



JUBILEE CAMPAIGN

ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (2003)

United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – THIRD CYCLE

Submission to the 35th session of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Working Group

July 2019, Geneva Switzerland

The Kyrgyz Republic

Submission by
Jubilee Campaign

Jubilee Campaign is a non-profit organization which promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities. We assist individuals and families seeking asylum in the West from religious-based persecution as well as promoting the care and well-being of larger groups of refugees fleeing religious and ethnic persecution. Jubilee Campaign holds consultative status at the United Nations from the Economic and Social Council.

A Vital Voice for Those Suffering in Silence

9689-C Main Street · Fairfax, VA 22031-3746 TEL: (703) 503-0791 FAX: (703) 503-0792

EMAIL: jubilee@jubileecampaign.org

P.O. Box 700 · Addlestone · Surrey, KT15 9BW · United Kingdom

JUBILEE CAMPAIGN IS A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

United Nations Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review of the Kyrgyz Republic

1. Introduction

1.1. Methodology

1. The information was collected from various sources on the ground amongst others World Watch Monitor.

2. UPR context

2. The Kyrgyz republic was previously reviewed in 2015. They received around 190 recommendations of which they accepted 150.

3. Freedom of Religion

3. Since the previous review The Kyrgyz Republic continues to uphold the restrictive law which requires 200 members for a religious organisation to be registered.

As relating to incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence

4. There are numerous cases of locals attacking Christian converts from Islam calling them infidels but they rarely result in the attacker facing charges. A young Kyrgyz Christian was hospitalised after an attack in November 2018, leaving a fractured jaw. He was attacked in the north-eastern Issyk Kul region.¹ The local officials refused to recognise the attack as a hate-crime.
5. Converts from Islam face discrimination and persecution in Kyrgyzstan from their family, friends, but also the wider community and local officials on occasion. In July 2018 local officials, imams and representatives of the Prosecutor's office and Ministry of Internal Affairs forced a church to close. They threatened the pastor who was a convert from Islam.²
6. Kajisay Baptist Church in Kyrgyzstan has experience its third attack since 2013. In January 2018 locals attempted to set fire to the church. Police officers who investigated the case spent substantive time interrogating the church members and asking how they were financed. The local council leader denied the attack being hate-motivated.
7. In August 2017 in Tokmok, northern Kyrgyzstan local Islamic radicals spray-painted death sentences on the church wall. Local officials did not investigate further.

3.1. Recommendations

Jubilee Campaign recommends the Kyrgyz Republic:

8. Take decisive action in holding the instigators of violence and hate crimes against Christians accountable for their actions.

¹ <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/coe/young-kyrgyz-christian-hospitalised-while-his-attackers-go-free/>

² <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/church-of-muslim-converts-told-to-close-in-kyrgyzstan/>

9. Train police officers of the fundamental basis of religious freedom and how it includes the freedom to choose a belief or none.
10. Introduce an effective complaint mechanisms for the abused to be able to appeal faulty police officer decisions which limit the freedom of religion and choice.
11. Repeal the restrictive law for religious organisations to be registered to be wholly pro forma and cease from placing a numeric threshold for a religious organisation to be recognised.

4. Women's rights

12. The Kyrgyz republic have taken positive steps through their introduction of the 2017 domestic violence law. Unfortunately however, impunity is still widespread. The Prosecutor's general's office reported more than 9000 cases of violence against women, 5 456 were registered as administration cases and only 784 as criminal cases.
13. There are still reports of neglect by police officers such as with the case in May 2018 when a man stabbed 20-year old Burulai Turdaaly Kyzy, whom he had attempted to kidnap. Police placed them in the same cell in a prison during the investigation. The Kyrgyz Republic however, charged the police officers for misconduct and sentenced the man to 20 years in prison.
14. Despite tightened laws the OSCE estimated around 12 000 women were kidnapped each year.

4.1. Recommendations

In line with CEDAW the Kyrgyz Republic should

15. Strengthen its legislation and law enforcement in particular preventing, investigating, pushing and providing reparation for all crimes of abduction and related sexual violence.
16. The Kyrgyz Republic should undertake to educate local police regarding the correct administration of the domestic violence laws, recognising spousal rape as a criminal offence not merely administrative.
17. Grant further funds to shelter of victims of abuse by the next reporting period.
18. Train police officers by the next reporting period on how to deal with cases of kidnapping, to have a victim-focused approach to avoid cases such as Burulai Turdaaly kyzy.

4.2. Advance questions

19. What steps has the Kyrgyz Republic taken to crack down on bride-napping and child marriage?
20. What steps are the Kyrgyz Republic planning to take in the future during the next reporting period?