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Kyrgyzstan: woman human rights defender Aziza Abdirasulova fined

On 25 November 2022, the Pervomaisky District Court of the City of Bishkek fined woman human rights defender **Aziza Abdirasulova**. The Court found woman human rights defender guilty for exhibiting disobedience to the lawful demand of an employee of the internal affairs bodies, a violation envisioned by the Article 128 of the Code of Offenses of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. Aziza Abdirasulova was violently detained while monitoring a peaceful protest in Bishkek on 15 November 2022. The Court ordered that the woman human rights defender must pay the fine of 3,000 SOM. Aziza Abdirasulova appealed this decision and filed a complaint against the law enforcement officer, who violently detained her.

[Aziza Abdirasulova](#) is a woman human rights defender from Kyrgyzstan. She is a founder of the Public Foundation “Kylym Shamy.” Its purpose is to support the development of a democratic, legal state through the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms. As part of its activities, “Kylym Shamy” provides free consultations on legal issues, analyzes, monitors, and conducts research on the decisions of state bodies, participates in the protection of human rights, and the preparation of drafts of normative legal acts in this direction. Its representatives are involved in monitoring detention facilities and providing legal assistance in cases of torture.

On 25 November 2022, the Pervomaisky District Court of the City of Bishkek fined Aziza Abdirasulova after finding her guilty for exhibiting disobedience to the lawful demand of an employee of the internal affairs bodies. Aziza Abdirasulova was violently arrested on 15 November 2022, in the city center of Bishkek, while she was monitoring human rights violations during the peaceful protest against the transferring on the Kempir-Abad water reserve. The law enforcement officers, among whom was Tilek Tiukebaiev, Police Colonel and Deputy Head of the Bishkek Police Department, violently pushed her to the ground, and detained her on site. The law enforcement officers claimed that the woman human rights defender was under the influence of alcohol. Moreover, despite the fact that the footage of arrest was available and widely circulated among various media outlets, during the court hearing the law enforcement officers stated that they “behaved politely” towards the woman human rights defender. Aziza Abdirasulova was released from detention on the evening of 15 November 2022.

On 14 November 2022, Aziza Abdirasulova was a subject of intimidation by law enforcement officers because of her vocal position and calls for transparency regarding the Kyrgyzstan government’s decision to transfer the Kempir-Abad water reserve to Uzbekistan. Woman human rights defender received a late evening invitation for an informal conversation from the Head of the Police Department #10 of Bishkek, Shumkar Sulaimanov, who threatened her because of her Facebook-based publications about Kempir-Abad water reserve and unjust persecution of human rights defenders and civic activists, who were opposed the transferring of the water reserve to Uzbekistan.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the intimidation and judicial harassment of woman human rights defender Aziza Abdirasulova, as it is certain that she is being targeted for her peaceful human rights work in Kyrgyzstan. It is also concerned about the scope of repressions against human rights defenders and journalists in Kyrgyzstan, especially with regards to the transferring of Kempir-Abad water reservoir. Such targeting has a chilling effect on the overall situation with human rights and freedoms in Kyrgyzstan.

Front Line Defenders calls upon the state authorities in Kyrgyzstan to:

1. Immediately cease the prosecution and judicial harassment of woman human rights defender Aziza Abdirasulova, cancel the fine, and ensure her physical and psychological security and integrity;
2. Carry out an immediate and impartial investigation into the violent attack by law enforcement officers against woman human rights defender Aziza Abdirasulova while she was carrying out her human rights work;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan can carry out their human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, in line with the Kyrgyzstan's international human rights obligations and commitments.

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