



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

23 July 2009

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

23 - 25 April 2009



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OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

I. INTRODUCTION

In anticipation of an invitation to observe the upcoming presidential election, scheduled for 23 July 2009, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to the Kyrgyz Republic on 23 and 24 April 2009. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was composed of Nicola Schmidt, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser, and Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, OSCE/ODIHR External Election Expert. Anna Chernova, Programme Officer with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, participated in the NAM, in accordance with 1997 Cooperation Agreement, as endorsed by Ministerial Council decision 19/06.

The purpose of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM was to assess the conditions and level of preparation for the election, in line with OSCE commitments, and to advise on modalities for a possible election-related activity. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM held meetings in Bishkek with representatives of the authorities, election administration, political parties, media, civil society and international community (see annex for list of meetings).

The OSCE/ODIHR expresses its appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums, representatives of other state institutions, political parties, civil society and media for their co-operation. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank the OSCE Centre in Bishkek for the assistance provided during the NAM.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The date for the 23 July 2009 presidential election was set by Parliament following a decision by the Constitutional Court, which clarified the constitutional provision governing this election. The OSCE/ODIHR has observed elections in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2000, most recently the pre-term parliamentary elections of December 2007. These elections were assessed as having failed to meet a number of OSCE commitments despite meeting some that underscore pluralism.

The political landscape in Kyrgyzstan has become more polarized since the previous elections and political tension between the government and the opposition over various issues increased. Public dissent remains a feature of political life with demonstrations continuing and further activities being planned.

Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors have expressed concern about a perceived deterioration in the human rights situation in the country. Laws have been changed or amendments to laws are proposed that could lead to restrictions on the activities of

media and civil society. The selective application of current legislation was also highlighted by some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors. The authorities tend to prioritize economic growth and stability, which they say should not be undermined by democratic progress. Some interlocutors opined that too many freedoms could be a factor for destabilization.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors also expressed concerns about equal access to media, misuse of administrative and government resources in favour of the incumbent President who is expected to stand for re-election, potential electoral fraud during election day and the falsification of results. The Kyrgyz authorities and the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission (CEC) affirmed to the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that the election will be democratic and in line with domestic legislation.

The presidential election requires a 50 per cent turnout of registered voters to be valid. The election code was adopted by referendum in October 2007 and further amended in January 2009. The recent amendments include the abolishment of inking of voters' fingers, an important safeguard against multiple voting. The use of additional voter lists (AVL) has been extended and the need to have a court certificate to be included on the AVL on election day has been repealed. Now voters can be included on the AVL before and on election day on the basis of the residency registration in their passport and a written declaration.

Preparations for the election seem to be on track. The Central Election Commission (CEC) has approved a calendar plan of activities, prepared detailed information materials for election commissions and nominated candidates, and conducts training for election commission members.

Candidate nomination is ongoing with signature collection ending on 2 June and candidate registration to be completed on 17 June. The official election campaign will start on 18 June. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concern about alleged bias in favour of the incumbent President of the main television channels, including the State-broadcaster. Concerns were also expressed about the latest changes to the Law on Television and Radio and about an increase in repressive tendencies, including severe beatings of several journalists. In general, concerns were voiced about a criminalization of the political process in Kyrgyzstan.

Civil society is active in Kyrgyzstan and several organizations are planning observation of the election by deploying long-term and short-term observers around the country and conducting media monitoring. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors criticized proposed changes to the law on non-commercial organizations which, if adopted, could lead to a prohibition of participation of NGOs in political activities, including election observation.

Based on the findings outlined in this report, the concerns expressed, the apparent lack of confidence in the election process and the stated intention of the Kyrgyz authorities to conduct democratic elections, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a standard Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the Kyrgyz Republic in early June to assess the 23 July 2009 presidential election in line with OSCE commitments and domestic legislation upon the receipt of an official invitation from Kyrgyz authorities. Such an EOM would require in addition to the deployment of a core team of

experts, the secondment by participating States of 24 long-term observers and 300 short-term observers.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The presidential election in the Kyrgyz Republic was set for 23 July 2009 upon a 20 March 2009 decision of the *Jogorku Kenesh* (Parliament). This parliamentary vote followed the 19 March ruling of the Constitutional Court, which held that the presidential election must take place no later than 25 October 2009. This decision was taken upon a request for clarification of the constitutional provision governing the President's election put to the Constitutional Court by a deputy from the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK), Mr. Asylbek Jeenbekov.

Since 2000, the OSCE/ODIHR has observed five sets of elections in the Kyrgyz Republic, mostly in co-operation with the OSCE PA. Most recently, the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE PA observed the 2007 pre-term parliamentary elections. These elections were found to have failed to meet a number of OSCE commitments. Although a respect for some commitments that underscored existing pluralism was noted, further efforts and political will were found to be necessary for elections to be meeting OSCE commitments.

Since the deployment of the last OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission in 2007, political tensions over various issues have increased between the government and the opposition parties. Public dissent has remained a feature of political life in Kyrgyzstan, with the latest opposition protests having taken place on 27 March 2009.

Following the December 2007 pre-term parliamentary elections, three parties are represented in the Parliament. These are *Ak Jol* and led by the incumbent President Kurmanbek Bakiev, the Party of Communists of Kyrgyzstan (PKK), led by Mr. Ishak Masaliyev, and the SDPK, led by former Prime Minister, Mr. Almazbek Atambayev. *Ak Jol* controls the majority in Parliament with 71 of 90 deputies; the SPDK, which considers itself as the only opposition party in Parliament, has 11 mandates. The Party of Communists of Kyrgyzstan holds 8 mandates.

Ak Jol remains the dominant political force in support of the government and the President, although recent internal dissent has been apparent.¹ This includes the 25 April 2009 expulsion of the deputy chairperson of the party, Ms. Elmira Ibraimova, for criticism of the President.

As of December 2008, various opposition parties have consolidated into the United People's Movement (UPM). This coalition has united seven opposition parties and four opposition movements, including *Ak Shumkar*, *Asaba*, *Ata Meken*, the Green Party, the SDPK, *Uluu Birimdik*, United Kyrgyzstan, and *Jany Kyrgyzstan*. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concern about several court cases, allegedly of a political nature, against leaders of opposition parties and their relatives.

¹ The OSCE/ODIHR NAM tried to meet with *Ak Jol* to discuss the pre-electoral situation but was not successful.

In meetings with the authorities, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that the government is focusing on stability and economic growth in Kyrgyzstan and that democratization in the country must not outpace these elements. Some government interlocutors opined that there had been too much disorder in the past few years and that certain limitations are necessary in order to maintain this desired stability and growth.

Opposition interlocutors informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they continue to have little confidence in the election process and in public institutions dealing with elections; this includes the election administration, the judiciary, and the security and police services. They noted that they do not trust that the decisions handed down by these institutions are fair and unbiased. They stated that they believe election-day fraud will be widespread, especially with regard to voter lists and during the counting and tabulation process. They also stressed that the final results from the 2007 elections have never been published, which has undermined their trust in the election process. They do not rule out public protests in relation to the elections.

Despite their concerns, the UPM decided to contest the elections and on 20 April nominated a common candidate, Mr. Almazbek Atambayev. Mr. Atambayev previously served as prime minister from 29 March to 28 November 2007. At a party congress on 1 May, *Ak Jol* nominated incumbent President Bakiev to stand for a second term of office. A number of potential candidates have officially announced their intention to stand. Mr. Tursunbai Bakir-uluu, who had intended to run, was recently proposed for appointment as Ambassador to Malaysia and is understood to have accepted the posting. The deadline for nomination of candidates for registration is 18 May. Candidate registration materials and support signature lists must be submitted until 2 June 2009 and the official election campaign commences after the final registration of candidates, from 18 June 2009.

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In recent years, Kyrgyzstan underwent a series of constitutional reforms, including the consecutive adoption of amendments to the constitution in autumn and winter 2006. In October 2007, a new Constitution and election code of the Kyrgyz Republic were adopted in a nationwide referendum. The election code was further amended in January 2009. The OSCE/ODIHR was informed that some roundtables and events took place at the end of 2008 to enable stakeholders to discuss the changes. The OSCE/ODIHR previously recommended that amendments to the code, as well as constitutional changes, should undergo broad public debate.

The Constitution provides for a five-year term for the office of the President and a maximum of two consecutive terms. The previous constitutional requirements that elections are to be held on the last weekend in October and that a 50 per cent turnout is necessary for the election to be valid were abolished with the adoption of the 2007 Constitution. The turnout requirement, however, is still contained in the election code. The OSCE/ODIHR had previously recommended abolishing this requirement as it could potentially lead to a cycle of repeated elections.

The January 2009 amendments to the election code introduce a number of changes. Elections can now be held on any day of the week, including working days. In another

amendment, the requirement for the inking of voters' fingers, an important safeguard against multiple voting, was removed. According to the CEC Chairperson, inking was negatively perceived by citizens and, in addition, its abolishment results in substantial financial savings in the election budget.

The election code does not require public posting of voter lists prior to election day but enables voters to familiarize themselves with the voter lists in the premises of the respective election commission. It remains unclear, however, whether citizens will be able to view only their individual entry or the whole voter list for their precinct. In cases where voters are not included in the voter list but are eligible to vote in a particular polling station, they should be added to the additional voter list.

The requirement for voter registration remains the residential registration (similar to the former *propiska*). Previous provisions that, on election day, voters could only be included in the additional voter list upon presentation of a court certificate confirming their eligibility to vote, have been changed to allow inclusion into the additional voter list based on a written statement by the voter on non-inclusion in the voter list and presentation of a valid passport with relevant residential registration.

Previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations regarding the election code have not been comprehensively considered. For example, a key OSCE/ODIHR recommendation that the election code should be amended to require the CEC to publish election results in a timely manner, broken down by each polling station, has not been implemented.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors have expressed concern regarding the complaints and appeals procedures, giving examples of access to court being denied to complainants after the local elections of October 2008. A general lack of trust in the judiciary has also been expressed by interlocutors, raising the question whether stakeholders would seek remedy through the courts for alleged election violations.

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The upcoming presidential election will be administered by a four-tiered election administration, headed by the CEC. The administration comprises seven Oblast Election Commissions and the Bishkek and Osh City Commissions (OECs), 56 Rayon and Town Election Commissions (RECs), and approximately 2,300 to 2,400 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).

The CEC and OECs are permanent bodies, appointed for a five-year term. The CEC Chairperson and six members are appointed by the president, the remaining six members by the parliament. Lower-level election commissions are formed through nominations by political parties and assemblies of voters whereby representation by political parties, assemblies of voters and municipal workers may not exceed one-third of the commission members, respectively. No individual party, assembly of voters or institution may have more than one member per commission. Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors have expressed distrust in the election administration and very low confidence in its independence, alleging that it is staffed with supporters of the President and *Ak Jol*.

Preparations for the election seem to be on track. The CEC has approved a calendar plan of activities, prepared detailed information materials for election commission members and nominated candidates, and currently conducts training for OEC and REC members. The CEC also plans training activities for PEC members as well as for political parties, NGOs and prosecutors.

REC members have been appointed, including one-third representation from political parties. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors complained that few members of opposition parties were included in the commissions. According to the CEC Chairperson, 12 parties nominated members for the RECs. Most nominations for REC members were made in Bishkek and Chui Oblast, with few nominations in Batken and Jalal-Abad Oblast. The CEC Chairperson noted that not all parties nominated members in all regions. In case of too many nominations, the selection was made by drawing lots. In cases of a shortfall of applications, the remainder was chosen from nominations by assemblies of voters. The monetary reimbursement of election commission chairpersons and secretaries has been increased due to their workload.

The CEC Chairperson informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that many OSCE/ODIHR recommendations had been implemented, for example regarding the review procedure for complaints. He informed that other recommendations, such as the public posting of voter lists for scrutiny by voters, require changes to the election code and can therefore not be implemented for the upcoming election.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns with regard to the quality of the voter lists, especially due to the high internal movements and labour migration. The CEC Chairperson informed that after the 2008 local elections, an analysis of the voter lists was conducted, resulting in some improvements. A working group has been established within the CEC to work on the *GAS Shailoo* electronic system and on updating voter list databases in the regions. The CEC Chairperson expects that the *GAS Shailoo* system will be operational on election day. In 2007, the OSCE/ODIHR had observed many problems with the functioning of and data input into the *GAS Shailoo* system.

Out of country voting will be organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is unclear how voter lists will be established for the out of country voting, in which locations voting will take place, and whether and by which procedure voters who vote abroad will be taken off the voter lists in-country.

Nominated candidates have to collect 50,000 support signatures of which no less than three per cent of the total required number of signatures has to be collected in each oblast and the cities of Bishkek and Osh. Signatures have to be collected until 2 June; they will be verified by the OECs within five days of submission. Candidate registration ends on 17 June and the election campaign begins on 18 June, running until 24 hours before election day.

Candidates are entitled to free airtime on TV and radio channels as well as free space in the print media. In addition, candidates can buy airtime on TV and radio channels on the basis of equal conditions for all candidates. The CEC and other election commissions will organize joint meetings for candidates with voters as part of the campaign. Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors have expressed concern about unequal conditions for

candidates to campaign and the possible misuse of administrative and state resources in favour of the incumbent President and candidate of *Ak Jol*.

The amended election code continues to provide for complex voting and counting procedures. The protocols that PECs will have to fill out after counting are still very detailed, including complicated calculations that may be difficult to understand and could lead to errors. Previous OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions evaluated the counting process negatively. The OSCE/ODIHR previously recommended special training on counting procedures and the filling out of protocols. Access of OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE PA observers to monitor the counting and tabulation process will be important.

Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors have expressed concern about possible falsification of the election by replacing protocols with pre-fabricated protocols to achieve a specific election result. They also expressed concern about potential electoral fraud during the voting process. These concerns are underpinned by the fact that official results of the 2007 pre-term parliamentary elections have to date not been published. The CEC Chairperson and the Kyrgyz authorities have expressed their commitment to conduct democratic elections and their confidence that the election will be in line with domestic legislation.

D. MEDIA

Although there are currently 132 registered media outlets in the Kyrgyz Republic, many OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors allege that there is no one media source in the country that can give balanced and unbiased information; the Kyrgyz public can gain a balanced informational perspective, but this is only possible through consulting a wide variety of state and private television and newspaper sources. Although the Internet is available and does provide readers with a wide variety of views, it is not widely accessible outside of the capital Bishkek and Osh.

Most citizens receive their main information from the Kyrgyz National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation (KTR). KTR has a national broadcasting outreach not enjoyed by other media outlets and remains the only nationwide TV and radio outlet. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors have commented that the opposition parties and politicians have limited possibilities to get coverage on KTR. During the OSCE/ODIHR NAM, the head of the SDPK parliamentary faction gave copies of his correspondence requesting KTR to provide him with television time, as per the law “On the Status of Deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic”.² In its response, KTR stated that it considered its weekly 30 minute programme “Parliament” to have fulfilled this legal obligation and that since “the activities of all fractions are fully reflected in our airtime, there is no necessity to allocate special airtime to a certain political party.”

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors also criticized the June 2008 changes to the Law on TV and Radio. Among other issues, the law’s new requirement that 50 per cent of transmission be in the Kyrgyz language were considered by some interlocutors as being unrealistic to implement in a short timeframe. Others stated that they had suggested a gradual implementation of this measure, but that their proposal had been rejected. One

² This law provides for deputies to be allocated free airtime once a month on state TV to discuss their parliamentary work.

media organization noted that as most of their material is re-broadcast with the original in the Russian language, they lack sufficient resources to produce local shows and, thus, to meet the 50 per cent requirement.

In addition, the media law amendments appear to have hindered efforts to transform KTR into a public service broadcaster.³ In a meeting with KTR's general director, he confirmed that the conclusion had been reached that public service broadcasting was premature for Kyrgyzstan at this point. The media law amendments have also changed the KTR appointment process, with the head of KTR now being appointed by the President.

Another aspect criticized by some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors was that the legislation, in particular the election code, does not provide a clear definition of what constitutes campaign coverage by media versus agitation for a particular political party or candidate. Thus, they noted that many media outlets are reluctant to cover aspects of an electoral campaign since media agitating for a particular political party or candidate is illegal; they claimed that this has a chilling effect on media reporting.

Other elements noted by OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors as having a negative impact on media prior to these elections is that in Summer 2008 two newspapers (*Alibi* and *De Facto*) stopped issuing. According to OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors these newspapers were considered to be critical of the government,. They also commented on the recent violence against journalists in the country, including the beating up of the *Reporter's* journalist Syrgak Abdyldayev in March 2009. Mr. Abdyldayev apparently received 21 stab wounds and had his arms broken.⁴ The OSCE/ODIHR NAM understands that an investigation by police is underway, but thus far no suspect has been apprehended or charged.

E. INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OBSERVERS

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors generally welcomed the presence of OSCE/ODIHR observers for the upcoming presidential election. The OSCE/ODIHR anticipates receiving an official invitation from the authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic in due course.

Several domestic civil society organizations plan to observe the election. Some domestic observer organizations plan to field large long-term and short-term observation missions throughout the country, others are preparing for media monitoring of the election and campaign coverage. The CEC Chairperson assured the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that it would co-operate with domestic organizations as well with representatives of all political parties in Kyrgyzstan and enable their observation of the election process.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about proposed amendments to the law on non-commercial organizations. A recent opinion published by the

³ This has been recommended in previous OSCE/ODIHR reports.

⁴ OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that this recent violence also prompted the decision of a prominent independent Russian-language newspaper in Kyrgyzstan, "*Litsa*" ("*The Persons*"), to shut by its own decision. "*Litsa's*" editor-in-chief has claimed that the attack on Mr. Abdyldayev and anonymous phone calls to the newspaper's office prompted the decision.

OSCE/ODIHR on the proposed amendments to this and other laws states that "existing legislation is in most respects compatible with the international standards. This level of compatibility would be significantly diminished were the proposed amendments to be adopted." The proposed changes include, among several others, a "prohibition on activities that come within a broad definition of what is 'political' or connected with elections"⁵, potentially prohibiting election observation. In addition, interlocutors mentioned a new regulation adopted by the CEC that prohibits the accreditation of Kyrgyz citizens as international observers as part of observation efforts of international (foreign) organizations, including international NGOs and embassies. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors are concerned that the changed CEC regulation in combination with the proposed changes to the law on non-commercial organizations would prevent any observation by domestic actors of the upcoming election.

The election code contains a provision which could potentially limit the publication of reports by international observers before the end of polling day. During the previous OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission for the 2007 pre-term parliamentary elections, OSCE/ODIHR pre-election interim reports were received in a constructive spirit and were published on the OSCE/ODIHR website.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the NAM outlined in this report, the concerns expressed, the apparent lack of confidence in the election process and the stated intention of the Kyrgyz authorities to conduct democratic elections, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a standard Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the Kyrgyz Republic to assess the 23 July 2009 presidential election in line with OSCE commitments and domestic legislation.

Such EOM would require the recruitment of a core team of about a dozen experts by OSCE/ODIHR to be deployed in Bishkek in early June. In addition, it will require the secondment by the participating States of 24 long-term observers to observe this election in all regions, including the capital city to follow the work of the election administration, voter registration, candidate registration, the pre-election campaign, access to media, complaints and appeals process, and election preparations, and 300 short-term observers to ensure a wide and balanced geographic coverage of the country for the observation of election day proceedings.

⁵ Press Release and Opinion on the Draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Amendments and Additions to Some Legal Acts of the Kyrgyz Republic are available at: www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_37256.html.

ANNEX – LIST OF MEETINGS

Bishkek, 23 and 24 April 2009

AUTHORITIES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Kadyrbek Sarbaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Central Commission for Elections and Referenda

Mr. Damir Lisovski, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission on Elections and Referenda

Presidential Administration

Mr. Aybek Moldogaziev, Head of Foreign Policy Department, Presidential Administration

POLITICAL PARTIES

Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK)

Mr. Baktybek Beshimov, Member of Parliament, leader of SDPK faction

United People's Movement (UPM)

Mr. Almazbek Atambaev, Head of Party, SDPK

Mr. Isa Omurkulov, Member of Parliament, SDPK

Mr. Emil Kaptagaev, Chairman, National Democratic Party “Uulu Birimdik”

Mr. Asylbek Sarybaev, Head of UPM Secretariat

MEDIA

Mr. Melis Eshimkanov, Director General, Kyrgyz National Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation (KTR)

Ms. Elmira Toktosunova, Director General, Media Consult

Mr. Marat Tokoev, Director, “Journalists” Public Union

Ms. Evgenia Berdnikova, Director General, 5th Channel TV

Mr. Radislav Safin, Editor-in-Chief, Bishkek Press Club

Ms. Begaim Usenova, Executive Director, Media Commissioner Institute

Mr. Alexandr Kulinskiy, Chairperson, Media Complaints Committee

Ms. Nina Saenko, Deputy Editor, “Vecherny Bishkek” newspaper

Mr. Sultan Kanazarov, Editor, Reporter Bishkek

Mr. Sherimbek Kumaev, Editor, Kyrgyz National Radio

Mr. Ibragim Nurakun uulu, Correspondent, BBC Bishkek

Ms. Dosalieva Bubukan, TV producer, Azattyk

Mr. Azamat Tynaev, Editor, Komsomolskaya Pravda-Kyrgyzstan newspaper

Mr. Myzakat Tynaliyev, Head of Department on Political and Legal Issues, Kyrgyz Tuusu newspaper

Ms. Tursunay Usubalieva, Internews

CIVIL SOCIETY

Alliance of NGOs for Voters' Rights

Ms. Tolekan Ismailova, Director, "Citizens against Corruption" Human Rights Center

Ms. Dinara Oshurahunova, Executive Director, "Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society"

Ms. Ainura Usupbekova, Executive Director, "Taza Shailoo"

Mr. Meder Talkanchiev, Election Coordinator, "Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society"

Ms. Gulnar Djurabaeva, Programme Coordinator, "Interbilim" International Centre

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere, Head of Centre

Mr. Lilian Darii, Deputy Head of Centre

Mr. Oleg Semenenko, Senior Human Dimension Officer

Embassies

Mr. Erbol Akhmetov, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Robert Burgess, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (Chief of Political and Economic section), Embassy of the United States of America

Mr. Peter Neven, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Oleg Lozhnikov, Counsellor, Embassy of Russian Federation

International Organizations and NGOs

Mrs. Dianne Cullinane, Democracy Specialist, USAID – US Agency for International Development

Mr. Martin Dawson, Head of Office, DFID – UK Department for International Development

Ms. Fiona Frazer, Human Rights Officer and Officer-in-Charge a.i., Regional Office for Central Asia, OHCHR – UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Kumar Bekbolotov, Executive Director, Soros-Kyrgyzstan Foundation

Mr. Kanat Joldoshev, Assistant Program Officer, IRI – International Republican Institute

Mr. Dmitry Shevkun, Deputy Chief of Party, IFES

Mr. Scott Kearin, Resident Director, NDI - National Democratic Institute