

Sadyr Japarov, President of Kyrgyzstan  
Presidential Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic  
207 Abdumomunov Street  
720003, Bishkek  
Kyrgyz Republic

Groningen, 2024

Dear Mr President,

I am writing to express my concern about the arbitrary detention and criminal prosecution of Makhabat Tazhibek-kyzy, Aike Beishekeeva, and nine other journalists and media workers associated with "Ayt Ayt Dese" and Temirov LIVE projects. I believe that criminal charges have been brought against them solely to punish them for their criticism of the authorities.

I am also deeply concerned about allegations that Makhabat was tortured or otherwise ill-treated in pre-trial detention on 5 April 2024. The Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights in Kyrgyzstan has confirmed these allegations.

I urge you to immediately release the eleven journalists, drop all charges against them and enable them to continue their professional activities freely and without fear. Pending their release, I call on you to ensure they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment in detention.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,