



Urgent Action Office 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 urgentaction@amnesty.ca
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KYRGYZSTAN

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SENTENCED TO PROBATION

Rita Karasartova, a prominent human rights defender and civic governance expert in Kyrgyzstan, has been convicted on politically motivated charges and sentenced to five years' probation. Her case reflects ongoing efforts to silence peaceful activism and restrict civic space in the country.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

Rita Karasartova was detained on April 14, 2025, following a search of her home by law enforcement officers. Authorities charged her under vague provisions of the criminal code, including "*Organizing mass riots*" and "*Public calls for the violent seizure of power*," apparently in retaliation for her peaceful human rights work and civic engagement. The case materials were classified, and the trial took place behind closed doors, violating her right to a fair and public hearing.

On September 18, 2025, a court in Kyrgyzstan convicted Rita Karasartova and sentenced her to five years' probation. During this period, she will remain under police supervision and is prohibited from leaving the country. The court also imposed a fine of 50,000 soms, approximately CAD \$780. ***"I am very glad to be able to post in solidarity with other activists throughout the world. You're doing an amazing job!" – Rita Karasartova.***

Rita Karasartova was previously featured in Amnesty International's Write for Rights 2023 campaign. This conviction marks the second criminal case brought against her. In 2022, she was detained in connection with the Kempir-Abad case after she and other activists called on authorities to be transparent about a controversial border agreement with Uzbekistan. She and 21 other defendants were acquitted in June 2024.