

Embargoed until 17:00 or 5:00 pm KGT, 22 June 2023

Wellington, New Zealand, 22 June 2023

Human rights in Kyrgyzstan

New data released today show the extent of human rights violations in Kyrgyzstan.

The Human Rights Measurement Initiative's 2023 data show that human rights continue to be neglected by Kyrgyzstan's government. The government is not adequately protecting people from violence or ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights for the people of Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan is achieving less than what it could achieve at its level of income to protect economic and social rights, including **education, food, health, housing, and work**. Experts on human rights in Kyrgyzstan cite high unemployment rates, low wages, low quality of government-provided services, and a growing population as reasons for people not enjoying their economic and social rights.

Kyrgyzstan scores 6.5 out of 10 on the right to be **safe from the state**. This score suggests that **many people in Kyrgyzstan are not safe** from one or more of the following: arbitrary arrest, torture and ill-treatment, forced disappearance, execution or extrajudicial killing.

Kyrgyzstan scores 4.4 out of 10 on **empowerment** rights, suggesting that **many people are not enjoying their civil liberties and political freedoms**. All three of the government's empowerment rights scores fall in the 'bad' range, and the country is performing **worse than average** in our sample of 30 countries.

Human rights experts identified **human rights advocates, protestors, and people with opposing political opinions** to the government as being especially at risk of violations of their civil and political rights, among other groups. The authorities censored anyone opposing the government or fighting for democracy, especially when in reference to Ukraine and Russia.

Neither physical integrity nor empower rights have shown signs of improvement in recent years. In fact, empowerment rights have significantly decreased overall. It's clear from what human rights experts in Kyrgyzstan have reported that anyone with opposing political views or advocating for human rights is at high risk of having their rights violated.

HRMI Spokesperson Thalia Kehoe Rowden said, 'All people in Kyrgyzstan deserve to have all their human rights protected by their government. HRMI's scores, based on both local reporting and international databases, show that successive governments in Kyrgyzstan have not kept the promises the country has made under international law.'

—END—

About the Rights Tracker: The Rights Tracker is a global project to track the human rights performance of countries systematically. Our 2023 dataset launched today includes annual data on eight civil and political rights for up to 44 countries from the years 2017 to 2022, with Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Maldives added this year. Our data also include inaugural scores on the right to freedom of religion and belief in a pilot set of nine countries. Annual data on five economic and social rights for 196 countries from 2007 to 2020, based on the award-winning SERF Index methodology, is also available. Please visit rightstracker.org for the freely available dataset.

About HRMI: The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is an independent non-profit organisation part of a global movement building a world where all people can flourish. We track the human rights progress of countries, producing robust data that anyone can use to push for improvements in how governments treat people. What gets measured gets improved: if something isn't being systematically measured, it can be more easily overlooked and undervalued. HRMI data make it easier for decision-makers to monitor their progress, and prioritise human rights. Advocacy based on sound information is one of the key drivers of change. www.humanrightsmeasurement.org

For media inquiries, please contact:

Thalia Kehoe Rowden

Strategy and Communication Lead, and Global Spokesperson:

thalia.kehoerowden@hrmi.ngo