

30 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE OF KYRGYZSTAN: POWER OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY.

LESSONS OF MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIP

The last two years - 2020 and especially 2021 - have been full of events and challenges for the whole world, including Kyrgyzstan. The atmosphere was heated by critical analysis and negative expert assessments. However, despite the general pessimistic tone, they were of great benefit both for representatives of the new government and politicians, and for citizens who found themselves "trapped by threats of systemic risks, conflicts and disasters, including a pandemic". It was the Kyrgyz-style shock therapy that allowed the society to quickly part with the "rose-colored glasses" of the protracted transition from the post-Soviet period to the reality of the independent existence of both the country and the nation.

What successes and problems did Kyrgyzstan have by the time of celebration of its 30-year independence?

Over the course of 30 years, the social system and values of the society have changed in the country, and a new, independent generation of people who are able to think independently has grown up. Five presidents have been replaced in Kyrgyzstan during this period, three "revolutions" have taken place. Kyrgyzstanis actively express their political position both in the media, social networks, and at rallies. However, the key problems have remained unsolved all these years: corruption, unemployment, low level of education, migration of the employable population, human rights violations at all levels.

The Public Association Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" has been making efforts to solve these and other problems of the state and society for 20 years.





The PA "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" is the legal successor of the Human Rights Center "Citizens Against Corruption", which was awarded the French Republic Prize "Freedom, Equality and Fraternity" in 2009 for its contribution to the protection of human rights.

Bir Duino is an impartial non-profit organization that carries out its activities in strict accordance with the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan's international obligations in the field of protection of human rights and freedoms, the Civil Code of the KR, the Law of the KR on Non-Profit Organizations, other legislative acts of the KR, international documents ratified by the KR, the Code of Honor of the Global Network of Public Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR). Besides that, it is a network organization, a member of FIDH, CSP, WLP, VFL/GNDR.

The mission of Bir Duino is to protect human rights and freedoms on the basis of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by Resolution 217 A (III) of the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948 https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/declhr.shtml) by promotion of respect for human dignity, the principles of universality and equality.

The PA Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino" received several government awards, as well as awards of the Ombudsman Institution, GAMSUMO of the KR for the continuous protection of human rights in Kyrgyzstan. Bir Duino is an honorary member of the Union of Cinematographers of the KR.

Bir Duino's style of work is immersion into the problem, understanding it at the level of each member of the community, searching for solutions based on international experience, developing recommendations to government structures.

In this newsletter, we present the results of Bir Duino's work in 2021, with due account for 30th anniversary of independence of Kyrgyzstan.

**Бир Дуйно
Кыргызстан**

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I. Security (internal and external)

1. Rural-urban gap (inequality)

From 2019 to 2021, the PA Bir Duino–Kyrgyzstan, together with key partner organizations, conducted a study in three regions of the KR (Osh, Jalal-Abad, Issyk-Kul) based on innovative tools for the Views from the Frontline project. The results demonstrated the existence of gaps (inequality) between communities, key decision-making institutions, and people living in risk and disaster areas.

The people covered by the study critically assessed their living environment, talked about the difficulties associated with systemic threats, disasters, and raised the following questions:

- ✓ Why hasn't Kyrgyzstan become a stable country providing internal and external security to the state and citizens during 30 years of independence?
- ✓ What are the results of the reforms after the revolutions of 2005, 2010 and October 2020?
- ✓ Why haven't numerous reforms of law enforcement agencies eradicated the methods of the punitive system from the Soviet past?
- ✓ Why are the KGB archives of the USSR only partially open for the study of tragedies and closed topics of history?
- ✓ Why haven't the systemic threats of 92 uranium tailings left over from the times of the USSR, causing the threat of environmental disasters for the entire region of Central Asia, been resolved over the years?
- ✓ How effective are national action plans to combat corruption, promote gender equality and gender justice?
- ✓ How do tools for peace-building and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, including girls and women, work during the times of crises and disasters?
- ✓ What is the role of political parties and parliamentary control during elections at all levels and the promotion of the right of citizens to exercise their constitutional right to "elect and be elected"?
- ✓ Why are unemployment and poverty increasing, especially in the regions of the country?
- ✓ How does the National Council under the President of the KR work to implement and promote the Sustainable Development Goals in the KR?
- ✓ How can we jointly manage new risks and challenges, including the pandemic, from the level of communities to the national, regional and global levels?
- ✓ Why is there no access to fair justice in the Kyrgyz Republic?



Initiatives of the solidarity network of Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan

These threats were announced following the discussions of Bir Duino's Report with the Ombudsman of the KR and it was recommended that the authorities of the KR take urgent measures to discuss and adopt a new Action Plan to prevent emergencies in the KR and in the region of Central Asia.

"Uranium and other toxic tailings dumps located on the territory of the Central Asian states are one of the most important problems today. It arose several decades ago, after the collapse of the USSR. Today, more than ever before, this problem requires a large-scale and joint solution as soon as possible. The lives of tens of millions of people and many states depend on how quickly and successfully it will be solved.

Earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, weathering, soil erosion - this is just an incomplete list of factors that multiply the risks of transnational radiation disaster and environmental disaster. Their consequences can be very severe for all of us. In this regard, I appeal to the Government and the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, to the governments and parliaments of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, to the UN and its Structural Offices, to international financial structures, as well as to international human rights and environmental organizations: it is irresponsible, dangerous for the lives of many millions of people and UNACCEPTABLE to postpone to a later date the cardinal solution of issues related to the prevention of risks and threats posed by uranium tailings in Central Asia!" - said the Ombudsman of the KR Tokon Mamytov.

https://ombudsman.kg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=604:statement-by-the-ombudsman-of-the-kyrgyz-republic-on-uranium-and-other-toxic-tailings-in-kyrgyzstan-as-well-as-the-risks-associated-with-them&catid=18&Itemid=330&lang=ru



2. Pandemic and the beginning of civic engagement

COVID-19 exposed the systemic problems of the state to society, demonstrated the insufficient efforts of the authorities to manage risks during emergencies and the inability to develop an action plan to prevent them so that they do not become large-scale disasters.

Every Kyrgyzstani faced the risk of dying from the disease during the pandemic, especially during the first wave of COVID-19. No one felt safe. But the situation of people from vulnerable segments of society, who were in closed institutions, was the most difficult. Monitoring of the conditions of detention of prisoners in pre-trial detention centers and prisons showed that they were deprived of the protection of their fundamental right - the right to life.

Against the background of the managerial crisis, Kyrgyzstanis have witnessed shallow and failed state programs. Multimillion-dollar loans received from international organizations were spent inefficiently. Many government officials and deputies of the Kyrgyz Parliament went on vacation during the large-scale crisis. The report of Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan says that the authorities thus "distanced themselves from many problems." Human rights activists criticized the authorities for the ineffective fight against COVID-19.

During this critical period, people had the opportunity to see the reasons for the failure of reforms during the changes of power through the revolutions of 2005 and 2010, to see the real picture of the ability or inability of the authorities to manage risks and prevent disasters in the changing world.

At the same time, these hardships gave strength and civic will to the development of widespread volunteerism. The active and conscious part of the Kyrgyzstanis have an understanding of the importance of civic responsibility, the need for equal participation in the decision-making process, the demand for new civic initiatives to promote key steps to overcome difficulties, including the development of strategies for future reforms in the presence of effective government from local to national and global levels. The new wave of civic activism in Kyrgyzstan has shown that the expansion of civic participation in politics through the increased attention of the authorities to public opinion imposes new demands and conscious responsibility on citizens themselves.

P carried out impartial civil monitoring and assessment of the leadership qualities of the branches of government, including the opposition and representatives of business structures and their ability to manage risks and disasters during the emergencies in the country.

The pandemic has revealed new, enterprising like-minded activists, politicians and honest businessmen who are ready to take responsibility. Citizens discussed the importance of elections at all levels and electing the established leaders with real programs, which influenced the realization of citizens' electoral rights to "elect and be elected" in elections at all levels, from local to presidential and parliamentary during 2021.

Right now many countries are trying to improve and develop civil society. As a result, they change the idea of politics and expand the very concept of politics. They create the politics in which not only the government, but also the citizens themselves take responsibility for their well-being. This is what happened in Kyrgyzstan during the pandemic.

3. National Dialogue

The world has changed, and the rules of relations between all sectors of society have changed in the face of new challenges, risks and conflicts to solve socially significant problems and prevent large-scale disasters. Many leaders have learned lessons of the past, realized the gaps between the institutions of power and the people, so they began discussing key issues at civic forums, during expert dialogues and consultations to develop a multilateral approach and develop platforms for finding innovative ways to solve problems and prevent them.

On 15 November 2021, the PA Bir Duino, together with its partners, organized a Nationwide Dialogue "Community Leaders from Local to Global: Partnership of Government, Civil Society and Inclusive Business of the KR to Promote Reforms in a Changing World."

The purpose of the large-scale event is to give an opportunity to voice the most pressing problems of local communities from seven regions to government representatives.

Social insecurity, poor quality of education and medical care, unemployment, difficulties in obtaining documents - these and other problems were voiced by Kyrgyzstanis who came from the hinterlands.

Edil Baisalov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the KR and an active participant in the Dialogue, noted: "Now it is important to use deliberate recipes developed together with our citizens for the success of both the announced reforms and for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, time demands responsibility from each of us."

Zainidin Kurmanov, Professor, also noted: "All Kyrgyzstanis, and especially government officials, should know that a state consists of three leading sectors: government, business and civil society. The success or failure of each country depends on how these three important structures cooperate and interact with each other. Unsuccessful countries are usually those where there is a discord between them or the government suppresses or subordinates business or civil society. Conversely, prosperity is observed where all three sectors have established partnership with each other, because each of them can do a lot for the development of the state, each of them has its own wide arsenal of opportunities, resources, personnel and ideas. In this regard, we hope that the Kyrgyz Republic will finally be able to do what the previous ruling regimes failed to do for almost 30 years. We just need to learn to hear and understand each other, because we all have one country, one homeland, which we would like to serve," said Professor, political scientist Zainidin Kurmanov at the opening of the National Dialogue.

The participants of the Dialogue will continue to work together in 2022-2023 to implement key recommendations in three areas: issues of external and public security; issues of gender imbalance in the KR; promotion of equal access of citizens to politics and resources.

For the success of joint partnership in these areas, it is important to strengthen civic monitoring and advocacy together with activists and community leaders in partnership with government representatives, from local to global levels, including the development of indicators for the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report. The KR plans to submit an interim report in summer of 2022.



4. Climate change: the rights of vulnerable groups, including women and children

The partner solidarity network People Changing the World, which includes Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan, operates based on the principles of horizontal leadership and equal participation in the decision-making process at all levels of government.

A new understanding and assessment of the human rights situation were very important, since the "classical approach to the protection of human rights" almost does not work anymore due to the dominance of irresponsible business, oligarchs in politics, who were mainly passionate about "political corruption", merged with the authorities for the benefit and implementation of joint economic programs, destroying nature and ecology. The saddest thing about it is that neither the authorities nor the oligarchs pay attention to the demands and needs of people living in the regions of the country. In the course of enrichment, they leave the destroyed infrastructure, increase poverty and hopelessness of families due to large-scale spontaneous both external and internal migration, increase the illiteracy of vulnerable groups of citizens. This is evidenced by indicators of the quality of life of Kyrgyzstanis.

It is important to note the new initiative of the Kyrgyz authorities, which, together with representatives of UNDP, held the first meeting to discuss the indicators of the UN Development Program Report and expressed the political will for rapid change. The report includes a new experimental human development index that takes into account carbon dioxide emissions in countries and their material footprint, or so-called "human pressure on the planet." The report claims that in the Anthropocene epoch, or the "epoch of humanity", people are the driving force of both global development and socio-economic and environmental crises.

The content of the Report was reviewed and discussed at the presentation with the participation of representatives of the Presidential Administration of the KR, the Cabinet of Ministers of the KR, other government agencies, representatives of diplomatic missions, international organizations and the donor community, as well as representatives of NGOs and the expert community, academia, university teachers and students.

The First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Daniyar Imanaliev, stressed: "At present there are great risks for the sustainable development of the Kyrgyz Republic. Therefore, the Ministry of Economy and Finance is working in several areas, which are based on the principles of sustainable development and green economy. I would like to emphasize that, we are working in cooperation with the United Nations, to integrate the principles of the green economy, we are also making efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the process of discussing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)."

Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan and the partner network welcome this Dialogue and believe that the key recommendations of this meeting will be included in the new Action Plan of the KR for the Prevention of Risks, Conflicts and Disasters in the Kyrgyz Republic, and support the readiness of the KR to join the group of countries "with the Highest Human Development Index", as thanks to the political will and innovative initiatives of the KR, it has moved from 126th to 120th place based on the development quality index.

In addition to the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Kyrgyzstan and reducing the ecological footprint, the report proposes a number of measures, including modernization of waste management, reduction of fossil fuel subsidies and promotion of ecotourism, which can be the driving forces of Kyrgyzstan's transition to a greener and more prosperous future.

This initiative was announced by President of the KR Sadyr Japarov at the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. In his speech, he said: "We propose to provide separate targeted funding for mountain countries in need and create a special fund under the auspices of the United Nations to implement climate change adaptation programs with an emphasis on preserving glaciers, forests and biodiversity, improving preparedness for natural disasters, socio-economic support for mountain communities, especially women and children."

At the UN General Assembly session, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Mountain Countries, President of the KR Sadyr Japarov initiated "declaring 2022 the International Year of Mountains, approving a five-year program for sustainable development of mountain regions and convening the Bishkek+25 Global Summit in 2027."

On 16 December, at the plenary meeting of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, a resolution was adopted declaring 2022 the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development.



II. HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIMES OF DISASTERS AND CRISES

1. Border. Tragedies in border zones: protection and safety of citizens of Batken region in 2022

As a result of military aggression by Tajikistan (April-May 2021), 36 civilians were killed and 190 wounded in Batken oblast. Over 40 thousand people were evacuated from the conflict zone.

Participants of the Expert Forum "Peace. Security. Development: Lessons of Military Conflicts on the Border of the Batken Region of the Kyrgyz Republic" noted that Tajikistan committed military aggression against Kyrgyzstan. Human rights activists and experts called on President Sadyr Japarov to take urgent measures to recognize Tajikistan's military actions as an act of aggression against sovereign Kyrgyzstan. They also appealed to the competent state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic in order to develop an appeal to the Special Rapporteur and the UN human rights committees, to develop a plan for further actions to prevent a possible re-

currence of the armed clashes that occurred in the risk zones of the border areas of Batken oblast. They also request to launch the OSCE Moscow Mechanism to investigate the conflict on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border.

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) states in its press release, "FIDH and members are concerned about reports of the use of indiscriminate force against civilians and facilities. It is reported that the conflict over the watershed point, which began on 28 April, turned into an armed clash between the border military units of the two states on 29 April. There is evidence of the use of machine guns, mortars and aircraft missiles by military personnel. Our organizations remind us that the use of explosive weapons with a wide range of weapons in large and small settlements, due to the indiscriminate nat-

ture of such weapons, exposes civilians to great danger and is prohibited by International Humanitarian Law (IHL). IHL also prohibits attacks against the civilian population or objects. Our organizations are absolutely convinced that attacks against the civilian population and the destruction of civilian infrastructure on the border territories of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are unjustified and constitute a gross violation of IHL and international human rights law."

The association "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" made an Appeal.

"... We believe that the absence of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission has had a negative impact on documenting the true extent of human rights violations, determining the scale of the consequences of the armed aggression, the impunity of conflict participants, and the possibility of preventing subsequent clashes and conflicts in border areas of Central Asian countries.

The question of the role of the CSTO and its participation in preventing the escalation of the conflict remains open for us, since on the eve of the events, on 27 April, a meeting of the CSTO Council of Ministers of Defense was held in Dushanbe, and on 29 April, a meeting of the CSTO Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils.

The Republic of Tajikistan signed and ratified the Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2001. The ratification of the Rome Statute makes it possible to use the UN legal mechanisms and extend the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to the war crimes committed by the Tajik authorities. The actions of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan are an armed aggression and constitute a war crime", the Appeal of Bir Duino says.

In 2022, Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan and partner organizations will continue to work with the national human rights institutions of the KR and lawyers to protect the rights of victims of aggression (10 citizens abducted and held in the Gafurov district Police Department of Tajikistan, who suffered torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officers of the Gafurov district Police Department), to protect family members of the girl killed during the shooting.

On 11 May 2021, an online expert forum was held with OSCE/ODIHR experts on the results of the border conflict in the Batken region. The online discussion brought together representatives of NGOs from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in order to create a constructive dialogue and develop recommendations for further settlement of the current post-conflict situation. The speakers were: Graziella Pavone, Heidi Meinzolt, Tolekan Ismailova, Muatar Khaidarova, Jamilia Kaparova and others. This meeting was useful for both partners from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to continue working together with solidarity networks on peace-building and the common fight against impunity in the Central Asian region.



2. Torture and violence

The lawyers of Bir Duino work with focus groups that include the most vulnerable people, for example, with girls and women who have suffered sexual violence, representatives of national minorities who have experienced interethnic conflict and are seeking justice since June 2010.

Bir Duino has been accompanying the defense of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov and his family members in the courts of all instances since 2010.

Protection of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov

Protection of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov
Since June 2010 Bir Duino has been protecting the rights of national minorities, demanding equal rights and equal access to justice for them.

One of the most famous cases of the Bir Duino team is the 10-year defense of human rights activist Azimzhan Askarov.

Askarov, an ethnic Uzbek, had been tracking and documenting cases of torture and abuse by law enforcement officers in his native community for more than a decade. During the interethnic clashes between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in Osh in June 2010, as a result of which about 470 people died, Askarov documented cases of violence and looting in Bazar-Korgon.

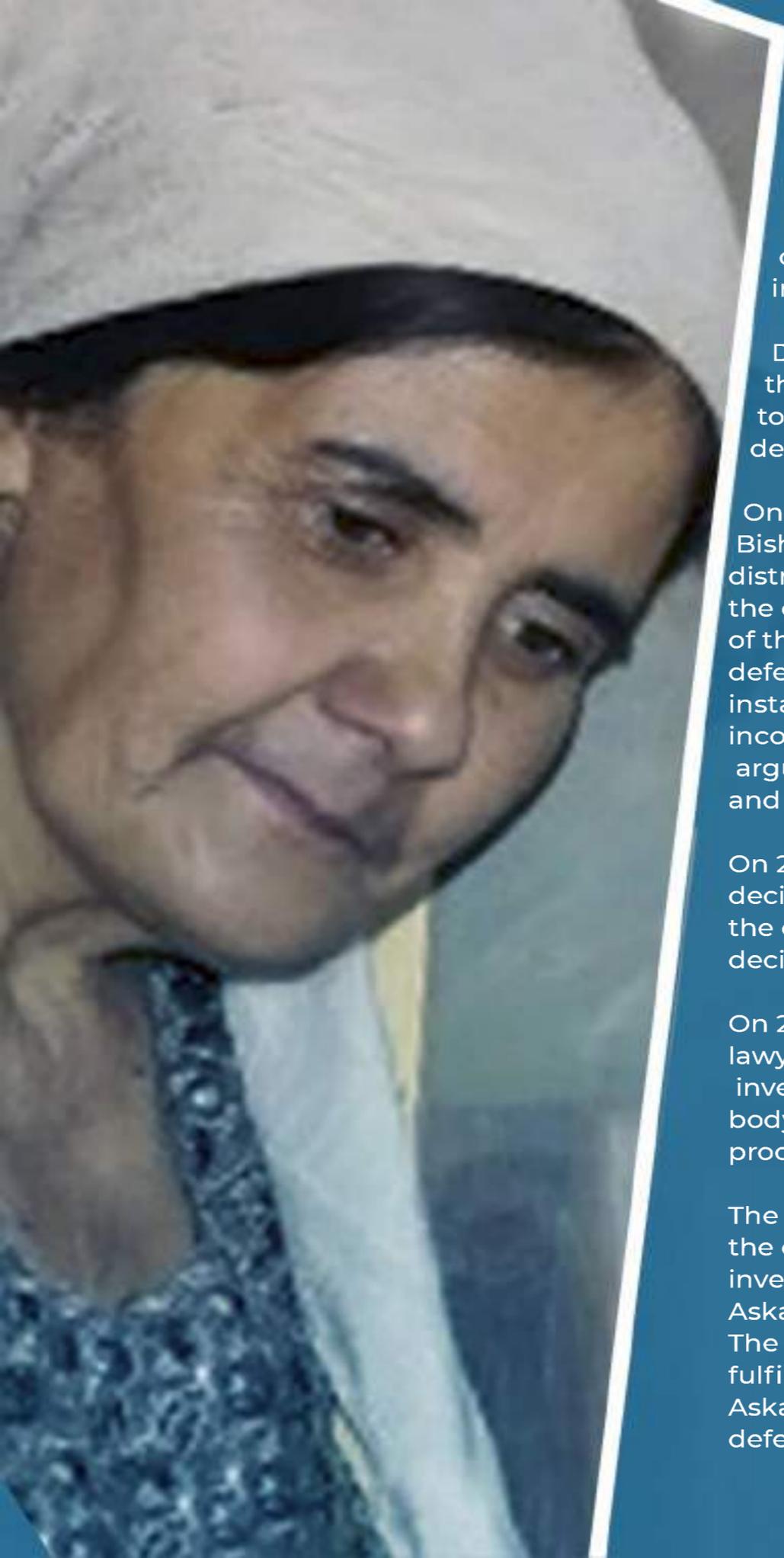
On 15 June 2010 Askarov was arrested and accused of organizing mass riots and killing a policeman. Askarov's defense provided witnesses who claimed that the human rights defender was at home at the time of the policeman's murder.

On 15 September 2010, the court found Askarov guilty of the charges against him and sentenced him to life in prison.

In 2016 the UN Committee demanded that the Kyrgyz authorities annul the sentence against Askarov and release him from custody, but this did not happen. A retrial of his case was held in court, however the verdict remained the same.

On 25 July 2020 Askarov died in prison due to coronavirus.





On 26 June 2021, a briefing was organized dedicated to the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and on the situation with the further protection of the rights of Azimzhan and Khadicha Askarova. The briefing was attended by employees of the Ombudsman Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic, NCPT of the KR, the Ambassador of the French Republic, HRW, journalists. The lawyers of Bir Duino provided information on the work on investigation of the death of the human rights defender Askarov and the inheritance of his property by his wife.

During the year, cooperation with the lawyers Kh. Saliev, A. Sydykov, B. Avtandil uulu on the case of A. Askarov has been conducted. Lawyers Aidar Sydykov, B. Avtandil continue to defend the rights and interests of Khadicha Askarova after the death of human rights defender A. Askarov on 25 July 2020 in Penal Colony 47.

On 27 July 2021, on the basis of the appeal of attorneys B. Avtandil and A. Sydykov, the Bishkek City Court canceled the earlier decision of the investigative judge of the Sverdlovsk district of Bishkek on termination of proceedings based on the attorney's complaint regarding the decision of the investigator of the State Penitentiary Service under the Ministry of Justice of the KR on termination of the criminal proceedings concerning the death of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov. Specifically, the lawyers believed that the judge of the first instance significantly violated the norms of criminal procedure legislation and the court incorrectly applied the norms of criminal law. The Bishkek City Court, having supported the arguments of the attorneys, made the only correct decision possible by canceling the illegal and unjustified decision of the Sverdlovsk District Court.

On 23 August 2021 the Sverdlovsk District Court of Bishkek granted our complaint against the decision of the investigator of the State Penitentiary Service to terminate the criminal case on the death of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov, thus recognizing the investigator's decision illegal and unfounded.

On 27 October 2021 the Prosecutor General's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic supported the lawyer's request to transfer the pre-trial proceedings No. 03-860-2020-000152 on the investigation of the death of human rights defender Azimzhan Askarov in PC 47 to another body. In line with that, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic sent this judicial proceeding to the Department of the SCNS in Bishkek to organize further investigation.

The BDK lawyers were able to register the human rights defender's wife Khadicha Askarova as the documented owner of his house. The Prosecutor General's Office managed to transfer the investigation into the death of A. Askarov to the SCNS, and had the interrogation of Kh. Askarova, Askarov's cellmates, employees and medical staff of the PC 19 conducted. The Pervomaisky court recognized the inaction of the investigator of the SCNS. The issue of fulfilling of the Views of the UN Human Rights Committee on the recognition of Azimzhan Askarov as a victim of torture, the issue of compensation to the family of the human rights defender who died in custody remains on the agenda in the KR.

Challenges of protection of the rights of victims of torture and ill-treatment

The coronavirus pandemic became one of the greatest challenges for everyone. To visit pre-trial detention centers, lawyers are required to provide a certificate of negative PCR test for CV-19, which is an additional barrier in providing legal assistance to victims of torture due to its high cost and validity period of five days.

Restricting access to closed institutions for human rights defenders, lawyers, medical staff threatens the lives of prisoners, creates conditions conducive to extrajudicial executions and torture. Death of human rights activist A. Askarov is an example and demonstrates the disenfranchisement and discrimination of prisoners, therefore, the HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" continues to work to restore his rights and seeks an independent investigation into the death of the human rights defender in the Penal Colony 47.



Necessary legislative changes

After the entry into force of the new Criminal Legislation, all allegations of torture are registered in the Unified Register of Crimes, however, consideration of the cases has become delayed. With the entry into force of the new Criminal Code, there are no deadlines for the investigation of criminal cases, some are not investigated for several years until the suspect is given a notice of suspicion, or documents are sent to the nomenclature case. In the previous Criminal Code, there was a two-month deadline set. Due to the absence of these requirements in the new Criminal Code, lawyers send complaints to the prosecutor's office regarding the inaction of investigators. Introduction of the institute of the investigating judge has not proven to be effective to date.

The pre-investigation check is limited to obtaining explanatory statements from the applicant and the persons against whom complaints were submitted. When performing defense, attorneys face problems with the quality of forensic psychological and psychiatric examinations executed by state forensic experts. In this regard, the attorneys of Bir Duino request independent psychological examinations from independent experts. Due to the ongoing activities to protect the rights of victims of torture, lawyers constantly face threats.



Results of Bir Duino's projects:

1. Assistance in Reducing the Impact of the Effects of Coronavirus in Orphanages, Psychiatric and Closed Institutions of Kyrgyzstan Through Monitoring, Protection and Development of Recommendations for an Effective Response to Threats in the Future project, with the support of the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program of the US Embassy (29 Aug. 2020 - 31 May 2021)

The activity was successfully implemented thanks to the partnership of the NCPT of the KR and the Ombudsman Institution, with which more than 30 monitoring visits to closed institutions, psychiatric institutions and orphanages were carried out. The monitoring made it possible to present to the public the real situation with human rights violations, ill-treatment, access to medical care and lawyers in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, the institutions were provided quarterly with humanitarian aid in the form of PPE and disinfectants.

The total amount of assistance amounted to **\$ 13,860** for the following institutions:

1. Krasnorechenskaya boarding school;
2. Dmitrievskaya boarding school;
3. Belovodsk auxiliary boarding school;
4. Voенno-Antonovka orphanage;
5. Chui orphanage;
6. Maksat Rehabilitation Center;
7. Belovodsk psycho-neurological social residential institution (SRI) for children;
8. Tokmak mixed psycho-neurological SRI 1;
9. Tokmak male psycho-neurological SRI 2;
10. Women's psycho-neurological institution;
11. Penal colonies: No.2, No.3, No.14, No.19, No.47, SIZO-1, temporary detention facilities (TDF) of the Bishkek police department 1 and 2, TDF of Tokmak, Kara-Balta, Kemin, Panfilov district, Issyk-Ata and Sokuluk districts.

As a result of the monitoring, a press conference and three briefings were held, the following analytical documents were presented to the public: Analysis of Transparency and Effectiveness of the Use of Funds and Assistance Aimed at Combating CV-19 in Closed Institutions of Kyrgyzstan; Recommendations for Government Agencies to Take Preventive Security Measures in Closed Institutions in the Event of Possible Pandemic Threats or Other Similar Risks in the Future.



2. Protection of the Rights of Victims of Torture and Ill-treatment project with the support of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (01 Jan. - 31 Dec. 2021)

The project allowed the most vulnerable citizens, victims of torture, their relatives and friends to seek professional legal advice and legal protection at the investigation stage and during trials, as well as to receive assistance in preparing complaints to the UN Human Rights Committee upon the exhaustion of domestic remedies. The project provided an opportunity to obtain legal advice to more than 150 victims of torture and ill-treatment and their relatives. 15 victims were provided with legal protection, 3 victims were provided with legal assistance to receive compensation, 3 complaints were prepared to the UN Human Rights Committee.

During the project implementation, monitoring of trials in cases in which participants were victims of torture and ill-treatment was organized. When preparing the materials, data from criminal cases and court documents, interviews with participants (beneficiaries) and comments of the BDK lawyers were used.



3. Problem of protecting those accused of extremism. Recommendations of Bir Duino.



In early January 2022 the Ministry of Internal Affairs submitted for public discussion a new law on extremism, which is being analyzed by experts now.

In Article 1 of the adopted in 2019 Law of the KR On Countering Extremist Activity, the concept of "extremism" is provided as an evaluation phenomenon, its clear and precise definition is not provided. Part 3 of the Article 314 of the Criminal Code of the KR Creation of an Extremist Organization specifies participation in the activities of an extremist organization, in respect of which the court decided to liquidate or ban activities due to their extremist nature. Article 315 Production, Distribution of Extremist Materials of the Criminal Code of the KR: according to the disposition of this article, it is a crime to manufacture, distribute, transport or transfer extremist materials or their acquisition or storage for the purpose of distribution, use of symbols or attributes of extremist organizations, including doing so via the Internet. Each of these phrases, separated by commas, defines a crime. I.e. it means that the act of distributing such materials will be a crime. In almost all such cases, religious information materials that were found during a search or when viewing personal pages on social networks are presented as a justification for the accusation.

Since the regulatory documents do not specify on what grounds the purpose of distribution will be determined, each official of the law enforcement agency, when determining such a purpose, is guided solely by their personal beliefs.

In such criminal cases, the religious expertise conclusions are mainly presented as a justification for the accusation, which usually only establishes the fact that the material under study belongs to one or another prohibited organization.





4. Combating the discriminatory law on NGOs

The Parliament of the KR once again took actions to restrict freedom of association by adopting the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of the KR (i.e. the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic on Non-profit Organizations, on State Registration of Legal Entities, Branches (Representative Offices)) on 17 June 2021. The Law is aimed at additional regulation of non-governmental organizations and is not applied for regulation of religious organizations, political parties, trade unions. NGOs have to follow a discriminatory provision on additional reporting on funding, which can become a tool for monitoring and suppressing human rights organizations actively involved in the protection and promotion of human rights in Kyrgyzstan. In this regard, the HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" filed lawsuits with the judicial authorities to invalidate the resolution of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic as of 17 June 2021 on the Adoption of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of the KR (i.e. the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic on Non-profit Organizations, on State Registration of Legal Entities, Branches (Representative Offices)).



Since September 2021, the work of lawyers on the law on NGOs has been coordinated in cooperation with lawyer Eric Iriskulbekov. A Supreme Court hearing was scheduled for 20 January 2022 to consider an administrative case on the claim of the PA Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" on invalidation of the resolution of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 17 June 2021 on the adoption of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic (i.e. the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic on Non-profit Organizations, on State Registration of Legal Entities, Branches (Representative Offices))".

Earlier, by the ruling of the Judicial Board of the Bishkek City Court as of 28 October 2021, the ruling of the Administrative Court of Bishkek dd 20 August 2021 was left unchanged, and the private complaint of the PA Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" was not satisfied.

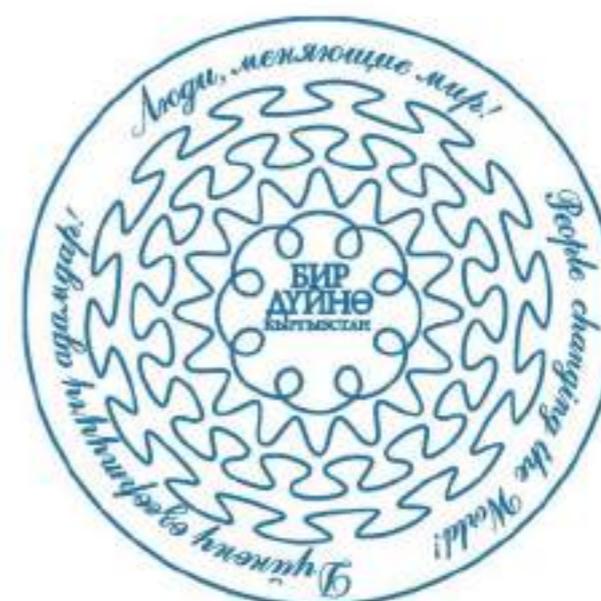
We do not agree with the judicial acts of the Bishkek Administrative Court dd 20 August 2021 and the Judicial Board of the Bishkek City Court dd 28 October 2021, we consider them illegal and unfounded, subject to cancellation on the following grounds:

According to paragraph 1, Part 1, Article 15 of the Administrative Procedure Code of the KR, administrative cases are considered in the order of administrative proceedings - on invalidation of an administrative act or action of an administrative body in whole or in part.

On 20 January 2022, the Supreme Court refused to consider this claim. Currently, the lawyers of Bir Duino are preparing an analysis-conclusion on the possibility of holding the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan accountable for the adoption of improper laws.

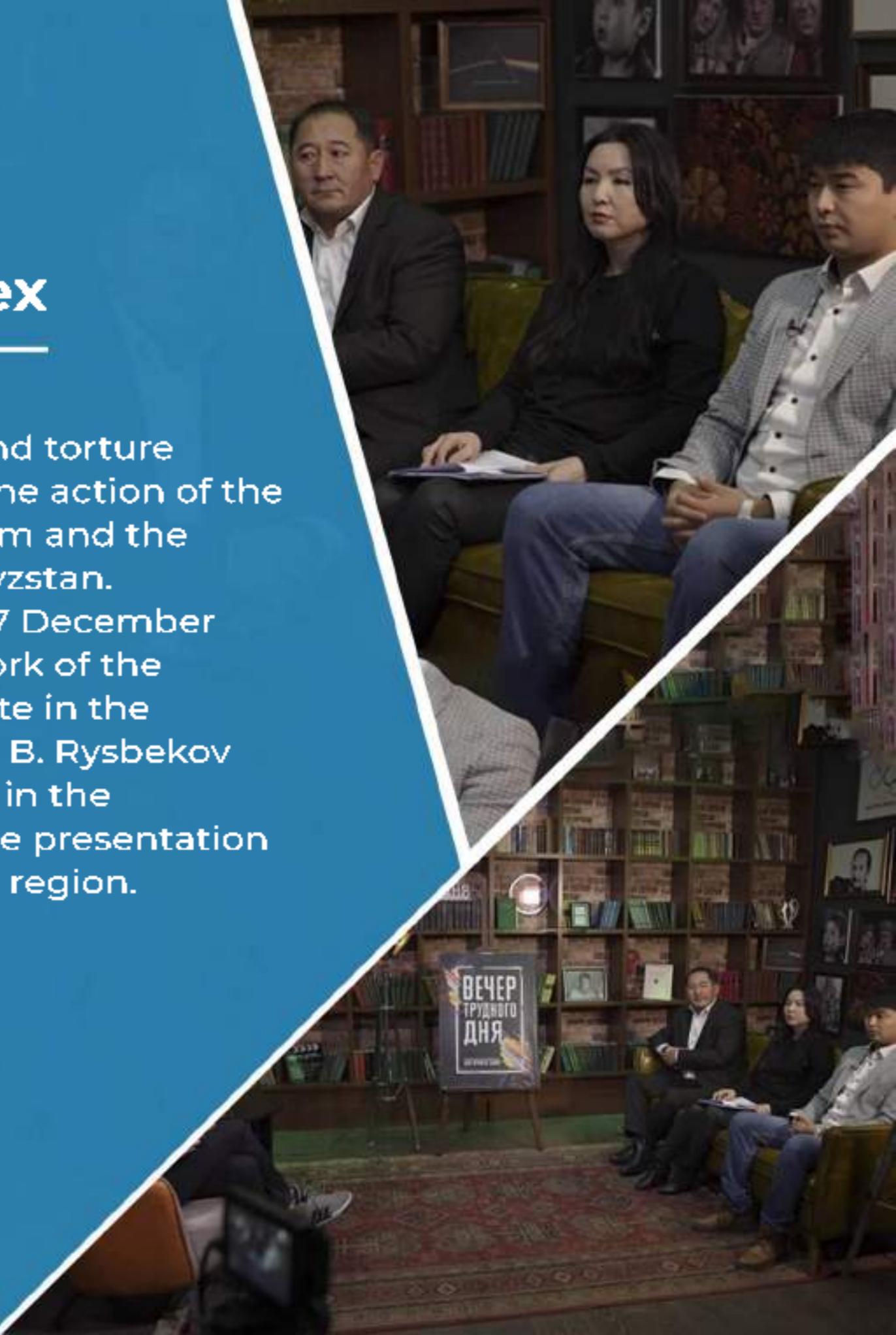
5. A list of BDK's questions has been prepared for the 72nd session of the UN Committee Against Torture

A list of questions for the 72nd session of the UN Committee Against Torture was prepared on 9 November 2021 jointly with the lawyers of the Osh Office to conduct advocacy work on promoting recommendations on protection of victims of torture. Consultations with OMCT representatives were held to prepare the participation and presentation. On 9 November the lawyer Khusanbai Saliev voiced two main problems - the need for an independent investigation into the death of Azimzhan Askarov and the need to ensure the safety of victims, lawyers and human rights defenders. A. Baijumanova made a presentation on the need to promote recommendations on the implementation of the principles of N. Mandela and the UN recommendations on reducing the prison population, reducing sentences or using alternative methods of punishment.



6. Torture prohibition index

Participation in the preparation of the second torture prohibition index within the framework of the action of the working group of the Civic Solidarity Platform and the Review of the situation with torture in Kyrgyzstan. The results of the index were presented on 7 December 2021 on the TV1 channel within the framework of the IFDFHR “Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan”. To participate in the program, the director of the NCPT of the KR B. Rysbekov and lawyer A. Sydykov; N. Taubina took part in the program online; a video was prepared for the presentation of the index on seven countries of the OSCE region.



7. International round table Respect for Human Rights While Countering Extremism in the OSCE Region

Since 21 October 2021, work was being actively carried out on the preparation of the international round table Respect for Human Rights While Countering Extremism in the OSCE Region jointly with ArticleIO, Sova Center for Information and Analysis, the Ombudsman Institution of the KR and Civic Solidarity Platform. On 16 and 17 November 2021, during the round table, Bir Duino was able to create a broad platform for discussing the problems of extremism in the region, with the participation and speeches of local, international experts, representatives of the relevant state bodies:

the Security Council, the Prosecutor General's Office of the KR, the Ministry of Justice of the KR, MoI of the KR, the Ombudsman Institution of the KR, NCPT of the KR, the State Commission for Religious Affairs of the KR, Jogorky Kenesh of the KR.

Based on the results of the discussions, recommendations were developed and presented to government agencies. An additional and important achievement was the signing of a resolution on the results of the round table. In the resolution, the participants expressed their readiness to assist in improving the national legislation in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism, open dialogue and cooperation of the international expert community with representatives of government authorities, actively contributing to strengthening the principles of democracy and the rule of law in the OSCE region.





III. Economic and social rights

1. In-depth research in three regions of Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, representatives of vulnerable segments of the population and residents of remote regions suffer from the infringement of their economic and social rights the most. Employees and partners of "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" conduct in-depth studies of the causes of that, study the quality of life according to specified indicators and indices and develop recommendations for the authorities to solve the problems.

The Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan", being a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR) and the initiator of the creation of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) in the Kyrgyz Republic, within the framework of the project Views from the Frontline (VFL) in the period from 2018 to April 2021, conducted a set of research and practical work in order to reduce the gaps between local communities that live in risk and disaster zones of remote regions and the large cities. Within the framework the project special attention was paid to identifying the specific needs and demands of local communities to bring the voices of the regions from local to global level using the bottom-up approach.

Since 2019, in order to protect local communities from risks and disasters, a study was conducted in 15 local communities of 3 regions: Issyk-Kul, Osh and Jalal-Abad - to identify

the highest priority risks and threats to local communities. A survey was conducted and more than 1,500 households were interviewed with the participation of women's councils, LSG bodies, councils of elders, local partner organizations and activists. Based on the results of the surveys, a map of practical actions and the highest priority risks and threats to the population in the regions was developed.

In 2021, focus groups were held in 15 key communities in 3 regions in order to receive recommendations and proposals for inclusion in the National Action Plan for Risk and Disaster Reduction, which will be sent to all members of the NAC, the Government office, the Security Council, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health and the Ombudsman Institution, Aiyl Okmotu, women's councils and local communities.

Quantitative Indicators for the VFL project

- Research in 15 most vulnerable communities
- 1,500 questionnaires filled in by local communities with the participation of women's councils, LSG (local self-government) bodies, councils of elders, local partner organizations and activists in order to identify the risks and disasters that have the highest priority
- 45 focus groups and expert meetings in three key communities of the KR
- Reconstruction of the water supply system and water pipes to provide access to clean drinking water in two communities
- Over 300 seedlings have been planted to protect local communities from landslides and earthquakes
- More than 450 activists and leaders of local communities have been trained in countering risks and disasters
- Over 30 practical seminars and trainings have been held for LSG bodies, councils of elders, local partner organizations and women's councils
- 15 practical action plans for the prevention of risks and disasters in three oblasts of the KR have been developed

Qualitative Indicators of the VFL project:

- The National Advisory Committee (NAC) has been formed with the involvement of the Security Council of the KR, the Government office, key state bodies, State Agency for Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations (GAMSUMO), the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ombudsman Institution for a comprehensive and qualitative approach to identifying and countering risks and disasters for local communities.
- The awareness of women's councils, LSG bodies, councils of elders, local partner organizations and activists on protection from the most significant risks and disasters has been raised.
- Expert groups have been created with the participation of partner organizations in 15 communities.
- Draft National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the KR has been developed.

Success stories

The success stories demonstrate the implementation of local action plans to counteract risks and disasters in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Issyk-Kul oblasts, where expert groups of activists of local communities were created to ensure protection against risks and disasters in Maily-Suu and Min-Kush due to 98 uranium tailings dumps, which are among the ten largest radioactive sites in the world,

planting of tree seedlings to strengthen the soil to withstand earthquakes and mudflows in Zharkynbaevo vill.,

reconstruction of the water supply system in Karakol to provide access to clean drinking water to the local population.



Key tasks for 2022

- Promoting the local community voices from local to global through the preservation and promotion of freedom of association and the expansion of political space for CSOs in the KR;
- Training of women activists from all districts and oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Development of a new National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, including the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups living in risk and disaster zones;
- Involvement of new partners from among young people and women community leaders in the decision-making process at all levels of government;
- Development of horizontal leadership;
- Expansion of the NAC to promote the voices of the regions;
- The fight against impunity;
- Promotion of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Advocacy campaigns on the Universal Periodic Report - KR;





2. Protection of victims of sexual violence

Lawyers of Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan accompany victims of sexual violence in courts and protect their interests.

Criminal proceedings

In 2019, three men raped a 13-year-old girl for six months, filmed her, intimidated her threatening that they would show the recording to her classmates. The examination showed that the victim became pregnant, but a medical abortion was performed. The girl was subjected to violence and bullying many times. The seventh-grader lived with her grandfather in the village while her parents looked after the cattle in the mountains.

The Ton District Court of Kyrgyzstan acquitted two suspects of raping the 13-year-old schoolgirl. Only one of the defendants was imprisoned. Despite the evidence, the court applied a soft punishment to him. The girl's relatives turned to Bir Duino for a lawyer for the defense and took part in the trials as representatives of the injured party.

After the lawyers of Bir Duino provided their professional help, the Issyk-Kul regional court handed down a new sentence to the convict for an insignificant term - 20 years in prison. Two of the defendants in this case were found guilty under the article Rape and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Both were taken into custody in the courtroom.

On 9 June 2021, the sentences were upheld by the decision of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Civil procedure

On 26 May the Ton District Court considered a statement of claim for the protection of the honor and dignity of the raped girl. Earlier a lawyer from the BDK filed a lawsuit against relatives of the convicts who insulted the girl in the media. Local media published interviews with the relatives of the two convicts. In the video, the men said that the girl was allegedly "spoiled" and seduced the accused men herself. The girl's defense demanded to pay a compensation for the moral damage to the minor's parents and oblige the perpetrators to make a rebuttal. The Ton District Court partially satisfied the claim, having collected 40 thousand soms jointly from both defendants.

3. Support for Children and Families from Socially Vulnerable Groups Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic project

During the pandemic, the PA "Bir Duino" provided humanitarian assistance to 179 vulnerable families in the form of food packages and clothing. All the lists of the families were prepared jointly with the social departments of akimats and LTA (local territorial administrations). Some lists were also provided by colleges to help students with disabilities and orphans. Assistance was provided to families during the border conflict in Batken. 152 sets of hygiene products were provided to women and girls, including 10 families from Batken.

Assistance was provided to the orphanage Yavna which accommodates 40 children, including bed linen for little ones (5 sets) and blankets (15 pcs.), as well as manicure sets for girls.

Psychological support was also provided to 413 people, including 277 teenagers.

Ovens were provided to an orphanage for girls, private family children's home Yavna, two women from the Chance Crisis Center, two women from the shelter of the Equality Association of People with Disabilities.

Knitting courses for 11 women and girls were launched with the assistance of the social department of the Oktyabrsky District Akimiat. The courses were conducted by Rosa Begalieva, a girl with a disability.

Within the framework of the 15th IFDF on Human Rights "Bir Duino", a laboratory Access to Education for Girls in Kyrgyzstan in Conditions of a Patriarchal Environment, Discrimination and Growth of Religious Fundamentalism was conducted, articles were published on social media and in the newspapers Ekho Osha ("Echo of Osh") and Novyie Litsa ("New Faces").

The initiative was supported to equip the psychologist's office of the Municipal Institution called "Ayalzat" Center for Assistance to Women with Children Affected by Family Violence, which is a rehabilitation institution for women, which provides social welfare services, as well as legal, socio-psychological and socio-medical services.

Humanitarian aid was provided to women with children in the women's colony No. 2, Stepnoye village.

5. Raising awareness about elections

"Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" with the support of Women's Learning Partnership, Promotion of Women's Leadership and Political Participation within the framework of the OSCE ODIHR initiative to promote gender equality and gender justice via free media in partnership with the Ombudsman Institution of the Kyrgyz Republic and the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic held 5 Quiz Night (intellectual game) in the run-up to the elections to the local keneshes of the KR.

The main purpose of the event was to raise awareness of representatives of parties, candidates, voters, women's and youth movements, LSG bodies, GOs and the media in the run-up to the elections to local councils about the peculiarities of the electoral legislation.



IV. Cultural and religious rights

1. International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino"

The International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino – Kyrgyzstan" has been held by the Human Rights Movement annually, since 2007. The festival is a "sister" of the Czech Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Eden Svet, one of the leading festivals in Europe. In Central Asia, this is the only festival of documentaries on human rights. It is held at the international level, with the participation of representatives of the government, international and civil society, experts and directors, cultural and art figures, the media, human rights activists and just film lovers.

The purpose of the documentary film festival is to promote human rights and freedoms through culture and art, through documentary films. Using the example of real stories, viewers have the opportunity to better understand the existing socio-economic and political problems in the world. Every year the theme of the festival - human rights - remains unchanged, only the perspective from which we view the related problems changes.





"Last year, the whole world was experiencing the pandemic that left a big imprint on all spheres of life. The following topics are raised in the competition films: access to justice, increase in domestic violence, restriction of movement, access to medical care, education, nutrition. I.e. all basic human rights in all countries have been severely affected. The festival erases the borders and demonstrates how this period was experienced in different countries," says Lira Asylbek, Program Director of Art and Human Rights, Coordinator of the International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan".

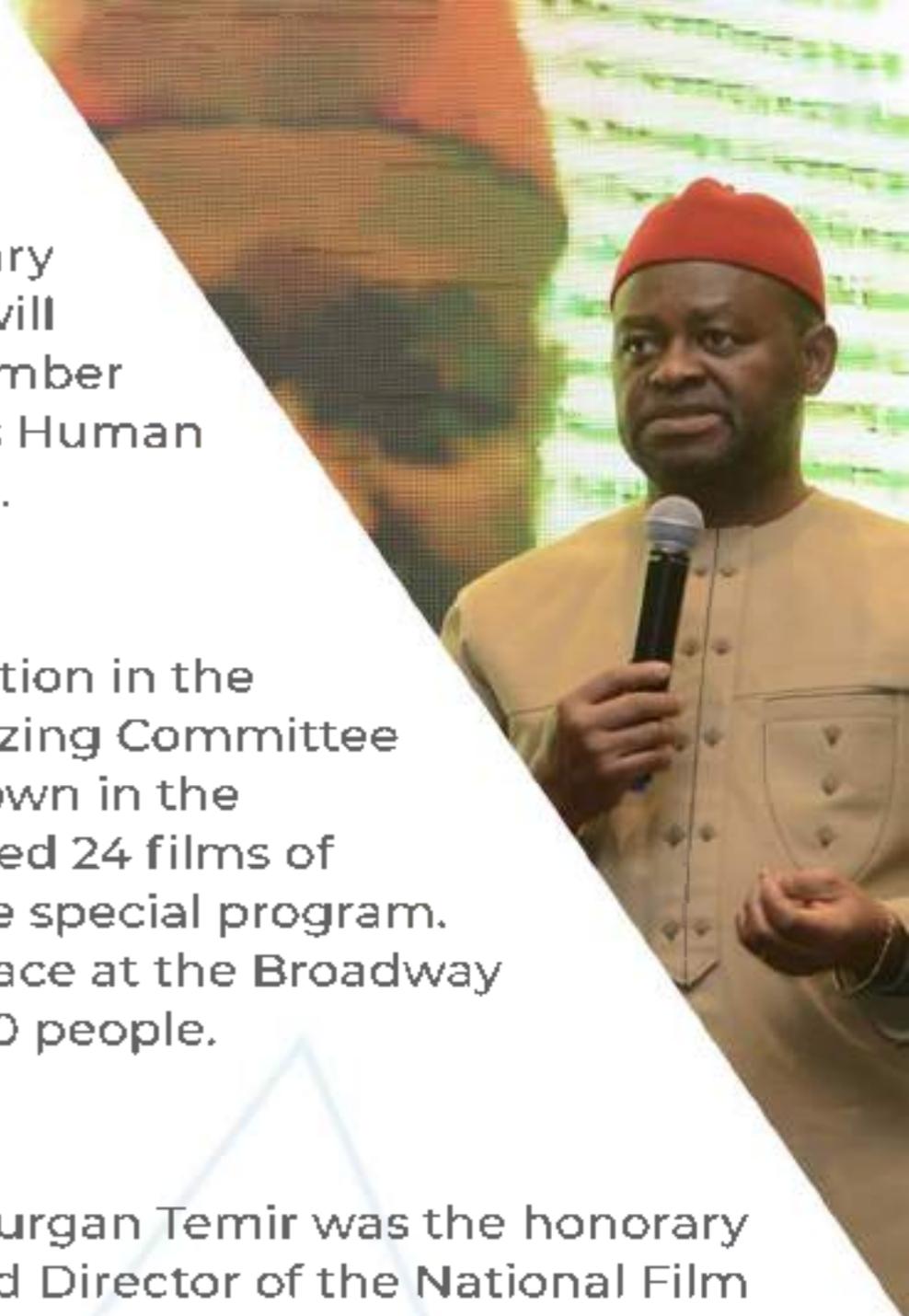
The Bir Duino Documentary Film Festival is a landmark event in the socio-cultural life of Kyrgyzstan. The festival identifies the most pressing problems of the modern society, examines the impact of these problems on the life of a particular person or country, helps to find solutions to these problems or at least focus on them.

#2021



The fifteenth anniversary festival of documentary films on human rights "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" will be held in Bishkek from 3 December to 9 December in Bishkek. This year the theme of the festival is Human Rights During the Period of Risks and Disasters.

In 2021, 45 applications for participation in the festival were submitted. The Organizing Committee determined the best films to be shown in the competition program, which included 24 films of the main program and 2 films of the special program. The screenings of films that took place at the Broadway cinema were attended by over 2,000 people.



People's Artist of the Kyrgyz Republic Aiturgan Temir was the honorary president of the festival. The jury included Director of the National Film Studio "Kyrgyzfilm" Akzhol Bekbolotov, Russian film director Evgeny Bezborodov, public figure Tendik Tynystanov, film director from Uzbekistan Ilkhom Ikramov, Regional Director of Global GNDR Shivangi Chavda, Director of Amnesty International Natalia Zvyagina (Russia), trade union activist, chairman of the Confederation of Labor of Russia Boris Kravchenko.



In 2021, within the framework of the festival and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, the following laboratories were held: Access to Education for Girls in Kyrgyzstan in Conditions of a Patriarchal Environment, Discrimination and the Growth of Religious Fundamentalism, and Access to Justice for Women and Girls with Disabilities Affected by Sexualized Violence.

Master classes on the preparation of script applications and pitching were organized for the documentary filmmakers and general public.

The following topics were discussed at the TV1 broadcasts with the participation of international and national experts: "The Index of the Prohibition of Torture in the OSCE Region" and "The Role of Trade Unions in Kyrgyzstan. What's next?"

The International Monitoring Mission on Labor Rights in Central Asia with the participation of representatives of trade unions from Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and other countries held the V coordination meeting to review the situation with the right to freedom of association and develop a strategy for the protection of labor rights.





At the screening venues, the festival provides a wide opportunity to discuss the documentary truth in the field of human rights, attracting documentarians and experts, both local and international, using the innovative format of Human Rights through Art. The festival is held annually by the Human Rights Movement Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in the

Kyrgyz Republic, together with the networks of solidarity of WLP (Women's Learning Partnership), FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights), CSP (The Civic Solidarity Platform), Forum-Asia, GNDR (The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction), BICE (International Catholic Child Bureau) and the International Monitoring Mission on Labor Rights in Central Asia.



Bir Duino Volunteer Team

The Bir Duino Festival would not be as large and welcoming if it were not for the tremendous contribution of volunteers. Every year several dozen young guys and girls help with the work of the festival.

On November 25, 2021, a working meeting was held with festival volunteers about the contribution and role of youth activists in promoting human rights and promoting civic activism through innovation.

From December 3 to 9, 2021, volunteers worked with great dedication throughout Bir Duino Festival.



THE BEST FILMS OF THE XV INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL BIR DUINO



The jury awarded the Prize named after Ulan Egizbaev "Ulan Ulansyn" to the film Hero directed by Zhumanazar Koichubekov about the actor and stuntman Nurbek Bolotov.

The Special Jury Prize for the International Film was awarded to the film A Portrait on the Search for Happiness, directed by Benjamin Rost, Germany.

The diploma in the nomination Special Jury Prize for a National Film was awarded to the film Heritage by Eric Abdykalykov from Kyrgyzstan. The prize in the nomination Best Film on Human Rights in a Period of Risk and Conflict was awarded to the film Downstream to Kinshasa directed by Dieudo Hamadi from Congo.

The prize in the nomination of the Best Film on the Rights of the Child was awarded to the film Radio Felix directed by Lauranne Van den Heede, Belgium.

The prize for a documentary about the problems of people with disabilities was awarded to the film Zhanyrtuu directed by Victoria Arkhangel'skaya.

The prize in the nomination Best Film on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights was awarded to the film Shoria's Gold directed by Vyacheslav Krechetov from Russia. "This is the first platform where you can openly speak about problems," the director noted. Earlier, he released the film Price about the destruction of the village of Kazas, which is mentioned in the film Shoria's Gold.

The prize in the nomination Best Film on Gender Equality was awarded to the film No, directed by the Russian film director Taliya Tukhvatullina.

The prize in the nomination Best Film of the Festival was awarded to Arika. The film was produced by directors William Johansson Kalen and Lars Edman.

The prize for the Best National Film was awarded to the film Madrasah directed by Nurjamal Karamoldoeva from Kyrgyzstan.

The Grand Prix of the XV International Festival Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan was awarded to the film What Tomorrow Brings by Beth Murphy, film director from the USA.

2. The regional festival was held by local partners, new young leaders who were trained in organizing and conducting screenings of festival films in 2019. This festival gave an opportunity to representatives of the most vulnerable groups living in gated communities in the south to exchange views and find joint steps on the way out of crises.

Taking into account the pandemic, the screenings were held in small rooms with a limited number of participants, with all security measures in place and PPE provided.

Following consultations and discussions in communities with activists and partners, 36 screenings of the festival films were held in 6 oblasts of the KR in May-June 2021: Chui, Issyk-Kul, Talas, Naryn, Osh and Jalal-Abad oblasts. In the Batken region, due to border conflicts, the festival is planned to be held later.

In total, 1226 people took part in the screenings, 835 of them were women and 391 - men. The screenings were held in communities, schools, military units, hospitals, and local government buildings in Kyrgyz, Russian, and Uzbek with the participation of the film directors and the people featured in the films.



3. Countering religious fundamentalism.

"Bir Duino" builds joint activities based on the principles and format of expanding human rights activities, involving the components of Art and Human Rights, inviting youth, feminist, environmental, creative, independent trade union movements, leading human rights experts and famous creative figures, documentary filmmakers, directors and writers to cooperate in protecting the universality of human rights and freedoms. One of the topical issues is the development of tools of protection against religious fundamentalism, which has caused and is still causing damage to the development of gender equality and gender justice, does not contribute to reducing violence and discrimination against vulnerable groups, women, children, minorities, people with disabilities in the Kyrgyz Republic, in the CA region, and in the world.

"Religious fundamentalism does not mean religion as a whole, but various kinds of religious movements trying to return their followers to the "basics" of religion and resisting any innovations.

I.e. the activists "do not oppose religion, but oppose religious fundamentalism" and talk about "the risks and dangers it carries for women and girls," emphasizes Lira Ismailova, Program Director of Art and Human Rights, coordinator of the International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan".

Bermet Stakeeva highlights the following features of modern religious fundamentalism: "Religious fundamentalism calls for a return to the tradition of the dominance of religion in the life of society, it is based on the rejection of the principles of democracy, asserts a totalitarian religious ideology, does not accept the separation of secular and religious things and promotes the patriarchal nature of the interpretation of religious teachings."

4. Advocacy.

Within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review promotion program in Kyrgyzstan, indicators are being developed jointly with experts for all 232 recommendations received by Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the third cycle of the UPR, the most recommendations were received on the protection of the rights of women and children. This document is being prepared for the first time, it will be presented in February 2022 and will be used as an example for other countries.

In October, a training seminar was held for CSOs and human rights institutions on the development of indicators for the recommendations received by the KR during the third cycle of the UPR of the KR. In December 2021, an expert meeting was held to work on indicators. During the two-day work with experts, all recommendations were divided into thematic groups and each expert worked on a certain topic.



Strategy of the HRM Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan for 2022-2024.

Based on the results of the analysis and evaluation of the action programs for the past years, the team of Bir Duino will focus on the following priority goals:

Promotion of transitional justice tools for victims of violence, discrimination during conflict and post-conflict situations and disasters in the KR, including the fight against impunity (FIDH, CSP OSCE, Bir Duino);

Increasing the participation of local leaders and activists in training programs on women's leadership and participation in decision-making at all levels of government (WLP, Bir Duino);

Implementation of the UPR recommendations for the KR through national campaigns and advocacy, (Ombudsman Institution, OHCHR), UPR INFO, Bir Duino;

Assistance in the development of an innovative national strategy for countering risks and disasters, including women, children from vulnerable groups living in risk and disaster zones through strengthening the role of the National Advisory Council, the National Council on Resolution 1325, with the Working Group on Gender Equality of the OSCE Civic Solidarity Platform, (NAC) (GNDR, VFL, Bir Duino);

Promotion of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in partnership with local authorities, LSC and local community leaders (Jogorky Kenesh of the KR, Ombudsman Institution, WLP - Bir Duino); including the program Climate and Women in Risk and Disaster Zones,

Conducting the XVI International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights from 14 to 20 November on the theme Climate and Crises: the Situation with the Fundamental Human Rights, Alternatives for the SDGs





Online school for activists

Since December 28, 2021, in order to implement the project "Protection of CSO political environment through the involvement of community leaders from local to global" "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" launched a 6-month online school for women activists.

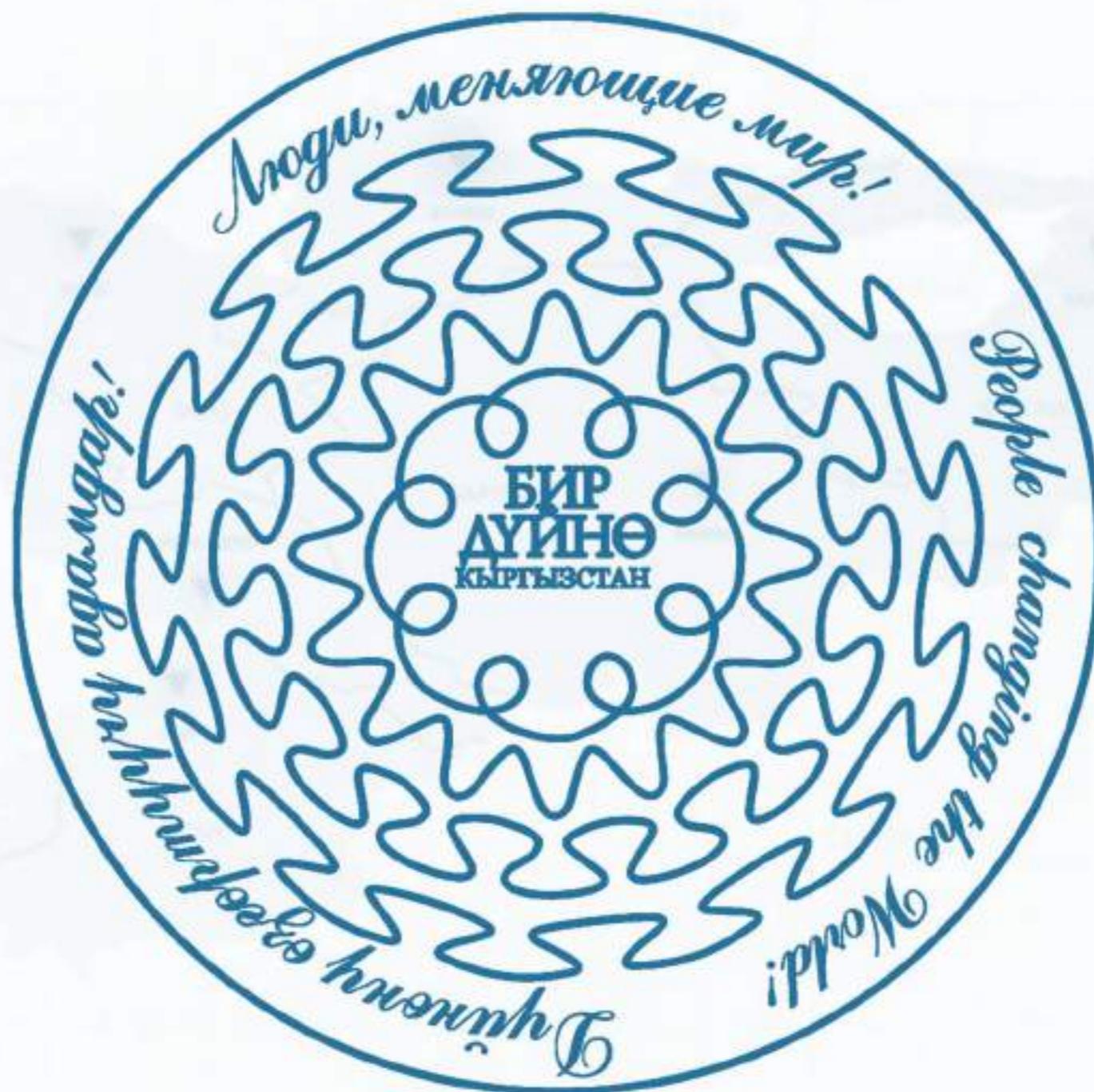
Our audience is women activists aged 20 to 75 years, community leaders from all regions of Kyrgyzstan, representatives of youth associations, public non-profit organizations, also actively involved women deputies of local Kensheshesh, local governments, journalists, human rights defenders, members of women's councils, government agencies, teachers, doctors, lawyers, housewives, all those who are actively involved in the life of their community in the regions and villages.

Now we have more than 135 women from all regions in our WhatsApp group.

The project "Protecting the political environment of NGOs by engaging community leaders from the local to the global level" is implemented with the financial support of the Democratic Commission of the U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic.

V. Faces of the PA Human Rights Movement

Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan





TOLEKAN ISMAILOVA

Head of the PA Human Rights Movement
Bir Duino

“ I have been rebellious since I was a child. My father, a well-known teacher and school director, Asanaly Ismailov, had been telling me since I was a child: "You have to be stronger than boys." I.e. everything starts from our childhood. I have always been against injustice.

People start working in the field of human rights consciously. The UN defines the Frontline, which specializes in protecting the rights of human rights defenders, stating that "any person who defends one or two articles enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights is considered to be a human rights defender." The high standards of human rights activity allowed me to fight and be disobedient, to demand compliance with the rule of law all these years, under any government.

I had a choice: either to pursue a career and be an obedient woman, like many others, and then I would have a brilliant career. Or I could go against the system and protect the humiliated, weak and vulnerable. I chose the latter. Because that's what my parents, my family taught me, that's how they brought me up, they helped me become this kind of a person.

Under every president, we, human rights defenders, were stigmatized and accused of undermining the foundations of the country. That is why on 19 May 2016, Aziza Abdirasulova and I filed a lawsuit against the President of Kyrgyzstan Atambaev for publicly insulting us, saying that we were planning to overthrow the government with the help of foreign intelligence services. These words not only insulted our honor and dignity, they negated our long-standing struggle for human rights in Kyrgyzstan. Another reason why we filed a lawsuit was that no one is allowed to infringe on the freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of meetings and associations.

“

For me, the principle "from compassion to human rights" is important: if you don't have any compassion, then you won't be able to help anyone, you will do it for the money, for the project.

Khadicha Askarova, the wife of Azimzhan Askarov, has become a role model for me. For 11 years she has gone through all the court hearings, and there have been more than 49 of them. She organized exhibitions of works by the artist Azimzhan Askarov, reached the key OSCE institutions and the European Parliament and now demands that the authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic fulfill the Views of the UN Committee regarding the case of the torture victim, famous journalist and human rights activist Askarov. She has become stronger than all human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan, and is still fighting for reforms of the prison system and ensuring equal access for everyone to an independent judicial system in the KR.

I want to say a few words about our documentary film festival. I am proud of the Bir Duino team and all the components of the festival in general, the jury members, the Union of Cinematographers of Kyrgyzstan and all those who participated in the festival. We not only worked at the festival, we worked during the pandemic, helping those in need, we worked both in prisons and in closed institutions. This festival is the result of our year-long work.

It is no coincidence that the best international film by the decision of the jury of the festival was the film Arica about the way the Swedes make their country safer by exporting hazardous waste to Chile. In his film, the Swedish director spoke about people who suffer and showed the process of litigation, the cunning of international companies, which don't care about human rights. This is also relevant for us in connection with Kumtor, where they have a "golden" corruption. The topic of environmental safety and the oligarchy that has fused with the government is now relevant for the whole world. Therefore, it is necessary to work openly with the people, develop key national programs and protect the rights and interests of our citizens and the country as a whole. Which is exactly what Bir Duino has been doing all these years.

”



AIDA BAIJUMANOVA

Executive Director of Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan

“ Since the moment of its establishment Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan actively protects the rights of the most vulnerable citizens, defends the civil and political rights of people and, above all, the right to freedom of association, the right to peaceful rallies and assemblies, the right to freedom of speech.

In this regard, I would like to note the most key achievements of Bir Duino: in 2004, the lawyers of the organization defended the right of citizens to peaceful rallies and assemblies in the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic, which led to the abolition of unconstitutional laws and regulations. In December 2007, the death penalty was abolished in Kyrgyzstan, with subsequent amendments to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. And the third victory was that the lawyer of Bir Duino Diana Makenbaeva, together with the teacher and partner of the Citizens Against Corruption Lilya Sopiaeva, defended in court the rights of 59 teachers of the Tonsky district to additional payments for their teaching experience in the amount of over 700,000 soms. After this precedent, teachers of all schools in Kyrgyzstan began to file lawsuits and demand additional payment for their teaching experience.

”

SAKHIRA NAZAROVA

Media Manager of Bir Duino – Osh office

“ Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan always keeps its finger on the pulse, i.e. it is in the midst of important events both in the country and in the region, responds to challenges in a timely manner, as it never forgets about its mission — protecting people.

Responding to challenges means studying the problem, conducting its in-depth analysis, with forecasts followed by recommendations. The latter manifests itself in the form of appeals, statements, and conducting events involving all parties. To carry out such activities, it is necessary to have the potential in the form of professional and committed employees who have courage in their views, insight, a high degree of empathy, understanding how the system works, and a great desire to work for the benefit of society.

It is difficult. But it's this kind of attitude to your job that gives you the feeling of living an honest life, when you try to change something. This is being honest with yourself and people around you. There is a simple word - leadership. The friendly team of Bir Duino— is horizontal Leadership in action!

Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan demonstrates to fellow citizens how to respond correctly to challenges, it shows that one should not be afraid to declare a problem before it acquires a large scale.

Bir Duino is able to unite people, together we are a force. Bir Duino is a network of solidarity in action, where everyone is on the same page.

”



RAIKHAN ABDRAYIMOVA

Executive Director of the Bir Duino Festival, member of the Board of the Union of Cinematographers in the KR

“ It is very important to promote human rights, protect and promote the rights of vulnerable groups together with creative people of Kyrgyzstan - film directors, documentarians and human rights defenders. This is the value and mission of the Documentary Film Festival "Bir Duino". Through documentaries, we change people's lives, their voices are heard, they become stronger. Over the years, the Bir Duino Festival has become an excellent platform for exchanging opinions, for discussing the problems and risks that exist in modern society.

”



LIRA ASYLBEK (ISMAILOVA)

Co-director of the International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights "Bir Duino", Manager of Leadership Development Programs with WLP

“ Bir Duino is one of the first human rights organizations in Kyrgyzstan, which performs its work based on the principle from local to global, involving local residents from the most remote regions in the decision-making process. The organization has played a major role in the life of the country in terms of building civil society, forming civic education and promotion of the protection of human rights and freedoms. I would like to note the following key cases of our organization. Together with lawyer Sartbai Jaichibekov, the Citizens Against Corruption (CAC) achieved court decisions on compensation payments to the victims of the Aksy tragedy in the amount of 12,450,000 soms. The second case: CAC, together with a local human rights activist and the leader of the NGO "KAREK" from the village of Barskoon, where an accident occurred due to the fault of a gold mining company, achieved court decisions on compensation payments in the amount of 3 million US dollars to the victims of the Barskoon tragedy. We were able to secure compensation through the court to the victims of five villages of the Jety-Oguz district, where an accident occurred due to Kumtor's fault and people were poisoned with cyanide in May 1998. The organization built all its programs on the basis of discussions of the needs of beneficiaries, establishing horizontal leadership and involvement of each, taking into account challenges and risks, conducting all its programs in Kyrgyz and Russian. The organization holds an annual International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights as part of the program of civic education and promotion of human rights through art and cinema. A great deal of work is being carried out with young people through the volunteer movement, the involvement and active participation of young people in events, initiatives and programs of the organization.

”





KHUSANBAI SALIEV

Legal Expert

Regional Director of Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan

“Over the years of human rights activity, Bir Duino has established itself as a strong, courageous, professional team. We quickly become aware of current problems, so we immediately mobilize resources to discuss them and develop further steps. Our organization is a classic public organization that moves one step ahead, that's why we are a Human Rights Movement. We unite the regions of the country, fully justifying our name - Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan. We are known outside the country and the region, we are respected, our opinion is taken into account, and a response is expected from us in many areas.

Based on the principles of human rights work, we strive for an open discussion of problems, whether it is discussing new legislation, protecting human rights defenders, supporting vulnerable citizens, training a new generation of activists, and much more. Yes, life has made us stronger, we have gone through many difficulties together, and we always know that within our team we will understand and support each other. A sense of solidarity and a desire for justice are our strengths. We think globally, we act prudently. We don't need any momentary fame, we are focused on long-term results.

Many wait for our response: what we will say, what we will do. This is a great responsibility, but it is also a recognition of our strength, and we must be careful using the strength.

One of our main tasks is to provide legal assistance to vulnerable citizens in Osh and in the south as a whole. Residents of three regions contact our Osh office every day (by phone, via messengers, coming directly to the office). The possibility of providing high-quality legal assistance is very valuable in the context of the complexities of work of public organizations. There are only a few such organizations, activists talk about declining flows of resources, employee turnover, pressure from government agencies. Many former companions-in-arms eventually shifted to other, less complex, issues. And our organization remains true to its mission. If we don't help people, then why do they need us?

We take on such difficult cases that other lawyers and human rights defenders do not take on. Yes, we understand that by protecting citizens against torture, in cases concerning religious extremism, violence, we take even more responsibility and become a focus of attention of some parties. But we can't do otherwise.

The field of legal assistance is our forte. We have formed a team of excellent lawyers. As the manager of the Osh office, I keep the quality of their work under control so that they do not deviate from the strategy, do not forget about the principles of human rights activities. Protecting citizens is a vocation, this is the job that we love.

”

MURAT KARYPOV

Program Coordinator for VFL/GNDR methodology

“ The Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan" is of great importance for the public life of our state due to a number of key factors. First of all, it is important to note that the expert, working, cultural and educational events conducted by Bir Duino are aimed at the development of society itself, raising awareness on the most relevant global topics and issues, developing the most important and necessary solutions to overcome risks and disasters, promoting civic leadership at the level of local communities using the methodology from local to global, jointly developing relevant ways to counteract crises. It is also important to note that Bir Duino does not follow the lead of the authorities and takes an exclusively neutral position in relation to all political forces and focuses only on the promotion of democratic rights and freedoms of citizens regardless of their race, religion and ethnic background.

Thanks to the events held by Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan, the society develops a correct understanding of everything that is happening, processes take place in people's minds that open the eyes of the public, make them take a fresh look at many things. This is how Bir Duino promotes the ideas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

”



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Of the PA Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan"



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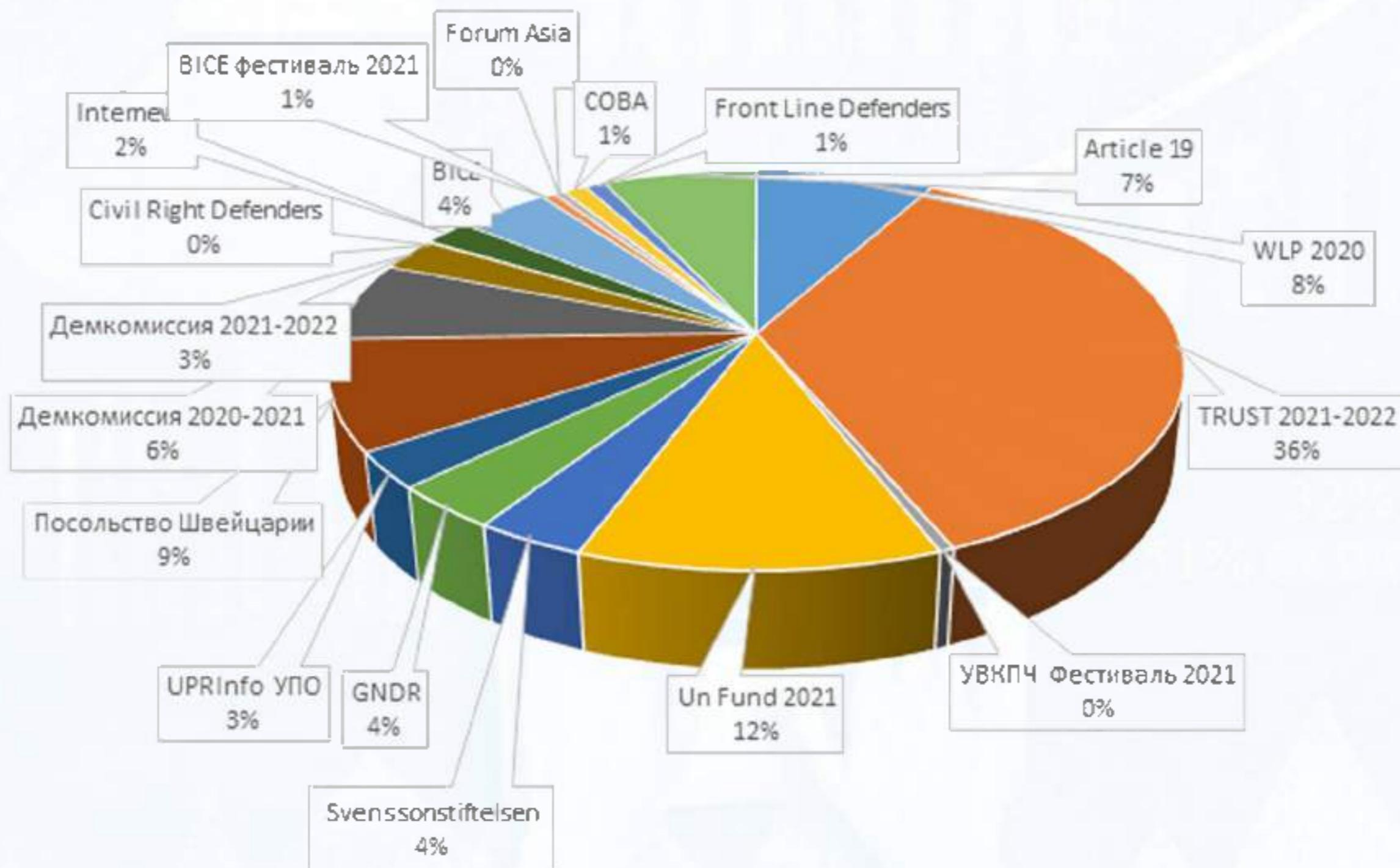
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Audit Commission



DUISHENOVA GULZAR

Member of the
Audit Commission

FINANCING OF THE ORGANIZATION IN 2021 EXPRESSED IN %



going №03 dated February 12, 2021

Bishkek

To the Audit Commission of the PA HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan",
Director of Audit-Price Ltd., Chupreta O.A

**MANAGEMENT STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARATION OF THE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2020**

This letter-presentation is sent in connection with conducted by you analysis, verification and evaluation of the financial statements of the Public Association "Human Rights Movement: "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" for the year ended 31.12.2020, with the purpose of conveying the message on whether financial reporting on each implemented project fairly presents financial position of the Public Association "Human Rights Movement: "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" in all significant aspects as at 31.12.2020, the financial performance and cash flows for the projects for the year ended on the indicated date.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the fair presentation of the projects' financial reporting.

The management is also responsible for:

- developing, implementing and maintaining an efficient and reliable internal control system functioning in the Projects;
- maintaining an accounting system that allows at any time preparing information on the financial position of Projects with the sufficient degree of accuracy and ensuring that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the Projects Contracts;
- taking measures within its competence to ensure the safety of the Projects assets;
- adequate disclosure, in accordance with the cash-basis accounting method and terms of the Project Contracts.

Assuming that the Association will continue its activities in the foreseeable future following mission and strategy developed for 2020-2023 годы¹.

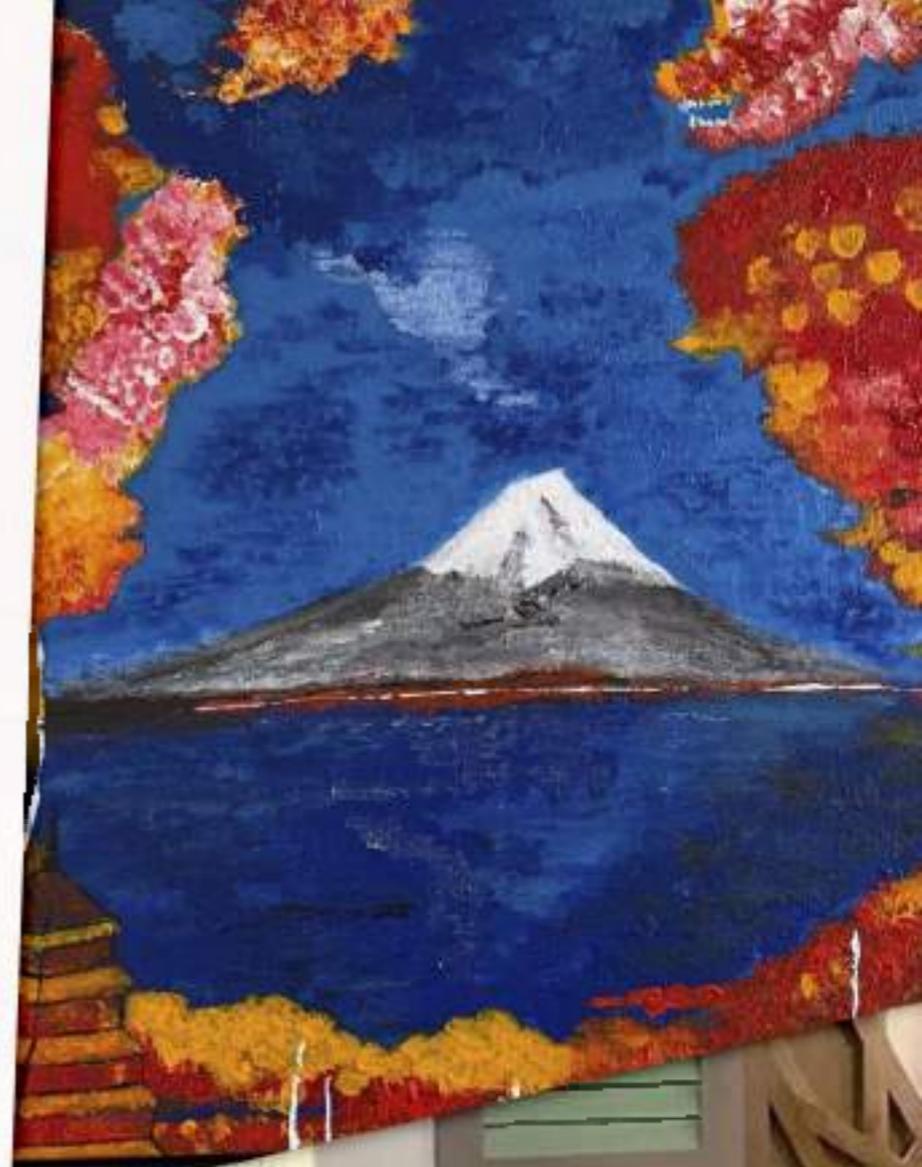
These financial statements from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 were approved on February 10, 2021 by the management of the Public Association "Human Rights Movement: "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan".

Sohrab


SPECIAL THANKS

FROM THE BIR DUINO TEAM TO ARTIST ANTHONY SYLVESTER FOR HIS DONATIONS AND SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN KYRGYZSTAN.

HE SOLD THIS PAINTING, **MOUNT FUJIIMA**, AND GAVE THE MONEY TO BIR DUINO.



Strategic reports of Bir Duino AP

1. JOGORKU KENESH: ISSUES OF EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY

<http://birduino.kg/zhogorku-kenesh-voprosyi-effektivnosti-i-prozrachnosti>

2. ANALYSIS OF EARLY MARRIAGE AND EARLY MOTHERHOOD IN KYRGYZSTAN

<http://www.birduino.kg/analiz-problemy-rannikh-brakov-i-rannego-materinstva-v-kyrgyzstane-2>

3. REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE "LOOK FROM THE FRONT LINE" PROJECT (VFL)

[HTTP://BIRDUINO.KG/PRESSARU/OTCHET-PO-REZULTATAM-REALIZACZII-PROEKTA-%C2%ABVZGLYAD-S-PEREDOVOJ%C2%BB-\(VFL\)](http://birduino.kg/pressaru/otchet-po-rezultatam-realizatsii-proekta-%C2%ABVZGLYAD-S-PEREDOVOJ%C2%BB-(VFL))

4. THE BIR DUINO TEAM IS PROUD TO BE PART OF AN ACCOUNT OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS WHO MAKE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox-FMfcgzGmthlQsKTwxHjJfbQzpxbrmhL?projector=1&messagePartId=0.2>

Thanks to strong coordinated networks and solidarity actions, **women human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan remain at the forefront** in defending human rights and exposing violations

*Tolekan Ismailova, Aida Boijumanova, Lira Asylbek,
Bir-Duino Kyrgyzstan*



FORUM-ASIA

**HUMAN RIGHTS
MONTH 2020**

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+996 551 961 861**



**FACEBOOK: BIR DUINO - KYRGYZSTAN
<https://www.facebook.com/birduino.kg>**



**INSTAGRAM: [birduino_kg](https://www.instagram.com/birduino_kg)
https://www.instagram.com/birduino_kg/**



YOU CAN HELP BIR DUINO PROGRAMS



BENEFICIARY / ПОЛУЧАТЕЛЬ	ПРАВООЩИТНОЕ ДВИЖЕНИЕ БИР ДУИНО КЫРГЫЗСТАН ОО PRAVOZASHITNOE DVIZHENIE BIR DUINO KYRGYZSTAN PF
BENEFICIARY ACCOUNT / СЧЕТ ПОЛУЧАТЕЛЯ	EUR, USD, KGS 1181000500057184
BENEFICIARY BANK / БАНК ПОЛУЧАТЕЛЯ	Demir Kyrgyz International Bank (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
BENEFICIARY BANK ADDRESS / АДРЕС БАНКА ПОЛУЧАТЕЛЯ	245, Chui Ave., Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan / Кыргызстан, г. Бишкек, пр. Чуй 245
BENEFICIARY BANK SWIFT (BIC) / SWIFT БАНКА ПОЛУЧАТЕЛЯ	DEMKG22
CORRESPONDENT BANK FOR EUR TRANSFERS / БАНК КОРРЕСПОНДЕНТ ДЛЯ ПЕРЕВОДОВ в ЕВРО	<p>LANDESBANK BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG (LBBW), (Stuttgart, Germany) SWIFT BIC: SOLADEST Address: Am Hauptbahnhof 2, 70173 Stuttgart, Germany Correspondent account of DemirBank: 2800442</p>
	<p>ALFA-BANK (Moscow, Russia) SWIFT BIC: ALFARUMM Address: 27 Kalanchevskaya str., Moscow, 107078, RF Correspondent account of DemirBank: 3011197860000000087</p>
	<p>INTERMEDIARY BANK: ING BELGIUM SA/NV, BRUSSELS, Brussels, Belgium SWIFT BIC: BBRUBEBB, Account #: 301-0104554-69/EUR</p>
CORRESPONDENT BANK FOR USD TRANSFERS / БАНК КОРРЕСПОНДЕНТ ДЛЯ ПЕРЕВОДОВ в ДОЛЛАРАХ США	<p>INDUSTRIAL BANK CO., LTD., Guangzhou Branch (Guangzhou, PRC) SWIFT BIC: FIJCNBAS00 Address: Industrial Bank Building, No.101, TianHe Road, Guangzhou City, PRC Correspondent account of DemirBank: 399410100100303548</p>
	<p>KOOKMIN BANK (Seoul, South Korea) SWIFT BIC: CKNBKRSE Address: Kookmin Bank H Q, Sewoo Building, 115 Yeoungangwan-ro, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (Zip: 07241) Correspondent account of DemirBank: 807-8-USD-01-8</p>
	<p>INTERMEDIARY BANKS: 1) JPMORGAN CHASE BANK SWIFT BIC: CHASUS33 Account #: 0011544111 2) CITIBANK SWIFT BIC: CITIUS33 Account #: 36049172</p>
CORRESPONDENT BANK FOR USD TRANSFERS / БАНК КОРРЕСПОНДЕНТ ДЛЯ ПЕРЕВОДОВ в ДОЛЛАРАХ США	<p>ALFA-BANK (Moscow, Russia) SWIFT BIC: ALFARUMM Address: 27 Kalanchevskaya str., Moscow, 107078, RF Correspondent account of DemirBank: 3011184000000000113</p>
	<p>INTERMEDIARY BANK: THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, New York, NY, USA SWIFT BIC: IRVTUS33, Account #: 8900613920</p>
	<p>TRANSKAPITALBANK (Moscow, Russia) SWIFT BIC: TJSCLUMM Address: 27/35, Vorontsovskaya Street, Moscow, 109147, Russia Correspondent account of DemirBank: 3011184010000000107</p>
	<p>INTERMEDIARY BANK: CITIBANK, New York, NY, USA SWIFT BIC: CITIUS33, Account #: 36313578</p>