



OSCE Police Advisory Group in Kyrgyzstan: Frequently Asked Questions

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How was the decision to deploy the Police Advisory Group taken?

On 14 June 2010 Kyrgyzstan officially requested OSCE assistance to Kyrgyzstan in overcoming the crisis in the country, in the prevention of escalation of tensions and in the post-conflict rehabilitation of the country.

OSCE police experts working together with the authorities of Kyrgyzstan made an analysis that a Police advisory group should be deployed. On 22 June Kyrgyzstan expressed its readiness to accept the proposal.

On 22 July 2010 representatives of all participating States including Kyrgyzstan unanimously voted for this decision to deploy the Police advisory group in the south of Kyrgyzstan for the period of 4 months.

The period of the Group's work can be extended only under the agreement of the Kyrgyz authorities and of all other 55 participating States of the OSCE.

What is the OSCE Police Advisory Group?

The OSCE Police Advisory Group consists of 52 international advisors from the OSCE participating States.

The OSCE Police Advisory Group will have its own headquarters in Osh. The Group will consist of six teams. Each team will be co-located with a separate territorial unit of the Interior Ministry. Each team will comprise a Team Leader, international police officers (up to 7 officers), a local community mediator and local interpreters. They will monitor the work of this territorial unit and their interaction with the locally-formed citizen patrols and local communities.

The Police Advisory Group is not a peacekeeping force. The question of possible deployment of international peacekeeping troops to Kyrgyzstan has never been considered.



Who will the Police Advisory Group consist of?

The process of selecting members of the Police Advisory Group is underway. All 56 OSCE participating States can nominate their candidates for the PAG.

The following criteria will be used in the recruitment of the police advisers:

- Professional experience in law enforcement agencies
- Experience in building relationships between police agencies and local communities
- Experience in the areas of interethnic conflicts
- Knowledge of local conditions and customs
- Knowledge of Russian language and/or local languages (Kyrgyz or Uzbek).

In addition to police officers, the PAG will include local community mediators.

What OSCE police advisers can and cannot do?

The main goal of the OSCE PAG is to build trust between the MoI units and the local communities.

The Group will have two main tasks: to monitor the work of territorial units of the Interior Ministry and advise them on the ways to restore public order and to help reduce interethnic tension. As a neutral party they will be able to define what concrete measures are needed to improve the work of the units.

The members of the Group cannot intervene into the situation in any way, hold and arrest people, investigate crimes.

The Group will not have the mandate to investigate the June events.

How will one identify the OSCE police advisers?

In order to be easily identified all members of PAG will wear the national police uniform of those countries that have sent them, a colored helmet or a beret and a white armband that will clearly show the words "OSCE Police Advisor". The PAG members will be unarmed.

How can people approach police advisers?

The members of Police Advisory Group will accompany local police in their patrols in the streets, and population will be able to approach them and address them with a help of local interpreters who will work with the PAG.



How long will the Police Advisory Group stay in Kyrgyzstan?

In accordance with an agreement with Kyrgyzstan, the Police Advisory Group is to be deployed in Kyrgyzstan for a period of four months.

The operational period of four months will start once all 52 police advisers are deployed in Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces, and they can begin the full implementation of their tasks. Before the start of this operational period, an Advance Team is expected to be deployed for a few weeks.

Any extension to their mandate will require agreement from Kyrgyzstan and all other 55 participating States of the OSCE.

Who will ensure the safety of the Police Advisory Group?

Police advisers will be experienced senior police professionals, they will be provided with communication and protective equipment, including armored vehicles. Members of the Police Advisory Group will be unarmed. The Government of Kyrgyzstan and local law enforcement bodies will be responsible for their security, as well as for the safety of ordinary people of Kyrgyzstan.

Has the OSCE carried out similar operations before?

In 1998-2000 in Croatia an OSCE Police monitoring group consisting of 120 police observers carried monitoring of the local police activities related to the return of displaced persons.

In 2001-2002 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 60 police advisers were deployed. They facilitated the return of police to areas hit by the conflict, and helped re-build trust and confidence between the police and the local population.