyrgyzstan's current legislation setting up a registration system for religious groups?

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- Is there any mechanism in place or being prepared to ensure thorough, impartial and independent investigation of the recent violent events?
- When is foreseen new general election and how will be ensured its inclusiveness and transparency?
- What measures are foreseen in order
  - to strengthen freedom of opinion and expression;
  - to fight discrimination against women and domestic violence;
  - to strengthen human rights education and training of members of the police, prison and detention staff and their accountability for any violations of human rights;
  - to fight trafficking in human beings, in particular of women and children?
- Does Kyrgyzstan consider issuing a standing invitation to the human rights special procedures?

### **DENMARK**

- Which measures does Kyrgyzstan intend to take to reduce the cases of torture by the police?

- Does Kyrgyzstan intend to ease the process of registration for religious communities so that the denominations will have the right to practice their freedom of religion or belief and peaceful activities without the threat of harassment or detention from the authorities?

## **IRELAND**

- Ireland welcomes the efforts made in recent years to promote greater gender equality in Kyrgyzstan. In 2008, the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Kyrgyzstan urgently put in place a specialised body specifically responsible for gender issues. What progress has been made in this regard?
- Ireland welcomes recent reforms aimed at improving the operation of the judicial system in Kyrgyzstan. However, the UN Country Team in Kyrgyzstan has expressed concerns about the practice of the executive branch interfering with the judiciary. Are reforms to the legal framework planned to ensure the full independence of judges?
- Ireland understands that efforts have been made to promote media freedom in Kyrgyzstan. However, the number of reported attacks on journalists appears to have increased in 2009. What further efforts are being taken to protect journalists and ensure freedom of the media?

## **LITHUANIA**

- What steps Kyrgyz authorities plan to undertake to secure freedom of association, especially in the light of the recent developments related to the adoption of amendments to the Law on Non-commercial Organizations of 2000 and the Law on State Registration of Legal Entities of 1996?
- Recently there were several calls from the international community on the Kyrgyz authorities to do their utmost in regaining reputation of a country where freedom of expression is enjoyed. What measures were taken by competent authorities to ensure accountability of the perpetrators of brutal attacks against journalists and in answering to the mentioned calls?

## **SLOVENIA**

- What specific measures do the Kyrgyz authorities intend to take to improve and guarantee freedom of the press, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly in the country?

## **SWEDEN**

- Freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly are protected by the constitution of Kyrgyzstan and the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights, to which Kyrgyzstan is a party. At the same time, civil society organisations have reported increased difficulties for journalists in the exercise of their profession over the past few years. A number of journalists have been prosecuted for libel and slander. Numerous journalists have suffered physical attacks which the Government in some cases has condemned. Newspapers have allegedly been closed down.

Could the Government of Kyrgyzstan elaborate on measures it is taking to fully protect the freedom of expression, including by way of protecting the security of journalists and ensuring that legislation and the exercise of public authority with regard for example to protecting the honour and reputation of individuals do not contradict the object and purpose of the freedom of expression?

- Kyrgyzstan is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while several aspects of the well-being of the child are protected by the constitution of Kyrgyzstan. While corporal punishment is prohibited in some settings in Kyrgyzstan, it remains legal in others, including in the home and in schools. Furthermore, civil society organisations report that violence against children remains widespread. In its latest consideration in 2000 of Kyrgyzstan, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended the government of Kyrgyzstan to prohibit corporal punishment of children in the family, in schools and in care institutions. In its general comment no. 8 (2006), the CRC recommended all states to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment against children, stating that the punishment “directly conflicts with the equal and inalienable rights of children to respect for their human dignity and physical integrity,” in contravention of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- What measures is the Government of Kyrgyzstan taking to ensure full legal and practical protection of the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including corporal punishment in any setting?

## **SWITZERLAND**

- How are the Kyrgyz authorities planning to ensure that the freedom of expression is guaranteed for all citizens, including for media representatives and human rights defenders?
- What steps are underway to amend the Kyrgyz National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) draft proposal to make it fully compliant with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and when do you think the draft NPM legislation may be adopted by Parliament and the NPM established?
- How do the Kyrgyz authorities envisage implementing the recent recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, in particular regarding domestic violence and bride kidnapping ?

## UNITED KINGDOM

- We would be grateful for information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report.
- Please could you inform us as to whether an independent national human rights institution exists in your country and operates in accordance with the Paris principles?
- The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights assessed the December 2007 Parliamentary elections and July 2009 Presidential elections as failing to meet key OSCE commitments. Could you please provide an outline of how the Kyrgyz Government intends to improve the status of future Parliamentary and Presidential elections?
- Could you please provide details of the Kyrgyz Government's investigations into the incidents of violence and harassment against journalists in the run-up to and since the July 2009 Presidential elections?
- We would be grateful for information on what measures will be taken by the Kyrgyz Government to ensure future security of reporters and human rights defenders?
- We understand that the initial deadline for establishment of Kyrgyzstan's National Preventative Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the CAT was December 2009 and that a draft proposal has been prepared. Could you please provide a revised timeline outlining when this may be adopted by Parliament and the NPM established?
- Could you please provide further details of the Kyrgyz Government's response to allegations of torture from detainees following events in Nookat in October 2008?
- Could you please elaborate on Kyrgyz efforts to eliminate corruption within the judiciary and to ensure its full independence?
- Could you please provide details of the Kyrgyz Government's efforts to ensure freedom of religion and conscience, particularly amongst minority and non-traditional groups?
- Please could you confirm whether there is an intention to conclude the agreement between the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Kyrgyz Government establishing the OHCHR regional office?

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