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Internews is pleased to submit the quarterly report for the second quarter of 2003, for the USAID-funded Central Asian Media and Information Program. The goal of this three-year program is to aid in the development of independent broadcast and print media in Central Asia, placing a special emphasis on increasing the production and availability of news and information that addresses political, economic, and social issues of relevance to the region.

This report provides an update of activities in support of the following program objectives:

***Objective 1: Support Development of Stronger, More Sustainable Non-State Media***

Media law advocacy and policy reform, including direct legal support, association building, and media law advocacy campaigns;

Skills development through journalism and media management training, including seminars, market research, textbook development, onsite consulting and other support;

Improved access to and use of modern information technologies, including computerized newsroom software, Internet connectivity, and Internet policy advocacy.

***Objective 2: Engage Citizens in the Democratic Process through Increased Availability of Useful and Credible Information***

Production funds designed to stimulate public interest programming on topics such as civil society, economic reform, the environment, and health, coupled with broader community outreach initiatives;

Thematic journalism training to improve journalists' coverage of social, political, and economic topics; and,

Co-productions that serve as practical training tools and venues for public interest journalism.

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## *General*

### **Kazakhstan**

In summer 2003, Internews saw a series of events that showed the Kazakhstani government's engagement in mass-media. Much of this engagement does not necessarily show a commitment by the authorities to develop a free and independent media, but suggests an intention to control the sector more.

#### *New Media Law*

In July, after discussions on the draft media law at the Permanent Conference, the Ministry of Information has turned in its draft and has begun presenting it in the regions. Essentially, the Ministry did not introduce any significant changes, leaving articles that strengthen the system of control and of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord.

On Aug. 15, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan sent their draft of the media law to Parliament. Prime Minister Danial Akhmetov signed resolution # 865 of On Aug. 26, which directs the draft to the Parliament for consideration. The text of the draft is available on the Kazakhstani government Web site:  
[http://www.government.kz/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/SITE\\_RU/NEWS/NEWS2003](http://www.government.kz/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/SITE_RU/NEWS/NEWS2003)

The parliamentary working group, which will be considering and preparing the draft media law for discussions in the Mazhilis, includes Armanzhan Baytasov, president of the National Association of Independent TV and Radio Broadcasters (NAT-KZ); Tamara Kaleyeva, president of Adil Soz Foundation; and Oleg Katsiev, Country Director of Internews Kazakhstan. One lawyer from each organization will be attending the working group's sessions. This is a direct result of our collective lobbying in parliament and with the government in September. The first session of the working group will take place in October. By Oct. 10, we must present to parliament our requests for amendments to the law.

#### *Official Meeting between President Nazarbayev and Dariga Nazarbayeva*

On Aug. 18, President Nazarbayev had an official meeting with Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Khabar News Agency, Dariga Nazarbayeva. The event, which was televised, was a little unusual – a father having an official meeting with his daughter. At the meeting, the president pointed out the care and attention he gives to the issue of mass media in Kazakhstan. Nazarbayeva presented Khabar's activity during this year, stressing problems and perspectives.

#### *President Shows his Appreciation for the New Project Caspionet*

The first national satellite TV Channel, Caspionet, began broadcasting Oct. 25, 2002. The channel's signal covers Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and Northern Africa and has a potential audience of 93 million people. The channel delivers Kazakhstan's main political, economic, business and sports news, as well as documentaries and historical and ethnographic programs in Russian, Kazakh and English. The channel aims to give full and objective information about Kazakhstan and to broaden information cooperation with partner states and international organizations. The channel intends to form and present an image of Kazakhstan before a worldwide viewership, and according to the Khabar agency, intends to provide information about the entire Caspian region in the future.

### *President Urges Mass Media Outlets to “Deliver Facts Objectively”*

On Aug. 25, President Nazarbayev urged mass media outlets to “deliver facts objectively” in his address to public representatives in Astana. According to his information, his office receives letters from the public condemning the “media’s habit to ‘sling mud’ at the positive developments in Kazakhstan.” At the same time, Nazarbayev pointed out that media publications help him understand the situation in the regions. “Sometimes I put marks in newspapers, so that our officials will pay attention and solve problems raised by newspapers,” the president said.

Nazarbayev asked media representatives to write more about regional problems but, at the same time, to “not forget positive facts” of the state’s development. “If in 1993-1994, at the time of the euphoria of freedom of speech and independence, we set it off completely – do whatever you want – we would have ended up in anarchy. When anarchy is established, people request order. Dictatorship comes after anarchy. Is this what Kazakhstan needs?” Nazarbayev said. “I would like to support mass media in the future as well. And at the same time would like to remind you about responsibility.” Nazarbayev’s conception of responsibility is likely reflected in the redrafting of the media law.

### *Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord Reorganization*

On Sept. 13, the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord was reorganized when President Nazarbayev signed the decree “on the further restructuring of the government of Kazakhstan.” According to sub-clause 3, page 44 of the Kazakh constitution, the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord of Kazakhstan will be divided into the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Information.

The decree named Abdrakhmanov Sauytbek, 52, as the Minister of Information. Sauytbek was educated as a journalist at the Kazakh State University of C. Kirova. In November 1995, he became the First Assistant to the Minister of Culture. In 1997, he was the first vice-president of the Republic Television and Radio Corporation of Kazakhstan. Since December 2000, he has been the president of the local newspaper, *Egemen Kazakhstan*.

It is difficult to expect any serious change in the work of the Ministry of Information. The vice-president will remain Ardak Doszhan, who is the ideologue behind the last year’s repression of the media in which several stations were closed. And he is also the architect of the new draft law on mass media.

### *Station Managers Running for Candidacy in Local Representative Bodies*

Two directors of Internews partner-stations decided to run for the local representative bodies, Maslikhat in September. They are Vadim Ni, the director of ART-TV and Radio Tex (Karaganda) and Mikhail Chumn, director of TV MIG (Talgat). This is a significant phenomenon, the augmentation of the role of media in Kazakhstani politics and the position of media managers.

### *Success Story: Open Asia Wins OSCE Prize*

On Aug. 11, Internews’ regional news journal, *Open Asia*, won a prize in the OSCE’s competition for the best journalistic work on the issue of the death penalty’s abolition in Kazakhstan. The competition, organized by the OSCE Bureau of Democratic Institutions and

Human Rights and administered by the OSCE Centre in Almaty and the International Bureau on Penitentiary Reforms in Central Asia, aimed to promote public debate on the need for a moratorium on the death penalty. The winners were selected by a committee comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, NGOs, media and international organizations. The other winners of the competition included journalists who had participated in trainings at Internews, including Sergey Ponomarev from Khabar and Alexander Gabchenko from Channel 31 (Almaty).

*Success Story: Opening of Era TV in Astana*

Era TV station in Astana began working July 1. Its new owner is Mirbulat Kunbaev, the former director of RIKa TV from Aktyubinsk. It is remarkable that a new independent TV station has appeared in Astana. We consider it our main partner in the capital, as it is undoubtedly independent from the authorities. His return to business is good news, as he is one of the best TV managers of Kazakhstan and one of the leaders of NAB of Kazakhstan (Mirbulat is a vice-president of the Association). Some specialists also moved to Astana from Aktyubinsk.

*Success Story: Opening of Radio Tandem in Atyrau*

Radio Tandem started broadcasting Aug. 1 in Atyrau. Radio Tandem also has a frequency in Aktyubinsk, so our partner station's expansion into the western region is a sign of improving management.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

*Distribution of Radio and TV Frequencies*

In July, Radio station Nookat-TV from Nookat and TV/Radio station Naiman from Kyzyl-Kia were awarded frequencies by the State Commission on Radio Frequencies.

The State Agency of Communications explained that there are still 30 other applications from radio stations and 11 from TV stations under consideration. The Agency maintains that the number of applications by far exceeds the number of frequencies available and that the only fair way to distribute frequencies is through a competitive system. The rules for this system are currently under discussion. In April 2003, Internews questioned the compliance of such a competition with Kyrgyz law, and noted the threat it posed to independent media.

Recently the Ministry of Justice, the State Commission on Antimonopoly Policy and the Public Association Journalists offered critical comments on the new government document concerning the rules of competitive radio-frequency distribution.

*Publication of New Journal Zamandash*

A new illustrated journal called *Zamandash (Contemporary)* appeared in July. This is the first color print journal in the Kyrgyz language. The main purpose of the magazine is to cover the lives of Kyrgyz people living in Kyrgyzstan and abroad.

*Plans to Set up a Satellite TV and Radio Network in Kyrgyzstan*

In July, at a meeting between Kyrgyz Prime Minister Nikolai Tanaev and Nikolai Sevastyanov, the managing director of the Gazkom open joint-stock company, a subsidiary of Russia's Gazprom, the parties presented plans for a project to set up a satellite television and radio network in Kyrgyzstan. The project would enable 100 percent of the country's population to receive the national television channel and would entail the modernization of the country's TV complex. According to a preliminary cost estimate, Gazprom's investment would be \$1.969 million; the cost of the project, including interest on leasing payments, would be \$2.55 million; and tax payments to the Kyrgyz Republic's state budget would be \$1.8 million. The Kyrgyz government is planning to carry out the project as soon as possible so that television and radio broadcasts can reach the entire population in 2004.

*Success Story: Internews Conference "We Make News"*

On July 30-31, Internews held The First National Media Conference "We Make News" in Bishkek organized with support from Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan, Freedom House, the U.S. Embassy, and with the participation of the Press-Service of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, Association of Regional Broadcasters of Kyrgyzstan and Mass Media Association of Kyrgyzstan.

Over 200 people attended the conference, including representatives from various media outlets (independent and state newspapers, TV stations and radio stations), local and international organizations, and media associations. The main themes discussed at the conference's panel discussions included journalistic ethics, mass media's responsibilities to its consumers, the role of information in Kyrgyzstan, compliance with international standards and objectivity in reporting, and donor assistance to the media. Also, the conference held master-classes on investigative journalism, new technologies and principles of news production, and radio programming. Master class instructors and panel moderators included Marianna Maksimovskaya (Ren-TV, Moscow), Andrei Alakhverdov (Senior Editor, Independent Radio Broadcasting Foundation, Russia), Iossif Dzialoshinski (Board Chairman of the Institute of Independent Communications, Russia), Marika Olsen (Director, Internews-Uzbekistan), and Josh Machleder (Regional Director for Central Asia, Internews).

At the end of the conference Internews held its Awards Ceremony to recognize achievements in the Kyrgyz media with 20 prizes "Stremlenie" (Aspiration) which were awarded to TV, radio and print journalists, cameramen, editors, news anchors, media-managers and photo correspondents by a jury of Internews staff and media professionals. Equipment for news production was awarded to three media outlets from Bishkek in the categories "Best TV news-program," "Best radio news-program," and "Best informational newspaper."

*Success Story: Registration of New Broadcaster's Association "Mass Media"*

On July 25, the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic registered the Association of Radio and TV Broadcasters, Mass Media. Haliljan Hudaiberdiev from Osh TV is president of the association and Dmitri Rostokin from Radio Syrdash is the executive director. The idea for the association was initiated during Internews' work conference in February 2003, and the registration process was conducted under the guidance of Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev.

The association intends to work on Kyrgyz legislation on mass media, lobbying for the adoption of new laws that will stimulate the Kyrgyz broadcast industry, making frequencies and technical means equally accessible to all broadcasters, and promoting the development of the media industry in Kyrgyzstan.

The Association presented its activities at the Internews media conference on July 30-31 and distributed certificates to eight new members. The 13 current members include: Osh TV (Osh), Almaz-Yug Radio (Osh), EMTV (Karakol), Syrdash TV/Radio (Cholpon-Ata), Anten-TV (Karakol), Jalalabad State TV (Jalalabad), Keremet TV/Radio (Osh), Center TV (Kadamjay), DDD Information-Creative Center (OSH), Mezon TV (Osh), Shankhai TV/Radio (Naryn), Tenir-Too Radio (Naryn), *Demokrat* Newspaper (Bishkek).

#### *Kyrgyzstan PR Campaign for 2,200 Anniversary of Kyrgyz Statehood*

On the occasion of the 2,200 anniversary of Kyrgyz statehood, in August, the Kyrgyz government launched an information campaign on CNN. For two months, the network is broadcasting three short video films of 30 seconds each about the history, culture and landscapes of the country. The films were prepared by the Kyrgyz director Evgeny Kotlov. The cost of the campaign is more than \$100,000, and the potential audience is several hundred million viewers around the world.

#### *Re-opening of Newspaper SaryKol*

The newspaper *SaryKol* for ethnic Kyrgyz who live in the Murgaba region in Tajikistan began publishing again in August. The newspaper had been publishing since 1939 but stopped its activity during the civil war in Tajikistan. Because of financial difficulties, it is publishing irregularly. The founders are the regional administration of Murgaba and the newspaper's collective.

#### *New Kyrgyz-Language Newspaper Kadam*

In August, a new Kyrgyz-language newspaper, *Kadam*, began publishing in Kadamjay, in the Batken region, covering regional news and events. The editor is Janybek Kaimov, the editorial staff consists of four people and the paper has a circulation of 1,000.

#### *Case Study: Formation of Media Soviet*

At the Internews conference "We Make News" held July 30-31, an initiative group of journalists under headed by Ella Taranova (former head of the President's press-service), chief editor of the Kyrgyzstan edition of *Rossiskaya Gazeta*, presented the idea of a Media Soviet (Media Council). The proposal document calls for a code of ethics for journalists with a regulatory system. The group said the Media Soviet in Kyrgyzstan would be an independent tool to regulate media activity. Members of the group believe that such a council will establish and enforce standards of modern professionalism for media workers.

A journalist from the independent opposition newspaper *MSN* (formerly *Moya Stolitsa*), Rina Prizhivoit, has voiced her objections to this project, claiming that the Media Soviet will be used as a tool by the authorities to exert greater control over independent-minded media.

On Aug. 25, the authors of the document delineating the council's functions held a meeting at the UN house with editors of Bishkek newspapers, human rights activists and public figures to discuss the concept of the project. Representatives from independent Bishkek newspapers were also invited to this meeting but protested by not attending.

A few days later, a group of southern journalists and NGOs raised their voices in opposition to the project, putting out a statement that declared, "the government wishes to establish one more

unnecessary agency to control the information field in the country. We do not want to be under control. Some popular newspapers were closed and many journalists condemned. Where is the guarantee that this will not happen again?"

Nonetheless, the document has supporters in the office of the President's press-secretary, Abdil Segizbaev, as well as in government press services. These groups actively promote and participate in the planning of the council.

Internews offered the services of its lawyers to the initiative group and is monitoring the modifications of the document. At the moment, Internews is not taking a position on the concept or document but is simply monitoring the situation, as it is unclear what the role this organization will have, its decision making processes, its power in implementing decisions. There is a fear among some observers that the council can and will be used as a tool to censor journalists who criticize as well as an additional structure to pressure the independent media. That this project is supported by the government raises much concern and suspicion.

In September at a conference organized by the Presidential Press Service with the support of UNDP, a Media Council was created. Over 80 journalists from state and independent media participated in the conference and elected nine members which included Parliamentary Deputy, Zainidin Kurmanov; Former President of the State Radio and TV Committee, Kadyrkul Omurkulov; Vice President of Pyramida TV/Radio Company, Murat Kaypov; journalist from the National TV and Radio Corporation, Tamara Valieva; Department Head of the *Vecherny Bishkek* newspaper, Evgueni Denisenko; Chief Editor of the *Osh Sadosi* newspaper, Abdugani Abdugafurov; *Delo No.* correspondent Vadim Nochevkin; *Vecherny Bishkek* and BBC correspondent, Tolkunbek Turdubaev; and film director, Aktan Abdykalykov.

The council is planned to serve as an independent body to regulate media activity, arbitrate in conflicts involving the media and establish standards of modern professionalism for media professionals. It hasn't begun working or made any decisions as of September.

#### *Broadcast of TV/Radio Company Mir in Kyrgyzstan*

In September the Kyrgyz branch of international TV/Radio Company Mir began implementing a project to set up formal contact with local Kyrgyz TV stations. With the financial support of Fund Soros-Kyrgyzstan, Mir is planning to set up a network of correspondents throughout the republic in the next months. Mir will train its staff from six independent stations in the regions. Mir began broadcasting on its own frequency in Bishkek.

#### *Creation of Asrushon-Asia Media Organization*

In September in the southern part of the country, 17 print journalists organized the Asrushon-Asia media organization. The organization plans to establish its own newspaper, organize press conferences and PR activities. The organization owns premises equipped to hold conferences and currently publishes a website ([www.asrussia.org](http://www.asrussia.org)) in three languages (Russian, English and Uzbek) with news, analytical articles and various sociological materials.

#### *Kyrgyzstan's Rating on Reporters Sans Frontiers' Worldwide Press Freedom Index*

The Paris-based organization Reporters Without Borders published its annual Worldwide Press Freedom index. According to the survey, of the 139 countries evaluated, Kyrgyzstan holds 98th

place after Togo in terms of press freedom. Tajikistan holds 86th place, Kazakhstan 116th and Uzbekistan 120th.

#### *Fifth OSCE Central Asia Media Conference in Bishkek*

On Sept. 17-18, the Fifth Central Asia Media Conference organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Freimut Duve and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, in cooperation with CIMERA was held in Bishkek. The conference was entitled "Mass Media in Multicultural and Multilanguage Societies." The 120 participants included journalists from four of the Central Asian countries, government officials and members of Parliament and civil society. The importance of remaining critical towards negative developments in all countries rather than making comparisons between them was stressed during the discussions. "The media should be able to exercise their corrective function towards the economic interests and activities of politicians and their families without any legal or other consequences," said the Bishkek Declaration adopted by participants. "This is essential for the future success of the countries' economic development."

#### *Death of Kyrgyz Journalist*

On Sept. 15, the body of the journalist Ernis Nazalov was found in the Kara-Su district of the southern Osh Province. A criminal case was filed but it is still not clear whether the death was accidental or not. Nazalov was a correspondent for *Kyrgyz Rukhu* and *Kyrgyz Ordo* newspapers, for which he was writing about corruption.

#### *Court Case against Newspaper Aalam*

On Sept. 16, the Oktyabrsky District court in Bishkek proceeded to examine the case filed by the governor of Batken region Mamat Aibalaev and his deputy, Maksat Dynkanov, against the Kyrgyz language newspaper *Aalam* for protection of honor, dignity and business reputation. They are both asking for a compensation of 5 million soms (about \$120,000) from the authors of two articles describing the mechanism of corruption at the regional administration and particularly the use by officials of state budget money for personal use.

## **Tajikistan**

#### *Fact-Finding Mission from Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)*

A fact-finding mission from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) arrived in Dushanbe to investigate the media situation in Tajikistan and working conditions for journalists. The conclusions of the mission were presented during a press conference on July 24. Among the issues mentioned by the group was that fear and self-censorship was pervasive among Tajikistan's journalists and that the Tajik authorities displayed an unwillingness to share information with journalists. CPJ recommended greater access to information in order to promote greater transparency and voiced great concerns about the neglectful attitude towards investigations of murdered journalists, as many investigations have been dropped.

On July 29, the case against Nazirbek Davlatov and Uktam Tahirov concluded with sentences of 15 and 22 years in prison respectively for their participation in the murders of the ORT correspondent Viktor Nikulin in 1996 and the BBC journalist Muhiddin Olimpuri in 1995. The

court ruled that the murders “destabilized society” and were intended to “influence government structures.”

Many experts consider that the rapid conclusion of the trial was directly related to the CPJ team who spoke about these two cases with many state officials. CPJ was invited by Internews, and Internews provided logistical support for CPJ representatives and took interviews for the bulletin as well as for its news exchange programs.

#### *Letter from Committee for the Protection of Journalists to the Tajik Government*

On July 24, the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) submitted a letter to the government of Tajikistan concerning the killing of 29 journalists. CPJ also voiced concern over libel cases against journalists as well as limits of access to information.

In the aftermath of the CPJ research mission for two weeks in Tajikistan, CPJ wrote a letter to Azizmat Imamov, deputy public prosecutor, and Mamadsaid Ubaydullaev, speaker of the Parliament and Mayor of Dushanbe. The letter was the culmination of three days of intensive meetings with state officials and a press conference held in Dushanbe, where CPJ voiced great concerns over the killings of journalists during the civil war in Tajikistan between 1992 and 1997, and about the fact that the investigations of most of those killings still remain unsolved.

The letter to Imamov contains a list of 29 journalists killed during and after the civil war and an appeal to the Tajik government to provide information about the investigations into these cases. At a meeting with CPJ on July 21, Imamov agreed to respond to the letter within 30 days. CPJ has yet to receive an answer.

In the letter to Ubaydullaev, CPJ also voiced concern over the limits Tajik legislation puts on access to information. Civil servants tend to only give information to the press when they receive permission from above.

#### *Letter of Protest to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

On Aug. 20, BBC, Internews Network, the Russian TV-company NTV and the NGO Kinoservis made an official protest to the information department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the violation of their rights to work as journalists.

On Aug. 20, a group of journalists went to Mikrorayon Zarafshan (Dushanbe) to shoot a story about the bead company Jamol i Ko, whose leadership recently was imprisoned for illegal money transactions and allegedly running a pyramid scheme. That day, a large group of people who had spent and lost their money in Jamol i Ko's pyramid scheme had gathered outside the office in protest, and when journalists began to film and interview them, policemen hindered the journalists' ability to do their work by physically harassing them. The policemen also accused the journalists of destabilizing society. At one point, the head of the Ferunze Rayon police arrived and also insulted and threatened the journalists.

In the aftermath of these events, the public prosecutor of Tajikistan met with the journalists and apologized for the policemen's behavior. The Tajik MFA also passed on a note to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who later responded that they have talked with the responsible policemen.

### *Response to NANSMIT Open Letter*

On Sept. 1, the National Association of Independent Media in Tajikistan (NANSMIT) received an official reply from the Government of Tajikistan in response to its open letter (April 10, 2003) requesting tax breaks to media. Deputy Prime Minister Negina Sharipova in her response ordered relevant ministries to come up with a response within 10 days. Unfortunately, no official response has yet been delivered.

### *Gorno Badakhshan Coordination Council for Mass Media*

The Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Province (GBAO) set up a coordination council for mass media that will aim to improve the situation for mass media in this region. Almost all media outlets in the province are state-owned, and journalists of GBAO hope that this organ will defend their interests. The creation of the coordination council serves as a way to consolidate the journalists in GBAO and will probably serve more as a way to control the mass media scene there, rather than to improve the situation for the journalists. The initiative to set up the council was most probably taken by state media and the local government because 99 percent of the media outlets in GBAO are owned by the state.

### *Asia-Plus TV Refused Registration*

Asia-Plus' application to set up a TV station in Dushanbe was rejected in September. According to Umed Babakhanov, director of the company, the reason he was given was because of Asia-Plus' lack of equipment and know-how. He will not be able to appeal for registration for another six months. However, it is widely assumed that it is only a question of time until Babakhanov receives a license.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Reporters Sans Frontieres' Worst Offenders*

The international organization Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) has published the first worldwide index of press freedom. The index was drawn up by polling journalists, researchers, and legal experts from different countries who were asked to answer 50 questions concerning violations of freedom of the press in their countries. Violations included: murders or arrests of journalists, censorship, pressure, government monopolies in various fields, and laws concerning the activity of the media, etc. Among the former Soviet republics, Tajikistan was ranked the best in terms of freedom of the press, occupying the 86<sup>th</sup> position in the world. Kyrgyzstan was ranked the 98<sup>th</sup>, Azerbaijan the 101<sup>st</sup>, Kazakhstan the 116<sup>th</sup>, Uzbekistan the 120<sup>th</sup>, Ukraine the 112<sup>th</sup>, and Belarus the 124<sup>th</sup>. Turkmenistan was ranked the 136<sup>th</sup> among the five "worst offenders" of press freedom along with North Korea, Bhutan, Burma, and China.

### *Walkout of Mokhiyat Newspaper Staff*

The editorial staff from the independent newspaper *Mokhiyat* staged a walkout mid-July, protesting the abrupt change in atmosphere resulting from the recent appointment of Ibrohim Normatov to the position of Deputy Director by the newspaper's founder, the director of Turkestan Press Information Agency. From the editorial staff's perspective, Normatov saw his mission of "editing" as "censoring." After one issue containing an article about founding partners

of media outlets who were censoring newspaper content, Normatov removed five articles in the following issue, including one by Karim Bakhriev on freedom of speech, replacing them with his own editorial refuting these claims. On July 15, the newspaper's editorial staff, together with its editor, Abdukayum Yuldashev, resigned in protest.

#### *Arrest and Harassment of Internews Journalists*

On July 20, two Internews freelance journalists, Zakirjon Ibragimov and Dilmurod Tashbayev, were arrested briefly at a checkpoint on the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border. They were shooting a story about the border incident in which Uzbek border guards shot a Kyrgyz citizen, Odil Urkunbayev. After a conversation with the head of the checkpoint, the journalists were released.

Again on Sept. 16, the journalists were attacked by a group of prostitutes while shooting footage for a piece about Uzbek makhallas, the self-governing neighborhood units, which have recently been a target of criticism by Human Rights Watch for being utilized as an instrument of control and surveillance by government. Police in the Ferghana region have lately been regularly employing the tactic of setting out bands of prostitutes on journalists to harass them and prevent them from their reporting activities when they cover events; this band of prostitutes was encouraged by the Andijan police. Fortunately, the journalists were not injured, and they were able to complete their story.

On Aug. 20, Matluba Azamatova, a reporter with BBC Uzbek Service, was attacked during a protest rally in front of the Ferghana region's prosecutor's office. According to Mutabar Tadjibaeva, a Ferghana human rights activist who organized the rally, some 100 women attacked the picket participants. The attackers assaulted her, stealing Azamatova's radio equipment and tearing her clothes. The organizers of the rally believe the attack was organized by local authorities. Azamatova has filed a complaint with the region's prosecutor's office, requesting that a criminal case be opened.

#### *Court Case against Ruslan Sharipov*

The case against the journalist Ruslan Sharipov continues. Ruslan Sharipov is an independent Internet journalist accused of homosexuality (which is a violation of the Uzbek Criminal Code, article #120) and of statutory rape. As of the end of July, there have been numerous witnesses called to testify. Sharipov has been open about his homosexuality and claims that he is being targeted for his critical articles.

Sharipov's trial began on July 29. Before the trial began, Michael Goldman, Political Officer from the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan, and Harry Johnston, an official with the U.S. Department of State, asked Judge Ganisher Makhmudov of the Mirzo Ulugbek court (Tashkent), to allow official observers to attend the trial. The U.S. Embassy submitted their request to the Uzbek Foreign Ministry. Their request was denied. That same morning, human rights activist Elena Uralyeva was summoned to the Interior Ministry. She was strongly urged not to hold a picket in defense of Sharipov near the court building.

Those who attended the trial observed several violations. For example, officials with the Mirzo Ulugbek Crime Investigation Department of the Mirzo Ulugbek Interior Affairs Department of Tashkent have brought witnesses to the trial without a court order, contrary to Uzbek law. To date, the sitting judge, Ganisher Makhmudov, has not taken any measures to investigate complaints filed by defense attorneys Ravil Gayazov and Surat Ikramov. (In addition, Ikramov was recently kidnapped, taken out of Tashkent, severely beaten by unknown assailants and left on

the river bank in Chirchik. Ikramov believes the assailants are connected with those who do not like his aggressive attempts to get a fair trial for Sharipov.)

Sharipov raised objections, claiming the court failed to respond to any of the requests or complaints made by his lawyer. In addition, Sharipov believes that Judge Makhmudov is presiding over a kangaroo court, whose purpose is to punish him for the content of the articles he wrote published on the Internet in June and July of 2001. The court rejected Sharipov's objections.

The lawyers for 18-year-old witness Azamat Muminkulov requested that Muminkulov be given a psychiatric examination. Apparently, Muminkulov had experienced multiple head traumas, including a concussion. The witness became hysterical during the trial, after which the court adjourned.

On Sept. 12, Shagiyaz Sharakhmetov, Chairman of the Criminal Appeal Board of the Tashkent City Court, turned down Ikramov's request to meet with Sharipov, who was sentenced to five years and six months in jail under Articles 120, 127 and 128 of the Uzbek Criminal Code (homosexuality and sex with minors). The sentence has since been reduced to four years. Sharipov is writing an appeal to the President of Uzbekistan requesting a fair trial.

Foreign media and international and human rights organizations continue to protest the conviction of the journalist.

#### *Uzbek Government Responds to Freedom of Expression Organization Ozod Ovoz*

On Aug. 6, in an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Rustam Dzhumayev, the press secretary to Uzbekistan's president, criticized the organization Ozod Ovoz's website. Dzhumayev accused the website of making "ungrounded political accusations, not substantiated by facts and proof." Dzhumayev specifically criticized the site for publishing an open letter to Islam Karimov written by Khiva businessman Isak Abdullayev. In that letter, Abdullayev asked Karimov to respond to the numerous written questions about problems experienced in Horezm. Bobomurod Abdullayev, editor-in-chief of Ozod Ovoz, said: "We are fully responsible for information distributed by our organization." He said Ozod Ovoz has never published materials that were not substantiated by facts or proof and added that it is the duty of Ozod Ovoz to publish open letters and articles on its website.

In September, Authorities in Uzbekistan blocked direct access to the website of Ozod Ovoz. As a result, the Web site cannot be updated from Uzbekistan and new materials cannot be published on it. In prior months, the Web site had been blocked partially, but as of Sept. 2, direct access to the site has been blocked by all providers, including those at all Internet cafes.

Bobomurod Abdullayev, Ozod Ovoz's director and editor of the Web site, said he believes the site was blocked because it began carrying messages challenging Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov. The website was also publishing the philosophical and political poetry of Yusuf Jumayev. The English version of the Ozod Ovoz Web site was launched April 1, 2003. Its Uzbek and Russian language versions were launched in July.

#### *Re-launch of TV Station Nurafshon*

On Aug. 9, the independent TV station Nurafshon (based in the Kashkadaryo province of Uzbekistan) re-launched after being off the air for close to a year. Shortly before shutting down

last year, the station aired Internews' news program, *Zamon*, which was deemed inappropriate by the authorities, who repeatedly warned the station not to air critical pieces. Since its recent re-launch, the station has reportedly been under strict oversight by the provincial department of the National Security Service. Security service agents visit the station three times a week.

On Sept. 23, an agent of the Kashkadaryo Provincial Directorate of the National Security Service, Uchkun Kucharov, visited the station. Kucharov is a mass media supervisor. Kucharov expressed his extreme dissatisfaction to Station Director Abdujalil Rakhimov with the fact that the station had aired programming of the Washington-based TV and Radio Company Voice of America (VOA).

Kucharov demanded that Rakhimov immediately stop airing American programming, hinting at possible trouble if Rakhimov did not execute the order. However, Rakhimov said Nurafshon would continue airing programs received from the United States and referred to a contract he had signed with VOA. He's not the only independent station to sign such a contract. Earlier in September, the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty had organized a seminar for journalists and management from independent Uzbek TV stations. At the seminar, a number of stations signed contracts to broadcast American programming in Uzbekistan.

#### *Registration of the Association of Foreign Journalists*

On Aug. 14, Uzbekistan's Ministry of Justice registered the Association of Foreign Journalists (AFJ). The registration took place three years after the Association first submitted its application. The AFJ is open to all accredited journalists working for foreign mass media organizations and includes both Uzbek nationals and citizens of other countries who are posted in Uzbekistan on assignment. The goal of AFJ is to promote the interests of its members, including protecting the rights guaranteed in the various treaties to which Uzbekistan is a signatory. This, according to the Association's Chairman Vilor Nyazmatov, is the reason why the process of its registration took as long as it did. But even then, the organization went to great lengths to help the process along, including placing the application for registration directly into the hands of the Uzbek President Islam Karimov a year ago during a press conference.

#### *Denial of Visas to Foreign Correspondents*

On July 22, Latvian journalist Atis Klimovich was denied a visa to visit Uzbekistan. Klimovich works for the paper *Diyena*, for which he wrote several critical articles in 2002. Journalists in Uzbekistan suspect these articles are the reason why he is unable to receive a visa.

#### *New laws on ICT before parliament*

The 12th session of the Uzbek parliament, which began Aug. 26th, will raise for discussion a draft version of the new law on computer and information technologies. The draft law contains specific goals including, but not limited to, the formation of national information resources and information technology systems. If developed properly, the law will provide for conditions ensuring the realization of the constitutional rights of every citizen to receive and transmit information with the help of computer technologies, as well as unrestricted access to international information networks and the Internet.

The document gives legal entities and private individuals equal rights to access information resources. They are given the right to use information obtained from information resources to create derivative information for commercial purposes. At the same time, every owner or holder

of information resources can establish his own procedures for sharing information from his information resources or systems. This is one of the cornerstone principles protecting the rights of information owners and authors. The law also states that information systems and resources should be securely protected from leakage, stealing, loss, distortion, blockage, forgery or unauthorized access. Such protection will be ensured through mandatory certification of information systems and other protection methods.

#### *Printing Monopoly Broken – Sort of*

A new printing office has been launched in Tashkent thereby ending the governmental publisher Sharq's monopoly. The Ministry of External Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan published new equipment for the publisher with a loan without interest given by the Government of Japan. Despite the end of Sharq's monopoly, the license for the new publishing house was obtained by Rustam Shagulyamov, Chairman of the Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Printing, Publishing and Media, and Shagulyamov will control it. Two children's newspapers, Uzbekistan's *Argumenti i Fakti* and other newspapers will be printed by the new publisher.

#### ***Program Activities in Support of Objective One (Support development of stronger, more sustainable non-state media)***

### **Component 1.1 Media Law Advocacy and Policy Reform**

#### **Kazakhstan**

Internews lawyer Sergey Vlasenko continued to give legal consultation to independent Kazakhstani mass media.

On July 2-3, Internews lawyer Sergey Vlasenko provided legal consultation to Otyrar TV station (Shymkent) on issues of media-holding creation.

On July 3, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to V. Lem, a journalist of the online newspaper Navigator about issues concerning journalists' presence at a court hearing.

On July 21, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to TV station TVK-6 from Semipalatinsk on issues of compliance with the law on languages.

On July 7, 10, and 11, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to TVK-6 from Semipalatinsk on establishing a journalist's organization.

On July 7, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to Radio Tandem (Aktyubinsk) on bringing a suit against the newspaper *Evrika* (Aktyubinsk) for distributing false information damaging the station's business reputation.

On July 8, 15 and 28, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to MIG TV station (Talgar) on licensing issues.

On Aug. 8 and Aug. 25, Vlasenko provided consultations to Radio 102 (Temirtau) on issues of labor legislation and on signing personal employment agreements.

On Aug. 11, Vlasenko provided consultation to Styx Leo Burnett advertising agency (Almaty) on issues of alcohol advertising and advertising on cable networks.

On Aug. 12, 13 and 18, Vlasenko provided consultation to ALVA TV (Zyryanovsk), TVK 6 (Semipalatinsk) and TAN TV (Almaty) on issues of media coverage of election campaigns in the lead in to the elections for local representatives bodies.

On Aug. 19, Vlasenko provided consultation to Mohammed Ali Kurmanbayev, Warwick University, Britain, at his request, discussing current conditions of copyright and allied rights in Kazakhstan.

On Aug. 18-20, Vlasenko provided consultation to Radio Tandem (Aktyubinsk) in relation to a letter of Aktyubinsk local office of the Ministry of Communication and Information recalling a license based on their information that Radio Tandem has folded.

On Aug. 22, Vlasenko provided consultation to P.G. Lobachev, director of Public Association Echo and candidate for Almaty Maslikhat, election district 5, on issues of media campaigning during elections campaign.

On Aug. 21-22, Vlasenko provided consultation to radio station Umax (Shymkent) on issues of labor legislation.

On Aug. 22, Vlasenko provided consultation to Channel 5 (Karaganda) on issues of tobacco advertising on television, and media coverage of elections campaigns.

On Aug. 26, Vlasenko provided consultation to A. Gabchenko, journalist of Channel 31 (Almaty) on issues of forensic examination conduct.

On Aug. 14-15, Vlasenko provided consultation to TV station MIG (Talgar) on issues of election campaign conduct in mass media.

On Sept. 4, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for TVK 6 (Semipalatinsk).

On Sept. 9, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for MIG (Talgar).

On Sept. 5, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for TV TAN (Almaty) about pre-election campaign coverage of candidates for deputies in the Maslikhat.

On Sept. 17, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for Valerii Khagai from the Risk-Assessment Group (Almaty) on copyrights on music for use in a video.

On Sept. 8, Vlasenko provided consultation to Otyrar (Shymkent) about issues for mass media during the Maslikhat elections.

On Sept. 16 and 22, Vlasenko provided consultation to NAT lawyer M. Zhanat about the draft law on mass media.

On Sept. 26, Vlasenko provided consultation to TV Otyrar (Shymkent) about issues of advertising tobacco products on TV and radio.

On Sept. 15, Vlasenko prepared contracts for Production Fund grant recipients.

### *Publications*

Internews Lawyer Sergey Vlasenko worked much of July on an analysis of Internews Kazakhstan's proposals adopted by the Ministry for Culture, Information and Public Accord for the draft of the new media law, including a comparative analysis of the draft law discussed at Permanent Conference in May 2003 with a draft submitted by Ministry in December 2002.

In July, Vlasenko distributed the draft law on elections among TV and radio stations, in preparation for the September elections of Maslikhats (local representative bodies), as there are several statutory acts regulating the activity of media when covering elections as well as the lead-up to elections.

On Aug. 13, Vlasenko provided a comparative analysis of the draft of the media law and on Aug. 15, provided comments on legal norms of broadcasting of TV programs via cable networks in accordance with the current legislation and with the new draft of the media law for publication in the electronic bulletin *Perspektiva* issue #15

On Sept. 4, Vlasenko prepared a commentary on the draft law on mass media for publication in the newspaper *Yuridicheskaya Gazeta*.

On Sept. 10, Vlasenko sent to all TV and radio companies the normative acts and new changes in regulatory activity of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord, as well as with the Information of Information and Communications. On Sept. 3, Vlasenko posted the draft law on mass media to the Internews Kazakhstan website.

### *Lectures/Interviews*

On July 10, Internews Lawyer Sergey Vlasenko spoke with journalists at the youth newspaper *Teenager* (Almaty) on issues of legal support of journalists' activity.

On Aug. 15, Vlasenko gave an interview to TAN TV (Almaty) on the issue of media coverage of election campaigns.

On Aug. 28, Vlasenko gave an interview to Channel 31, about the publication of the draft of the new media law.

On Sept. 3, Vlasenko participated in the training "Discussion and Specification of the Rights and Responsibilities of Participants in the Electoral Process on Election Day" in Almaty, organized by the Republic's Network of Independent Monitors with the assistance of the National Democratic Institute (NDI)

On Sept. 13, Vlasenko lead sessions at Internews' TV management seminar on Kazakhstani legislation and the media.

On Sept. 15, Vlasenko participated in the NAT session in Almaty giving commentary on the draft on the law on mass media.

On Sept. 17-18, Vlasenko participated in the Fifth Central Asian Conference on Mass Media conducted by the OSCE Mission in Bishkek, OSCE Representative on Issues of Media Freedom, the Union of Journalists of Kyrgyzstan and CIMERA, entitled “Recent Developments in the Mass Media and Changes in Legislation.” The conference gathered representatives from the five Central Asian republics including journalists, media activists, government officials and representatives of international organizations. Discussions at the conference included the following themes:

- latest events in the sphere of the media;
- media in a multi-lingual and multi-cultural society;
- access to information (report from Kazakhstan, Ganna Krasilnikova lawyer of Adil Soz).

On Sept. 25, Vlasenko participated in the roundtable entitled, “The Kazakh Law On the Mass Media as a Basic Regulator of the Activity of the Kazakh Mass-Media Market,” held in Astana. The roundtable addressed amendments and additions to the draft law on the media, as Kazakh media managers view it.

#### *Association Work*

From Aug. 9-24, Tamara Kaleyeva, president of Adil Soz foundation, Balzhan Beysembekova, executive director of NAT-KZ (Kazakhstan National Association of Broadcasters), and A. Goncharov, a journalist from Shymkent visited the United States under the framework of the State Department’s program “Protection of Human Rights and Journalists.” During their visit they met with representatives of Journalists Committee for Free Press, Washington Office of Journalists Protection Committee, Freedom Forum, Internews, Media Associations, Washington Office of International Television Association, Pew Center for Journalism, National Association of Broadcasters, International Center for Journalists, Open Society Institute, as well as the editorial offices of newspapers and broadcasters, journalism departments of several universities. Kaleyeva and Beysembekova are major advocacy partners of Internews, and it was important for our advocacy efforts in Kazakhstan that they were able to make new contacts and gain exposure at these meetings.

#### *National Association of Independent Broadcasters of Kazakhstan (NAT-KZ)*

In July, the National Association of Independent Broadcasters (NAT-KZ) released an open letter addressed to President Nazarbayev, Parliament and government, asking for an extension of the period of media exemptions from VAT. This proposes the extension of tax exemption for media outlets until 2010. (Since 2002, media outlets have been exempted from VAT, but this exemption is scheduled to end in 2004.) The same address was sent to the President in July by Congress of Journalists.

In August, several independent cable broadcasters joined NAT-KZ after encountering the problem of the monopolization of the cable market by the media group Alma-TV, a major cable network provider in Kazakhstan controlled by Dariga Nazarbayeva and her ex-husband Rahat Aliev. NAT-KZ is growing and is considered to be an organization capable of protecting the business interests of private broadcasters. The new members include AksaySetServis (Uralsk), G-Media (Pavlodar), Teletek (Ust’-Kamenogorsk), Region-Satellite (Ust-Kamenogorsk), Uvis (Karaganda) and Sekatel (Almaty and Astana).

On Sept. 15, NAT-KZ held a general meeting in Almaty at which representatives from Internews Kazakhstan, TOO Kompany Seka-tel (Almaty), Department of KNU im. Al-Farabi (Almaty), TRK Era (Astana), Ch. 36 MIG (Talgat), SOBKOR, Otyrar TV (Shymkent), TV channel Aray Plus (Taldykorgan), TOO Aksaisetservis (Uralsk), TV channel ALVA-TV (Zyryanovsk), TV-radio channel Labris (Akubastuz), RIA ARNA, TOO NTT (Taraz), TOO DIA, TOO Orken Film (Almaty), TOO Telebit (Aktobe), OOO Astronika, TV Sairam Askhany (Sairam, YuKO), TV Turan-Turkestan (Turkestan), and TOO Meloman (Almaty) were in attendance. The meeting covered the following points:

- reporting on NAT activities for January to September;
- raising the question about the creation of an exchange center of programs and films for NAT-KZ members;
- briefing on the draft of the new media law and how it infringes on the professional rights of TV and radio stations. Amendments and additions will be discussed at the roundtable on the draft law;
- election of Emil Uzbekovich Baikov from Sekatel Company to head the association's cable-TV section;
- discussion of recruitment of new association participants including Nezavisimoe Tarazskoe TV (Taraz).

The association's next meeting will be in Almaty at the end of January 2004.

On Sept. 25, NAT-KZ organized a roundtable discussion in Astana at the Kazakhstani Parliament called "The Kazakh Law On the mass media as a Means of Regulating Market Activities of the Mass Media in Kazakhstan." Roundtable participants included parliamentary deputies, representatives of Adil Soz, Internews Kazakhstan as well as managers of electronic mass media.

#### *Adil Soz*

In August, Adil Soz monitored 93 reports of violations of media freedom in Kazakhstan. Of these reports, 14 show media facing pressure directly related to politics. As a rule, these reports show a tendency towards deteriorating media freedom. In addition, 63 reports record direct violations of the rights of media and journalists. Sixteen reports cover conflicts and charges against media outlets and journalists that, in most cases, are not based on the law.

Adil Soz published an open letter regarding the new draft of the media law. The letter sharply criticizes the position of the Ministry for Culture, Information and Public Accord, claiming that the ministry does not take into consideration all principal democratic innovations suggested by the public. A new media law draft was presented at the Second Journalists Congress in February, where it was the target of harsh criticism from journalists. In May 2003, the reviewed draft was discussed at the meeting of the Permanent Conference and was rejected. However, the Ministry continued to push through its own draft. As a result, the version of the draft that has been sent to Parliament for consideration includes many rules not beneficial to media and journalists.

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

*Court Cases against Moskovski Komsomolets*

On July 15, Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev defended the editorial board of the newspaper *Moskovski Komsomolets* in the Lenin district court of Bishkek. The newspaper is being sued by the Universal Church for defamation. In an article published in November, the journalist Alisher Muradov compared the organization to a cult and criticized its activities. The organization is claiming damages in the amount of 40,000 soms (\$1,000) from the journalist and 50,000 soms (\$1,200) from the editorial board. The trial has been postponed until September 2003. Meanwhile, following discussions between the Alagushev and the State Commission on Religion, the license of the religious organization to work in Kyrgyzstan has been temporarily suspended.

Alagushev provided legal support to the newspaper *Moskovski Komsomolets* in defense of the decision issued by the State Commission under the Kyrgyz Republic Government for Anti-Monopolist Policy against the newspaper. It was established that the newspaper violated two articles of the Kyrgyz law on advertising by using a false claim that it is “number one” and was first warned and then fined by the commission. *Moskovski Komsomolets* approached Alagushev seeking assistance to challenge the fine. However, Alagushev recommended the paper not go to court because the newspaper did not exploit the opportunity to react with court proceedings in a timely manner and did not have an adequate defense that would hold up in court. The newspaper is planning to pay the 20,000-som fee.

#### *Court Case against Portret Nedely*

On Aug. 27, Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev defended the newspaper *Portret Nedely* at the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Court confirmed the decision of the first judgment by the Chui Province Court in November 2002.

The newspaper was sued by the head of Kyrgyz local government, who accused it of disseminating false information about him. In November 2002, the paper was ordered by the Chui province (oblast) court to pay compensation in the amount of 500,000 soms (about \$11,000). Immediately after the judgment, Alagushev appealed to the Supreme Court, which didn't hear the case before August because of a moratorium connected to some reforms in the Kyrgyz legislative system.

In Jan. 2003, Alagushev also prepared and sent a claim to the Moscow district court and a complaint to the main judicial executor of Chui province (oblast) against the actions of the officer of the Moscow District court. Alagushev requested the return of equipment rented by the newspaper that was seized and of the personal property of the newspaper's chief editor. In May, the Moscow District court said that personal properties couldn't be seized, and the main judicial executor of Chui Province refused to consider the claim.

The paper is still publishing but will have to pay the fine if it generates any profit. The equipment cannot be seized because it belongs to Internews and Soros Foundation. Chief Editor, Khabira Majieva, is planning to declare bankruptcy, close the paper and open a new one for young people, without any political content.

#### *Court Case: Lawsuit against Journalist from Moya Stolitsa, Mikhail Korsunsky*

Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev prepared and submitted an appeal to the Bishkek City Court in the case filed against Mikhail Korsunsky by Prime Minister Nikolai Tanaev for the violation of his honor and dignity in Korsunsky's article, “Remedy for Stupor – Court,” published in *Moya Stolitsa* April 2, 2003.

In June, the judge issued a decision that the information published in the article was defamatory and not objective. The newspaper is supposed to publish a refutation and pay compensation in the amount of 500,000 soms (approximately \$11,900). Korsunsky is supposed to pay 5,000 soms (approximately \$120).

On Sept. 5, the Bishkek City Court rejected the appeal submitted by Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev and did not overturn the decision of the Leninsky District Court concerning the case filed against Mikhail Korsunsky by Prime Minister Tanaev on protection of honor and dignity.

Korsunsky and Alagushev are planning to appeal to the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan, claiming the trial was unfair. Korsunsky says that the intention of his phrase in his article “with his [the Prime Minister's] participation tremendous sums of money from the pension fund were disappearing [...]” became the central focus of the trial. Korsunsky claims that his phraseology meant that, given Tanaev’s position as head of the Observation Council, only he could have known where funds from the Solidarity Fund could have gone.

Korsunsky claims, regarding the court proceedings, “Such a spectacle can’t be called ‘court.’ Not one of my solicitations was satisfied. There were about 20 of them. The judges didn’t want to listen to my witnesses and refused to listen to expert linguists. The word ‘suggest’ is a synonym in Russian [for] ‘think,’ and it doesn’t mean anything else. But the Prime Minister's lawyer, Nikolay Zhuchkov, said this word affirms that Tanaev used this money for his own personal goals.”

Alagushev wrote, "The Prime Minister has two claims, the two phrases in the article: ‘with his participation’ and ‘were disappearing.’ There is a decision, signed by Tanaev, when he was the head of the Observation Council. So, the first phrase has documentary proof. Our opponents in the courts said that the author of the article accused the Prime Minister of appropriating or wasting money from the Pension Fund. But the thing is, even Mikhail Korsunsky, since he was not a permanent staff adviser for the head of the Social Fund, couldn’t establish where to this money had disappeared. And he didn’t accuse the Prime Minister of appropriation. We asked the judges in both the district and the city courts to invite a linguistic expert. They refused our requests. I tried to prove that the word ‘suggest’ is an expression of opinion, not fact. One more thing: the judge from the Leninsky District Court made her decision by relying on an inoperative Civil Code clause. What should the Bishkek City Court do in such a case? Overturn the first decision and make a new one! This wasn’t done. We also ran into a great number of other violations. All our solicitations were rejected. Sound recording was prohibited. The judges simply listened to us without asking any questions. Why? Because any question would have been to our advantage.”

### *Frequency Distribution Rules*

In September, together with the Kyrgyz Association of Broadcasters Mass Media, Internews lawyer Alagushev began drafting suggestions for rules on the competition for the attribution of radio frequencies. Internews and Soros Kyrgyzstan are currently supporting the creation of an independent working group that will include a foreign expert, representatives of media, and lawyers, who will prepare an alternative document and submit it to the State Agency of Communications.

The Agency wants to distribute frequencies through a new competitive system, but the document it proposed at the beginning of 2003 with new rules for attribution was severely criticized by media outlets, Internews and other organizations. The main issues with the document include:

- the requirement of stations to present a detailed creative concept,
- the priority given to stations which can broadcast in regions difficult to access, and
- the composition of the jury which will make the selection.

### *Legal Seminar*

On Aug. 25-27, in Bishkek, Internews, Freedom House and ABA/CEELI (American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative) held a seminar on "Legal Defense for Media and Journalists." Participants included 10 lawyers from Bishkek and Osh who had some experience or interest in working on media cases. The chief trainer, Russian lawyer Dmitry Shyshkin, was assisted by Internews' Akmat Alagushev. Participants learned the basics of protection of honor, dignity and business reputation. They went through case studies on conflicts connected to media activity and studied international practices in court cases on violation of media and journalists' rights. The trainer also gave techniques and strategies for legal defense. There were practical exercises on conflicts involving media outlets and journalists.

### **Tajikistan**

Internews lawyer Farrukhshoh Junaidov continued to provide legal consultation to Internews media partners:

On July 1, Junaidov participated in the seminar "Tajik media legislation for NGOs."

On July 8, Junaidov met with representatives from the Ministry of Communication to discuss withdrawing the ban put on TV Kurghon-teppa from broadcasting due to their defective transmitter. Unfortunately, the transmitter can not be repaired, and the station is not broadcasting. Internews and OSCE are looking for donors for a new transmitter.

On July 14, Junaidov provided legal consultations to TV Somonion Director Ikrom Mirzoev.

On July 17, Junaidov discussed a draft of the new media law with Usmon Nazir, Vice Chair of the Parliament. The media law has not yet been subject to discussion in Parliament, but Internews, National Democratic Institute and OSCE are planning roundtables to initiate discussion.

On July 22 and August 11, Junaidov provided legal commentary to Asia-Plus correspondent Parvina Hamidova, on the legality of the company Jamol i Ko.

On Aug. 14, Junaidov provided legal consultations to Khurshid Safarov, director of TV Kurghon-teppa concerning the bylaws of the station's charter.

On Sept. 1, Junaidov provided legal consultations to the independent journalist Zafar Abdulloev on copyright violation.

On Sept. 12, Junaidov provided consultation to Atokhon Ghaniev, director of the Analytical Centre Nabz about TV licensing.

### *Conferences*

On Sept. 4, Internews and the National Democratic Institute arranged a roundtable to discuss the new media law. Nuriddin Qarshiboev from NANSMIT (National Association of Independent Media of Tajikistan) presided, and 45 people attended it. The main issues of the discussion were the position of the licensing committee and production license. Many local media professionals and representatives from international organizations agreed at the roundtable that they want the licensing committee to become an independent transparent body and want the stations to have the right to broadcast what they want. They do not want all domestic production to come from an officially registered production studio with a license.

However, it is unlikely that the government will lose its grip over the licensing committee, as that would undermine its position and open up a fair political process. This is something especially unlikely now, with upcoming presidential and parliament elections. Moreover, there are no signs that the government gives licenses to people they do not trust or to people that will become a threat to their political power. A transparent and independent licensing committee would undermine the position of the government.

### *Interviews*

On Sept. 16, Training Coordinator Masrur Abdullaev gave an interview to BBC about Internews' news school and about issues of licensing of mass media.

On Sept. 18, Abdullaev gave an interview to Radio Ozodi concerning the news school and the information vacuum in some areas of Tajikistan.

### **Uzbekistan**

Internews lawyers Karim Bakhriev and Galina Mayorova continued to provide consultation on legal issues to Internews' media partners:

On July 7, Karim Bakhriev, Internews Deputy Director, advised Raja bboy Raupov, correspondent of the *Inson va Konun* newspaper, on legislation on defamation. Raupov wanted to make sure that any critical articles he writes in the future fall within legal parameters.

On July 8, Bakhriev met with Mirakmal Miralimov, First Deputy Director of the Agency for Press and Information of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and discussed the issue of registering and re-registering mass media outlets.

On July 14 and Aug. 18, Karim Bakhriev advised Alisher Nazar, Deputy Chief Editor of *Mokhiyat*, on libel and defamation and moral damages. The paper is currently being sued by the poet Olimjon Buriyev, who had been compared in one of the paper's articles to "dust and dirt" (a play on one of the poet's own poems). Buriyev is seeking 27 million soms in damages.

On July 17, Malcolm Russell-Einhorn and Mikhail Mazilu, Associate Director and Program Manager of University of Maryland's IRIS program (Institutional Reform and Informal Sector), visited the office of Internews Uzbekistan to meet with Karim Bakhriev and Khalida Anarbaeva. At this meeting, they discussed USAID's training project for judges. One reason for this project is the increasing number of trials in Uzbekistan involving journalists and mass media outlets. Internews suggested we could partner with this project by advising the judges on media-related issues. The judges, in their turn, could participate in our broadcast legal program supervised by Mekhri Saatova.

On July 18, Bakhriev advised Mukhabbat Rakhimova, third-year student of the Department of International Journalism at the University of World Languages, on libel and defamation in the business sector. Bakhriev also examined her unpublished articles to see whether the author would be subject to any libel claims.

On July 23, Bakhriev advised Kadirjan Sabirov, correspondent of *Mustakil Gazeta* newspaper, on the following: the rights of the imprisoned, international standards related to prisons, and application to the court for protection of journalists' rights. Sabirov wrote an article about the parents of a man who had been given the death penalty. The parents had been petitioning the court for amnesty for a year and a half, unaware that their son had already been executed a year and a half earlier.

On Aug. 1, Bakhriev, provided consultation to R. Ramazanov from the Association of International War Veterans (i.e. Veterans of the Soviet-Afghan war) on registration of a mass media outlet. Ramazanov wants to set up a magazine called *Patriot*.

On Aug. 4, Bakhriev provided consultation to Pirimkul Zarmasov from Syrdaryo. Zarmasov works for the Foundation of Entrepreneurs of Syrdaryo Province. They have a TV studio called Aks that produces programming for the local government television. They would like to set up and register a TV station called STK and have found unused transmitters in the Shirin and the Akoltin districts. Zarmasov needed Bakhriev's advice on the proper submission of documents, the legal examination of documents, registration (and re-registration) of licenses to produce and distribute TV and radio programming.

On Aug. 11, Bakhriev provided consultation to Asror Abrorkhojayev, producer of a program called *Mekhr Kuzda*, which airs on the government's Yoshlar TV channel (UzTV-2). Among the guests in Abrorkhojayev's studio were people raised in orphanages who would like to learn more about their biological parents. According to Uzbek legislation, this sort of information is classified. Abrorkhojayev also wanted to know the legal issues involved in showing the faces of drug addicts and of people who are HIV-positive.

On Aug. 12, Bakhriev met with Resul Yalcin, Researcher of the Policy Department of the University of London. Yalcin is in charge of research in the Central Asian region and sought information on freedom of speech conditions in Uzbekistan for his book about Uzbekistan.

On Aug. 14, Bakhriev provided consultation to Stas Khojaev, cameraman/editor of *Open Asia*, on the old Soviet and current Uzbek legislation on begging and vagrancy.

On Aug. 20, Bakhriev answered questions from Ana Uzelas of the Amsterdam-based organization Press Now ([www.pressnow.org](http://www.pressnow.org)). The organization preparing a report on mass media conditions in Central Asia in preparation for setting up an office in Uzbekistan in early 2004.

On July 29, Mayorova participated in the seminar called "The Right of Victims of Torture to Compensation of Damage – National and International Mechanisms." The seminar gave detailed definitions of what constitutes torture, what is damage and how to receive compensation for damage. This is essential information for journalists, who must protect themselves from the caprice of local authorities.

On Aug. 5, Mayorova traveled to Urgench to investigate the case of Konstantin Aksyonov. The decision of the court in Aksyonov's favor has not been implemented yet (the decision was

announced six months ago). The court decided in favor of Aksyonov, ruling that his partner was required to return the confiscated equipment, which as of this date has not happened. Mayorova acquainted herself with documents and correspondence relating to the case. On her return from the trip, Mayorova spent much time writing/preparing legal documents and her advisory opinion in regard to Aksyonov's case. Mayorova continued providing consultations for Aksyonov on the telephone the following two weeks.

Since Aug. 13, Mayorova provided consultation to Internews producer Mekhri Saatova on Uzbekistan's administrative, criminal and civil legislation as well as the international law, agreements in the framework of the CIS, etc., with a focus on mass media legislation (international, CIS and national). Saatova is currently producing Internews' new legal program, *Jarayon*.

On Aug. 15, Mayorova consulted via telephone with an unidentified female journalist. The journalist said she was going to write a story about prisons, and wanted to ensure her safety when talking to the prison authorities, jail keepers and convicts.

On Aug. 22, Mayorova participated in the Women's Forum organized by gender focused NGOs. The seminar was devoted to the promotion of gender equality in Uzbekistan and addressed journalists on how to better cover issues of gender equality and cross-gender relations in Uzbekistan's mass media.

On Aug. 25, Mayorova provided consultation to Radio Grande journalist Sayora Ruzikulova on non-violent gatherings, associations, and picketing. Ruzikulova received a grant from Internews' Production Fund to produce a program on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On Aug. 29, Mayorova negotiated with the head of the Center for Public Enlightenment, Muborak Tashpulatova, to train young journalists under the program called "Civil Responsibility" and to write a column in the *Herald of Charity* journal published for NGOs. Mayorova along with the Center for Public Enlightenment will conduct the training.

On Sept. 2, Mayorova provided consultation for Mekhri Saatova on the content of her *Jarayon* program and possible liability arising from the content.

On Sept. 3, Mayorova provided consultation for *Open Asia* Producer Solih Yakhyaev on the Criminal Code and the Administrative Code. Workers from internal affairs (from an unspecified office) came to Yakhyaev, often at night, asking him and his brother for explanations for why they were shooting footage for a news report about Uzbek makhallas. The workers also asked them to come with them to the Internal Affairs offices. Mayorova explained that these activities are illegal. Mayorova said in such situations, Yakhyaev should alert the makhalla officials and neighbors of these actions, detailing the time the workers come to their home and write a description of what happened. They should then write a petition about these improper police activities and attach a photocopy of the report.

On Sept. 3, Mayorova provided consultation for Internews Producer Dildora Tulaganova on the international and national laws on children's rights, including homeless children, for an investigative piece on homeless children.

On Sept. 3, Mayorova provided consultation for Internews producer Kamol Kholmuradov on the proceedings system in Uzbekistan and possible liability arising from the content of his investigation. Kholmuradov works on the program *Jarayon*, which addresses some court-

proceeding problems. Mayorova also advised Kholmuradov on appeals, cessations and review proceedings.

On Sept. 9, Bakhriev provided consultation for Nadezhda Stepanova, of the Swiss-based media support organization CIMERA, on access to information and liability for limiting journalists' access to information.

On Sept. 9, Bakhriev was an observer at the trial of the newspaper *Mokhiyat*. As of October, the latest court decision is that poet Olimzhon Buriyev, who filed a claim against the newspaper in defense of his honor and that of his poetry, will not receive compensation for moral damages. Lawyer Bakhtiyer Shakhazarov represented the editors in court. However, the plaintiff has said he will appeal the decision.

On Sept. 12, Mayorova provided consultation for Internews producer Kamol Kholmuradov on the selection of legal documents for the legal program *Jarayon*.

On Sept. 15, Bakhriev provided consultation for Layla Mazinova, from the law firm Kansal, on registration of mass media outlets in Uzbekistan (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers #160). The law firm intends to publish a journal.

On Sept. 15, Bakhriev provided consultation for Dmitriy Kudryashov, employee of Orbita TRC, on Article 157 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on compensation of overtime on weekdays, holidays and weekends.

On Sept. 17, Bakhriev answered questions received by Internews Uzbekistan's legal hotline (open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). The hotline began in September as a project of Internews and OSCE, and guarantees a lawyer will be available to answer questions at this time by phone. This helps journalists with legal questions and informs them about Internews' legal activities. Bakhriev provided consultations to:

- Mirodil Abdurakhmonov, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper *Mulkdor*, on publishing legislation. Abdurakhmonov wants to have his own press for his newspaper;
- Safar Ostonov, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper *Uzbekiston Ovozi*, on labor legislation and news desk-freelancer relations;
- Chori Latipov, Editor of the newspaper *Makhalla*, on advertising legislation and newspaper-advertiser relations.

On Sept. 23, Bakhriev provided consultation for Nadezhda Stepanova, employee of the Swiss-based media support organization CIMERA, on referendums and the right to initiate them.

On Sept. 23, Mayorova prepared for her trip to Andizhan to provide legal assistance to Saidjon Zainobiddinov, against whom criminal proceedings under Article 139 Part 2 had been started. Zainobiddinov had published an article on the Internet (with photos) about abuses of power committed by a local policeman. On Sept. 24-25, Mayorova traveled to Andizhan to look at criminal case materials and appeal to local judicial authorities to dismiss the charge.

#### *Association Work/Development*

On July 1, Karim Bakhriev met with Jallol Abdusattarov, head of the Directorate for Registration of Public Organizations with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to discuss registration of the Association of Electronic Mass Media. Abdusattarov had examined all the

registration documents of the Association. The founding agreement has been drawn up. The next step is for the document to be translated into Uzbek.

On July 24, Karim Bakhriev once again met with Jallol Abdusattarov to discuss registration. The Association is expected to be registered in August.

On Aug. 12, Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews, together with co-chairmen of the Association of Electronic Mass Media, Bakhtiyor Rajabov and Agzam Usmanov, finalized the Association's documents and had them notarized. On Aug. 13, Bakhriev submitted the documents to the Directorate for Registration of Public Organizations with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Ministry is supposed to complete consideration of the documents by Oct. 15.

Co-Chairmen of the Association, Bakhtiyor Rajabov and Agzam Usmanov, will be at the Conference of Broadcasters in Kiev (Sept. 28-Oct. 3). The conference will have sessions about association building and related issues.

#### *Advocacy/Outreach*

On Aug. 26, Mayorova participated in an OSCE conference devoted to the elimination of torture in Uzbekistan.

On Aug. 27, Mayorova participated in an OSCE and Soros Foundation conference devoted to migration, labor migration and trafficking of women/children.

On Aug. 28, Mayorova met with American Bar Association/CEELI representatives to talk about her trip to Ferghana to train lawyers on defending human rights defenders and journalists.

On Sept. 2, Mayorova explored the Uzbek legislation laws on what is needed to set up a radio station for the new station in Nukus.

On Sept. 2, Mayorova gave a lecture at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. Mayorova gives lectures on mass media legislation at the Departments of International Law and International Economic Relations of the University every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

On Sept. 5-6, Mayorova participated in the conference on mass media in Uzbekistan organized by the OSCE. This conference provided training in monitoring and protection of human rights in Kazakhstan. Mayorova completed this training for lawyers in 1999, and at the OSCE conference she participated in training participants in supporting the rights of the media, including defense of journalists, media training and increasing the interaction between lawyers and journalists.

On Sept. 8, Bakhriev participated in the seminar called "Women in Management: Conditions, Opportunities and Strategies for Progress" organized by the OSI at the Malika Hotel on Sept. 8-11. In his speech, he recommended trainings on leadership for women.

On Sept. 8-10, Mayorova participated in the development of a project plan on female leadership: present conditions, opportunities, strategies to advance women to positions in government, and mass media coverage of the issue. This is a project of the Soros Foundation and several women's NGOs (Tadbirkol Ayol –Women Leaders, Network of Business Women, Women's Resource Center, and Association of Business Women) Mayorova participated as the Internews lawyer in the section on the media and general training for journalists about gender issues.

On Sept. 8, Bakhriev participated in the meeting of the Advisory Committee at the office of Freedom House. Bakhriev sits on Freedom House's Expert Council for Small Grants to Human Right Organizations. The Council received 128 grant proposals, of which four have been approved.

On Sept. 9, afternoon Bakhriev and CD Marika Olsen met with Mary-Karin von Gumpenberg, Policy Advisor of the OSCE Center in Tashkent to discuss joint projects and possible prospects for future cooperation.

On Sept. 10, Bakhriev met with Jacobiene Ritsema, Program Coordinator of the Netherlands-based Miliu Kontakt Oost-Europa. The organization focuses on such sectors as civil society, freedom of speech and environment protection, and it intends to organize an international conference on Central Asia in Amsterdam later this year. Next year, it may launch projects in Uzbekistan. Bakhriev and Ritsema discussed possible cooperation and development of joint projects.

On Sept. 11, Mayorova participated in the meeting at the OSI office in Tashkent. They intend to set up a Center for Professional Development of Lawyers. The Center will also teach lawyers how to work with the media and provide legal assistance to media professionals.

On Sept. 12, Bakhriev addressed a conference called "Achievement of Equality and Equal Opportunities in Decision Making: Prospects for Development" organized by USAID, OSCE, Winrock Intl., OSI and the Asian Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Bakhriev's speech was called "Images of Women: Mass Media Policy," about the coverage of women's rights in mass media.

On Sept. 12-14, Mayorova ran a training seminar in Ferghana, sponsored by American Bar Association, for human rights defenders on advocacy and collaboration with media. Twelve lawyers and legal experts participated.

On Sept. 18-19, Mayorova participated in an OSCE human rights conference in Almaty. The issues discussed included the problems of journalists in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states. They also brainstormed on how to improve the situation in the region.

On Sept. 19, Bakhriev met with Stephan Minikes, U.S. Ambassador to OSCE, to discuss freedom of speech conditions in Uzbekistan. They also talked about journalists' rights and what Internews does to protect journalists.

On Sept. 23, Mayorova gave a lecture at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy about the protection of the rights of journalists and the media based on Uzbekistan and international laws.

On Sept. 26, Mayorova ran a training seminar in Ferghana, training human rights defenders under the Advocacy program (protecting journalists against pressure from government officials), continuing the Sept. 12-14 program run by ABA.

On Sept. 26, Bakhriev met with Sally Kux, Deputy Director of Democracy Programs for Eurasian Countries, Office of the Coordinator of Assistance, to talk about Internews Uzbekistan's legal projects, mass media conditions in Uzbekistan and trials of journalists and mass media.

On Sept. 26, Bakhriev received a notification of his election to be a member of the expert council on mass media of OSI Uzbekistan. He also received an invitation from the Netherlands-based Center for Culture and Policy De Balie to participate in a conference, roundtable and public interview on the development of effective measures to protect freedom of speech in Central Asia. Beside Bakhriev, the event will be attended by Kuban Mambetaliev (Kyrgyzstan), Evgeniy Zhofitis (Kazakhstan) and Oleg Panfilov (Russia).

On Sept. 29, Khalida Anarbaeva and Karim Bakhriev met with Sean Roberts, Mass Media Coordinator of USAID office in Almaty, on strategic planning in the sphere of mass media assistance.

### *Publications/Media Coverage*

On July 17, Karim Bakhriev signed a grant agreement with Soros Budapest called Legal Activism for Journalists. The grant proposal includes publication of a book of comments and a bulletin on mass media legislation, and organization of legal seminars/presentations in the five regions of Uzbekistan.

In August, Bakhriev began work on his book of commentary on Uzbekistan's mass media legislation. He also began preparations for the publication and September 2003 launch of a bulletin on legal issues that Internews will release with funding from OSI which will be called *Erkin Soz* (Free Speech).

On Aug. 8, Bakhriev also gave an interview to Radio Grande on human rights and freedom from discrimination. The interview was aired July 11, 2003.

On Aug. 19, the newspaper *Milliy Tiklanish* published Bakhriev's article called "Steps of Sovereignty." In the article, Bakhriev wrote that in order to ensure stability, Uzbekistan must develop freedom of speech and that citizens must be given a chance to take an active part in the republic's political life through participation in political parties. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to silence journalists under the pretext of "protecting sovereignty."

On Aug. 19, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty aired Bakhriev's interview with Shukhrat Babajanov on the Aug. 19, 1991 coup, as well as the process of democratization in Uzbekistan.

On Sept. 18, Bakhriev met with Mirakmal Miralimov, First Deputy Director of the Agency of Press and Information, to discuss legitimization of the publication of the OSI-financed information bulletin *Erkin Soz* (Freedom of Speech).

### *Press Freedom Monitoring Project*

Bakhriev spent much of August and September setting up a network of journalists for his OSI-financed press freedom monitoring project. This project is a subgrant of the local Internews from Adil Soz. Since Sept. 10, correspondents from the regions of Uzbekistan have been incorporated into the project's network. Each correspondent and in general local TV, radio and newspaper journalists (there are some journalists of our programs *Zamon* and *Open Asia*) will send monthly reports about each possible violation of journalists' rights, totaling not fewer than five or six reports per month. Internews Lawyer Bakhtiyor Shakhnazarov will give legal commentary on each case. Bakhriev writes a summary of the monitoring and rights violations in the sphere of the media, and all of this will be posted on the project's site.

On Sept. 15, Bakhriev met with Bobokul Toshev, chief of the Directorate of Mass Media Monitoring of the Agency for Press and Information of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to discuss possible cooperation and exchange of information for Bakhriev's mass media monitoring project.

On Sept. 25-30, Bakhriev worked on the monitoring report by talking to journalists, processing their messages and writing legal comments. In September, 29 cases of journalists' rights violations were counted. These monitoring reports include lack of information about certain incidents (in Kashkadaryo Region, the Hokim of the Yakkabagskovo region was killed, but not a single media outlet wrote a story about it; the prosecutor's office's workers have not yet responded to the questions from the Voice of America correspondent Tulkun Karaev), facts are censored (the dismissal of TV-channel Yoshlar's editor, Abduazim Alimov, because journalist Nazima Vokhodova's story told about a teacher who said that her dream was "that they will increase my salary"), and about court process of the newspaper *Mokhiyat*.

## **Component 1.2: Skills Development: Journalism and Media Management Training**

### **Kazakhstan**

#### *Seminars*

On Sept. 4-9, Internews sent three participants to the training for trainers seminar held in Bishkek: Oksana Kalishnikova-Ivanova from TV Otyrar (Shymkent), Irina Khe-Musaeva from TV/Radio 31 (Almaty), and Oksana Osadchuk (Internews Kazakhstan). Participants were given recommendations on how to conduct seminars and consultations as well as how to prepare video materials for instruction. Participants developed curricula for seminars on news department organization, basic journalism and camera-mastery skills.

On Sept. 13-14, Internews Kazakhstan held a seminar on TV management with consultants Erosi Kitsarishvili, General Director of Rustavi-2 (Tbilisi), and Phyllis Benson, a US-based consultant on financial management. At the seminar there were 28 participants from 24 Kazakh TV stations.

On Sept. 16-17, Internews Kazakhstan held a seminar in radio management with consultant Phyllis Benson, a US-based consultant on financial management, and director of Radio Stolitsa (Barnaula) Igor Nikolaev. At the seminar, there were 13 heads of Kazakhstani radio stations.

#### *Residencies*

On July 5-9, Tamara Pavlova conducted consultation for the Otyrar TV station on TV production. Thirty employees attended this training. During the residency, Pavlova met with editors, cameramen, designers, anchors and TV journalists. They discussed issues of more efficient use of studio facilities, new studio design, more efficient use of cameras in the studio, problems of live broadcasting, peculiarities in news presenters' styles and other issues of professional development. She recommended that the leadership of the station make a clear management structure, systemize programming and pay attention to the image of TV presenters of both informational and entertainment programs.

On Aug. 10-16, Internews held a residency at Alau TV (Kostanai) on organization of news departments and production of news stories. The team of consultants who ran the residency included Denis Bevz, special projects producer, TV-2 (Tomsk, Russia), Galymzhan Sagyndykov,

Internews technical director, and Talgat Suyunbai, Internews editor. The consultants worked with journalists, cameramen and editors on pre-production story development, script writing, production scheduling, creating edit lists, and program broadcast.

As a result, the residency saw improved performance of the station's news presenters as well as the introduction of studio guest interviews into the station's news program, using three cameras during live programming. This station has introduced the practice of live news broadcasts since Internews' last residency at the station in 2002. The consultants recommended the station use announcements previewing the evening's news spots, better conceptualize the development of the news program, more effectively use technical and creative resources at the station, and draw out a clearer programming schedule. Station management was recommended to better delineate the job functions of newsroom staff and to introduce a system of incentives and honoraria for news story production.

On Aug. 17-22, Internews held a consultation/residency for Kalken TV (Ust-Kamenogorsk) on organization of news departments and production of news stories. The team of consultants who ran the residency included Denis Bevs, special projects producer, TV-2 (Tomsk, Russia), Galymzhan Sagyndykov, Internews technical director, and Talgat Suyunbai, Internews editor.

As the management of the station has not yet put together a strong creative team, the quality of news programming is weak. Consultant Denis Bevs, in his evaluation, remarks that due to the station's weak news-production team, there cannot yet be a sound structure for a news service. Journalists on staff are only beginning to be able to competently produce news stories and are not yet ready for more complicated genres such as investigative and feature reporting. Based on the current state at the station, the residency focused on the following issues: determining the audience of the station (its needs and interests in order to determine the direction of the news programming), professional training of journalists, camera-operators and editors on the production of news-stories, separation of staff working on news programs and entertainment programs, and setting a fixed broadcast schedule for daily news programs.

On Sept. 18-23, Internews held a consultation for the TV/Radio Channel Art-Karaganda (Karaganda). Consultants included Phyllis Benson, Timur Ivanov from Yekaterinburg, Russia, and Galymzhan Sagyndykov, Internews Kazakhstan Technical Director. Art-Karaganda is currently preparing to go on air. The consultants noted that as a whole, new stations tend to have problems with managing and assigning job functions. The consultant with the staff and with station director Rusanov Nikonovich, devised a structure for management, and held some practical activities for journalists, camera crew, editors and for the marketing department.

On Sept. 24-29, the same consultant group worked with TV Otyrar (Shymkent). Consultants Ivanov and Sagyndykov noted that the station had improved markedly since its last consultation, three years earlier. The consultation has polished the station's professionalism in its information services, technical services and its live air-news presentation (first in the station's 10-year history).

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### *Seminars*

On Aug. 1-2, Internews and CAMP (Central Asia Mountain Program) held a seminar in Bishkek for participants of the Internews radio news exchange project *Asman* and CAMP program *Asman*

*Too*. Participants included 12 journalists and managers from six radio stations around the country. Trainers included Internews radio producer Sergey Mokrynin and CAMP projects coordinator Nadezhda Shwab. Kalibek Jakilbekov, president of the Regional Association of Broadcasters which is partner in the project was also present. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the technical aspects and content of the new programs. Mokrynin presented *Asman* and explained to participants what is expected from the stations and their journalists. The second day of the seminar was dedicated to discussing content for the program *Asman Too*. This program will consist of a report sponsored by CAMP on a mountain-related theme to be appended to the program *Asman*.

On Aug. 4-14, Internews held the first session of its “News School” in its Bishkek office. Participants included 15 students from Bishkek and Osh who just graduated or are coming to the end of their studies at journalism faculties. Students were divided into three groups and participated in hands-on workshops on radio, TV, and print/online. Students worked in the condition of real newsrooms and were able to get a more precise idea of day-to-day work in TV, radio, and newspapers. They received some concrete tools to complement their primarily theoretical studies and help them to get a job. Trainers included Internews *Open Asia* producer Evgenia Tklich, radio freelance journalist Pavel Jdanko and American University of Central Asia professor and journalist Marina Sivasheva.

On Sept. 4-9 in Bishkek, Internews offices from Central Asian Internews offices held a “Training for Trainers” seminar for 15 journalists and Internews employees with experience in teaching to teach training methods for TV journalism to develop a cadre of local trainers. The seminar had a large practical component in which participants presented their work in a TV news format and prepared video material on TV journalism techniques, which they will use later in their work as co-trainers and trainers. The seminar was run by US journalist/trainer Laura Randall Cooper and Manager of Tomsk-TV, Viktor Muchnik.

### *Residencies*

On July 11-18, Internews organized its fourth residency for stations producing stories for *Door* in Osh, for stations Osh TV, Keremet, Mezon, Pyramida-Osh, State TV-Osh (Osh 3000), production studios DDD and Eko TV. Mirlan Kimsanov, Tair Tursunaliyev and Kanat Kasymbekov trained 19 journalists, camera operators and editors from the seven TV stations and production studios on theory and practice of producing reports for *Door*. *Door* #242 consisted of six two- to six-minute reports produced out of the residency.

On Aug. 23-25 Internews organized with the support of AED a residency on “General Management of a TV Station – Building the Image of a Station” for TV stations Ayan TV (Naryn) and Shankhai (Naryn). These residencies lead to a new design for both stations. It was a follow up on the seminar organized in May in Bishkek for four local TV stations. Trainers were the same as those who had started working with the stations during the seminar: E. Kim (TV station NBT) and B. Albrekht (Studio Graffiti). In September, two other residencies are planned for the other local stations.

With the support of AED, Internews organized residencies on “General Management of a TV Station – Building the Image of a Station” for Anten TV (Karakol) on Aug. 30-Sept. 2 and for Exo Manasa (Jalalabad) on Sept. 15-19. At the residencies, the stations created new design and graphic environments. The residencies followed up on the May seminar in Bishkek for four stations and continued the work of the trainers, Svetlana Pritmova (freelancer) and Georgi Kolotov. In August, two other residencies took place for the other local stations.

## Tajikistan

### *Seminars*

On July 1, Internews together with Law and Society and Academy for Educational Development held a seminar on media legislation for NGOs. The purpose of the seminar was to provide more information about non-commercial media outlets, as well as to provide NGOs with more information on how to work with media. Some 20 representatives from media outlets and NGOs participated in the seminar.

On July 1-10, Internews held a seminar in Karakum on documentary film production with the U.S. trainer Oleg Harencar. Eight media professionals from six media outlets participated in the seminar. The participants produced three short documentaries: *Norinisso i Malika* (7 min.) about women's role in society, *Litso* (8 min.) about a plastic surgeon in Khujand, and *Pamyatnik* (6.5 minutes) about Khujand's statues of Lenin.

### *News School*

On Sept. 7-Oct. 4, Internews held the third session of News School. Sergey Bondarev from Moscow trained 12 TV journalists from TRK Aziya (Khujand), TV Jahonoro (Chkalovsk), TV Regar (Tursunzada), TV Kurghon-teppa (Kurghon-teppa), TV Poytakht, TV Somonion, TV Aziya-Plus (all in Dushanbe), State TV, the NGO Kino Servis (Dushanbe), and one student from the Faculty of Journalism at Dushanbe State University. The participants produced four news stories, which were screened at the end of the training and will be broadcast on independent TV stations throughout the country.

### *Residencies*

On July 7-9, Karim Azizov (producer of *Nabzi Zindagi*) and Suhrob Aliev (editor) held a residency at TV-TadAz (Regar), the first residency at this TV station, for more than 20 employees of the TV-station. Internews trainers instructed the participants on how to make news stories, long and short, for *Nabzi Zindagi*. Participants were also instructed how to compose texts, conduct interviews, and shoot effectively. On the last day of the seminar, the participants were given Internews' textbooks on TV journalism.

On July 28-31, Production Fund Director, Izzatmand Salomov, *Nabzi Zindagi* producer Karim Azizov and Internews editor Suhrob Aliev held a residency at TV Gulakandoz (Jabbar Rasulov). This was the first residency at TV Gulakandoz. The station is one of the few independent stations in Tajikistan which mainly broadcasts in Uzbek. Internews trainers instructed station employees on producing news stories and effective editing and shooting. Together with the employees at the station, they produced a story on technical developments at the kolkhoz.

On Sept. 17-20, Aliev and Azizov carried out a mini-residency at TV Mawji Ozod (Vose). The residency was focused as much on journalistic questions as on technical questions, with special attention given to sound recording and text editing. Internews professionals assisted the staff at the station by re-editing one story about malaria.

On Sept. 23-25, Salomov carried out a mini-residency at TV Isfara. The situation at the station is very bad, with no TV professionals at all. The residency was had thus mainly a consultative character where strategies on how to improve the present situation were discussed.

### *Consultations*

On July 2, *Nabzi Zindagi* Producer Karim Azizov provided consultations to TV-Regar editor Khurshed Halimov concerning possible topics for stories to be contributed to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

On July 4, Azizov provided consultations to TV-Kurghon-teppa director Khurshed Safarov concerning cooperation between Internews and TV-Kurghon-teppa.

On July 22, Azizov provided consultations to two correspondents at TV-Poitakht, Abdullo Olimov and Zeboniso Azizova, concerning the cooperation between Internews and Poitakht. The employees of Poitakht will be invited to Internews seminars in the future and will also contribute at least two stories per month to the local news exchange program. Moreover, TV Poitakht has begun airing *Open Asia*; on Aug. 1, *Open Asia* was aired on TV Poitakht for residents of the capital.

On July 21, Azizov provided consultations to Abdurahmon Rahmonov, correspondent at State TV's program *TV-Subh* on co-producing a story about the history of Dushanbe, as the program has a comprehensive archive of video materials on the city.

On July 24, Azizov provided consultations to Mohsharif Kurbonova, Abubakr Choriev and Shohida Jamoliddinova, journalists at TV-Kurghon-teppa, concerning contributions to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

In August, Internews computer graphic specialist, Parviz Qurbanov, produced and installed a new chroma-key and branding design for TV Regar.

On Aug. 8, *Nabzi Zindagi* Producer Karim Azizov provided consultations to Denis Beketov at *Dom Kino* on news story production.

On Aug. 11, Azizov provided consultations to Talabsho Mukimov, a student at the Tajik State University, on news story production.

On Aug. 15, Internews producer Izzatmand Salomov provided consultations to Abdumuin Juraev, the director of TV-Simo in Panjakent.

On Aug. 22, Salomov provided consultations to Khurshed Safarov, director of TV Kurghon-teppa, on how to make better news stories.

On Aug. 26, Azizov provided consultation to Akram Abdukhahharov and Dilshod Azimov, both students at Tajik State University.

In September Parviz Qurbanov (Internews TV designer) designed and provided TV Poitakht with a new chroma-key.

On Sept. 1, 2, 6 and 24, Internews Editor Suhrob Aliev provided consultations to Nuriddin Rahmatov from the Technical Centre at Tajik State Television concerning the usage of digital TV-equipment.

On Sept. 2, Internews' *Open Asia* Producer Shahlo Akobirova provided consultations to students at the Faculty of Journalism at Tajikistan State University concerning their participation in Internews' local news exchange programs.

On Sept. 3, Aliev provided consultations to Nasrullo Karimov of TV Kulab concerning reorganizing TV Kulab, division of labor between different departments.

On Sept. 5, Akobirova provided consultations to the participants to students at *Dom Kino*, concerning their participation in Internews' local news exchange programs.

On Sept. 10, Akobirova gave an interview to Safargul Olimova (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) on the trafficking of women. Olimova reported about trafficking based on a story originally contributed to *Open Asia*.

On Sept. 17, Akobirova provided consultations to Abdullo Olimov (TV Poitakht) concerning his participation in Internews' local news exchange programs.

On Sept. 20, Aliev provided consultations to Safar Ergashev (technician at TV Kulab) concerning the usage of digital video equipment and on non-linear editing.

On Sept. 20, Azizov met with Safarali Ergashev (director of Kulab TV) who expressed interest in participating in *Nabzi Zindagi*. Ergashev promised to contribute stories to the program.

On Sept. 22, Azizov provided consultations to Mohsharif Qurbanova (journalist at TV Kurghon-teppa) concerning her contributions to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

On Sept. 22 and 24, Aliev provided consultations to Abdullo Olivov (journalist at TV Poitakht) on equipment inventory for the station.

On Sept. 23, Azizov provided consultations to Akram Abduqahhor, student at the Faculty of Journalism at Dushanbe State University, concerning participation in *Nabzi Zindagi*.

### *Study Tours*

On Aug. 4-9, Internews together and the Academy for Educational Development (AED), sent managers from six Tajik TV stations for a training-seminar to ATV Stavropol in Stavropol, Russia. Valeriy Golubovskiy, director of ATV Stavropol, and Andrey Yundin, leader of the program TV-*Inform*, served as trainers. Among the topics covered during the training were personnel management, advertising, ad sales, equipment procurement and maintenance. Since the training, SM-1 has begun to broadcast a morning news program, based on an equivalent in Stavropol, and thus making effective use of the computers and Internet connection provided by Internews.

### *Conferences*

On July 25 and Aug. 1, Karim Azizov (producer of *Nabzi Zindagi*) and Shahlo Akobirova (producer of *Open Asia*) participated in a screening of *Nabzi Zindagi* and *Open Asia* at Dom Kino. The screening, arranged by Internews and the local NGO Kino Servis, intended to present the program to a wider audience and attract more story contributors from Dushanbe. After the screenings and following discussions, about 20 to 30 participants, most of whom were students, expressed their interest in producing stories for Internews. Kino Servis Director Safar Haqqodov

has been enthusiastic about future cooperation between Internews and Kino Servis and will hold bi-monthly screenings of the Internews programs.

On Aug. 7 and Aug. 22, Shahlo Akobirova (producer of *Open Asia*) participated in a screening of *Open Asia* at Dom Kino. The screening was arranged by Internews and the local NGO Kino Servis and was aimed at presenting the program to a wider audience and to attract more contributors from Dushanbe. Attending the screening and discussion which followed were more than 20 persons, and many of them were students with the Aga Khan Humanities Project/ Cinema Group. Several students voiced their interest in producing stories for Internews. Among the participants at the screening were Abduqodir Talbakov, the chief editor at Tajik State Television; Sadriddin Shamsuddinov, the head of the political department at Tajik State Television; and TV Poitakht Editor Sulfiddin Muminjonov.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Seminars*

On July 14-20, Internews Uzbekistan held a seminar called “How to Shoot Non-Visual Stories.” The seminar was run by Shari Bell (CNN) and Marika Olsen (Internews). The seminar was attended by eight partner station staff members (from Samarkand, Jizzak, Chirchik, Bukhara, Angren, and Margilan) and three producers from Internews Tajikistan. Participants learned how to cover material and natural sound, tell a story with little reporter track, and create work-plans, shooting plans and outlines for scripts.

Three stories were produced by the end of the seminar: what resources the Uzbek government makes available to those with AIDS profile of a U.S. boxer who became one of the dominant figures in the sport of Uzbek boxing and the decline in the status of Uzbekistan’s film industry.

From June 28 to July 7, Internews Uzbekistan held a seminar called “Avtorskiye Programmi” about editorial talk shows. The seminar was run by trainers Oleg Dmitriev from Internews Russia and Andrey Nyanchook from Krasnoyarsk. The participants were staff members of stations that received Production Fund grants (Kokand, Jizzak, Margilan, Bukhara, Bekabad, Namangan and Denau).

From Aug. 26-30, Internews Uzbekistan ran a seminar on effective radio management. The seminar was run by Pavel Jdanko and Svetlana Margolis, radio trainers from Bishkek. There were 15 seminar participants that included managers and station directors of Tashkent FM radio stations Poitakht, Navruz, Uzbekistan, Grande, Oriyat, Khamrokh and Uzbegim Taronasi. Topics included effective budgeting, hiring, program development and business plans. Internews lawyer Galina Mayorova provided consultations to the participants of of the seminar on legal issues arising in the management of a radio station, such as labor laws, mass media laws and administrative laws.

On Sept. 2-10, Internews training coordinator Feruza Ismatullaeva, Internews producers Jakhongir Nakhonov, and Mekhri Saatova, and journalists Muzaffar Usarov from Bakhtiyor-TV (Jizzak) and Odiljon Gafurjanov from Mulokot TV (Kokand) participated in the “Training for Trainers” seminar organized by Internews in Bishkek.

On Sept. 20-22, Larissa Malinova, director of Afontovo TV (Krasnoyarsk) held a seminar on promotion for ten station managers on the definition, goals, objectives, and elements of on-air

promos and their impact on audiences. Content production was also discussed. Malinova also taught the participants how to develop a broadcasting schedule. On the second day, Malinova spoke about internal and external promotion and taught participants how to promote a TV station through other media outlets.

### *Residencies*

On July 21-26, Internews CD Marika Olsen and trainer Shari Bell traveled to Margilan and Kokand to conduct residencies at Mulokot-TV and Margilan-TV. They critiqued various shows produced at the stations and gave suggestions on how to create better studios without use of blue-screen.

On Aug. 11-13, Jakhongir Nakhanov held a residency at Bakhtiyor-TV (Jizzak) to work with producer Mekhri Karimova on the third edition of the *Yoshlar Olami* program produced under the Production Fund project.

On Sept. 23-26, Larissa Malinova held a residency at Osiyo-TV in Bukhara region, a relatively young station which has been plagued by mismanagement. The station has discontinued its news programming since August and four employees have resigned. Malinova worked with the director on retaining qualified staff, on management structure, fundraising, and the importance of news programs to build an audience base. Mayorova held a short tutorial for remaining staff on news production and left the station with a series of recommendations on how to revive the station.

On Sept. 30- Oct. 3, Jakhongir Nakhanov, Muzaffar Usarov and Azizbek Umurzakov ran a residency on basic news production in Namangan at the Namangan Resource Center. Eight beginning journalists, camera operators and editors from TV stations Tarakkiyot (Andijan) and TV Sharq (Namangan) participated and shot three stories about a local epidemic, about the sale of cigarettes near schools and about a private ethnographic museum in Namangan.

### *New Partner Stations*

Two stations in Bukhara are interested in cooperation with Internews Uzbekistan. On Sept. 29, director of Koinot TV (Bukhara) visited the office of Internews Uzbekistan for discussion and visited the director of Istiklol (Bukhara Region). These stations would like training and technical help and to sign a contract about showing *Zamon*.

### *Conferences*

On Sept. 23, Internews and the Agency for Press and Information conducted a round table called "Electronic Mass Media in Uzbekistan: Development, Obstacles and Prospects." The event was organized by Internews and AED and took place in the conference hall of the Agency of Print and Information. It was a follow-up to the study tour for TV station directors and three government officials to the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Conference in Las Vegas. Among the 60 participants were representatives from the Agency of Print and Information, the Agency for Communication and Informatization, as well as TV and radio station directors and journalists from different Uzbekistan regions. At the conference, participants discussed ways to simplify licensing procedures in Uzbekistan.

Agency staff who attended NAB in Las Vegas subsequently put in a proposal to the Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers suggesting the reform or dismantling of the Interagency Coordination

Commission (MKK), which has long been a stumbling block and threat to the existence of many independent broadcasters in Uzbekistan.

An interesting moment at the conference was the presence of Rustam Shagulyamov, the head of the Agency who addressed the roundtable saying, “many of you may be angry at me because of my strictness, but I have honestly executed my business. ... But now times have changed, and we can talk to each other, argue, and I am listening to you about your problems.” Before, Shagulyamov had been considered one of the greatest threats to the existence of independent media in Uzbekistan, and had assumed the role of the censor.

On Sept. 30, on the eve of the Teachers’ Day, Internews Uzbekistan held an Open Doors Day for the faculty and students of journalism schools of the National University and the Uzbek State World Languages University. About 50 students, three or four professors and TV journalists attended the event, where they were informed about Internews’ work. Tamara Prokopieva from Orbita TV and Muzaffar Usarov from Jizzak TV presented news stories they were working on, followed by Internews producers presenting the programs *Zamon* and *Open Asia.*, Internews legal specialist Karim Bakhriev spoke about legal projects, Farid Abdirshin about GIPI, Natalya Ivlieva about the Drug Demand Reduction Program.

#### *Resource Center*

On July 30, Internews traveled to Namangan to meet with members of the Khamkor Journalist Club. The purpose of the meeting was to inform them about the new Media Resource Center in the Ferghana Valley, introduce the Center’s staff, and present books published by Internews to the Center’s library. Internews hired Akhmedjan Mukhamedjanov to direct the resource center, Ayubkhon Fayzullayev to serve as its program coordinator, Timur Rakhimov as the center’s IT specialist and Platon Nam as its accountant.

### **Component 1.3: Improved Access to and Use of Modern Information Technology**

#### **Kazakhstan**

##### *PeRspekTiVa*

In August, Internews released three issues of the bulletin *Perspektiva*. Highlights included:

- Current activity and commentary on the new mass media draft law; statements of the government concerning media-related activity;
- Situation of Journalist Sergey Duvanov who is still in prison;
- The situation of several Kazakhstani local cable network providers, who are coming into conflict with the monopolist operator Alma TV.

In September, two issues of *Perspektiva* were published. Highlights included:

- Discussions on the new draft of the media law;
- Mass media and the forthcoming elections to maslikhats (local representative bodies);
- Address of NAT-KZ on preserving the VAT exemption for media outlets;
- Violations of the freedom of speech in Kazakhstan for the first part of 2003;

- Work of the committee on frequencies. Allocation of new frequencies for broadcasting in Kazakhstan;
- Internews projects, seminars, etc.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### *Communication – the Bulletin of Internews Kyrgyzstan*

In July, Internews hired journalist Artem Petrov to assist bulletin editor Tursunai Chodurova.

For the media conference “We Make News,” Internews published a special issue of the bulletin, which included interviews with media experts on freedom of speech, documents on journalistic ethics, a list of donor organizations, media associations and information about Internews’ programs.

In August, bulletin editor Tursunai Chodurova began to include in the weekly electronic edition of the bulletin some articles written by the new bulletin journalist Artiom Petrov and by outside journalists on themes connected to the media situation. Articles included:

“For the First Time on the Republican Level” (*Communication* ? 16 (148)). Report with pictures about the Internews conference “We make news,” opinions of journalist on different problems of Kyrgyz journalism, conclusions made by participants of the Conference during the event, with short interviews on the most important issues of the conference. This article was republished by the newspaper *Democrat* on Aug. 29.

“Kyrgyzstan’s Mass Media: “Fourth Estate or Rightful Outcast” (*Communication* ? 18 (150)) by *Delo No.* journalist Vadim Nochevkin. Journalists in Kyrgyzstan, as one of them says, have less legal rights than murderers. Republican laws don’t let journalists show their best in the work they do.

“Will Solid Arguments be Found?” (*Communication* ? 19(151)) by Artem Petrov about several expert opinions about the creation of Kyrgyzstan’s Media Council.

### *Launch of New Website*

In September, Internews launched a modernized version of its media portal ([www.internews.kg](http://www.internews.kg)), which has the capability for holding more information and is more user-friendly. Visitors to the portal can find information about a variety of media events and can access all kinds of technical and legal documents regularly updated by Internews staff. Registered visitors of the portal can directly contribute to the database with their materials.

## **Tajikistan**

### *Intermediaobzor*

The second issue of Internews’ media bulletin for Tajikistan, *Intermediaobzor* was published at the beginning of July. The bulletin contains general information about media developments in Tajikistan, news about Internews activities and four longer articles contributed by Marat Mamadshoev (about the role of media in the June 22 referendum), Bobojon Ikromov (about the

“World of News” Conference held in Moscow), Rukhshona Olimova (interview with Abdumalik Qadirov, US Embassy assistant on cultural affairs and member of Democracy Commission), Mazhabshoh Muhabbatsho (about access to information).

In August, the third issue of Internews Tajikistan’s Electronic Media Bulletin went online. The bulletin contained news about the media scene in Tajikistan, as well as some analytical articles. Among the latter were an article about information access and an interview with Joshua Friedman from CPJ (both written by Rukhshona Olimova), an article about online publications in Tajikistan (contributed by Zafar Abdullaev), and an article about cooperation between media NGOs in the Ferghana Valley (by Vladimir Radushkin).

The fifth edition of Internews’ bulletin was published on the Internet in September. The bulletin contained information about Internews activities in Tajikistan during September and news about the media situation in the country. As usual, the bulletin also contained several analytical articles. This time the articles were contributed by Mazhabshoh Muhabbatshoev (Internews), with an article about the annual OSCE media conference, this year held in Bishkek; Rukhona Olimova (Internews), who wrote an article about *Radio FM* and *Radio NIC*; Junaid Ibodov (Lawyer of Internews Tajikistan), writing an article about licensing legislation in Tajikistan.

#### *Website*

Internews Webmaster Umed Mardonov regularly updated the Internews website ([www.internews.somoni.com](http://www.internews.somoni.com)) in July, August and September in order to provide its readers with up-to-date information about Internews’ activities in Tajikistan, as well as general media developments in the country.

#### *Connectivity of TV Stations Project*

At present TV-Kurghon-teppa (Kurghon-teppa), TV-Regar (Regar), TV-Poitakht (Dushanbe), SM-1 (Khujand), TRK Asiya (Khujand), and Gulibodom (Konibodom) are connected to the Internet and all of them, except TV-Kurghon-teppa receive the weekly news bulletins from Asia-Plus and Varorud.

In August, TRK Asiya was connected to internet as well as to a local LAN. SM-1 (Khujand), TV-Simo (Panjakent), TV Gulakandoz (Jabbor Rasulov), and TV Isfara (Isfara) were also connected to the Internet in August. Currently nine stations are connected to Internet and regularly receive information bulletins/news agency wires. The only station not connected is TV Mawji Ozod (Vose). Internews has decided not to wait for improvements in the telecommunication networks in this southern region area in Tajikistan, but to connect another TV station instead.

## **Uzbekistan**

#### *Herald TV*

Internews Uzbekistan’s Bulletin, *Herald TV* appeared three times per month in July, August and September.

Herald TV #129:  
Highlights include:

- Information on the resignation of *Mokhiyat's* editorial staff;
- An article called "Let's Hope It will be better" by Timofei Zhukov, about a split among the founders of the *Molodezh Uzbekistana* newspaper (Youth of Uzbekistan) that led to the establishment of an alternative weekly youth magazine;
- In response to the article on Ferghana.Ru called "Access to the Ferghana.Ru Website is Partially Closed in Uzbekistan," Herald TV published the full version of an article called "Sabotage or Times Are Changing for the Worse." Many readers could not read the Web site article because access to it had been restricted. The article also included a conversation with the Deputy General Director of the Uzbek Agency for Communication and Information, Mr. A. Khojaev, about Internet restrictions in Uzbekistan.

#### Herald TV #130:

- An editorial called "The Triumph of the Truth or Trial #11-0305/75," detailing how the Board of Appeals of the Tashkent Province Economy Court issued a verdict in favor of the independent Orbita TV and Radio Company;
- An article about a new newspaper set up in Uzbekistan. The first edition of the eight-page newspaper called *Novaya Gazeta-Parvina* (New Newspaper-Parvina) appeared recently. The founders of the newspaper are the Parvina Bank, and Parvina and Parvina Kuruvchi companies.

#### Herald TV # 131:

- An article about how the Board of Appeals of the Tashkent Province Economy Court issued a verdict in favor of an Angren-based independent Orbita TV and Radio Company. For over a year and a half, there was litigation over the rights to the use of a transmitter involving Orbita TV and the government owned Center for Radio Communication, Radio Broadcasting and Television. The article revealed that the government-owned Center has acted illegally for years;
- An article "Network Broadcasting – Development Prospects" which talked about how a few independent stations are uniting to form a network in order to attract advertisers, expand coverage and give a larger audience access to information and quality television. The network hopes that good programming and a quality signal will give it a competitive advantage;
- An article about a Web-based newspaper *Vremya Plus*. According to its founders, it is "the first Web-based newspaper to appear in Uzbekistan's cyberspace."

#### Herald TV #132

- An article about the recently released report by the World Bank, which detailed living standards in Uzbekistan. According to the report, more than one fourth of Uzbekistan's population lives in poverty, and one third of this is in abysmal poverty. The foreign investment rate is \$3 per capita, the lowest among the CIS countries.

#### Herald TV #(23) 133

- An article about a meeting of NGO managers dealing with mass media in general, as well as mass media in the Ferghana Valley, was held at the Osh Mass Media Resource Center. The meeting was organized with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The Global Project to Support Mass Media in the Ferghana Valley was

- presented at the meeting. The meeting also helped to establish closer ties between journalists in the three republics that have ties to the Ferghana Valley;
- An article about the Aug. 22 conference, called “Freedom for Journalist and Human Right Defender Ruslan Sharipov,” which was held in Le Meridian Tashkent Palace hotel. The conference was sponsored by IWPR with support from Internews, among other organizations. Sharipov had recently been sentenced to 5 ½ half years in jail for homosexuality and sexual relations with minors. The conference was attended by representatives of foreign embassies, international organizations, the EBRD, UN, OSCE, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, ABA/CEELI, Ebert Foundation, OSI, as well as journalists and human right defenders. After the conference, a group of human right defenders organized a protest in front of the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs demanding the release of Ruslan Sharipov;
  - An article expressing the opinions of journalists in the Jizzak province. According to Renat Sigbatullin, editor of the newspaper *Jizzakskaya Pravda*, “despite the official abolition of censorship in May 2002, many of our colleagues have failed to rid themselves of it. Censorship has found a place in our hearts, and the process of democratization of domestic journalism will most likely take a long time.” Other journalists expressed similar opinions.

Herald TV #134:

- An article called “Uzbek Authorities Banned the Website of Ozod Ovoz.” According to the organization Ozod Ovoz (Freedom of Speech), member of the Central Asian and South Caucasian Freedom Exchange Network, the Uzbek government banned Ozod Ovoz’s website on 2 September 2003. As a result, the organization can no longer update its Web site from Uzbekistan. Visitors can only visit the Web site through anonymous proxy servers. Previously, the website had been banned partially, mostly by ISPs accessing the Internet through the government company UzPAK. According to the director of Ozod Ovoz, Bobomurod Abdullayev, the website was banned because it published very critical articles about President Islam Karimov;
- An article called “They Tear Clothes and Break Equipment” about a correspondent of BBC Central Asia, Matluba Azamatova, who, while interviewing picketers in front of the Altirik District Prosecutor’s Office in Ferghana province on Aug. 20, was beaten by unidentified women. The women also took her radio recording equipment. The picketers demanded the resignation of the administration of the Altirik District Prosecutor’s Office that had started legal proceedings against a human right activist. The authorities had been notified in advance of plans to organize the picket. Azamatova complained to the District Prosecutor’s Office and demanded that the Office initiate proceedings against the assailants;
- A section in translation from “Documentary Film Production” by Michael Rabiger.

Herald TV #135:

- An article called “The Project of Monitoring Freedom of Speech in the Media.” Uzbekistan rates 120th in the Freedom of Speech Index drawn up by Reporters Without Borders. The article posed the question: Can a country with a 120<sup>th</sup> ranking be called a country with a free media? This question will be answered by the new project at Internews called “Protection of Democratic Principles of Freedom of Speech in Mass Media in Central Asian States.” Local Internews started implementing the project on Sept. 1 with financial support from USAID. The Project has observers in all Uzbek

- provinces, in the autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan and in capital Tashkent, who will monitor all violations of the freedom of speech;
- A brief announcement from the Legal Department of Internews Uzbekistan about the launch of a legal hotline for journalists. All media professionals are encouraged to call the hotline to receive free legal consultations relating to their profession. The hotline works once a week, on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.;
  - An article called “NGO vs. Mass Media.” NGOs repeatedly complain about lack of attention from mass media. NGOs claim that national mass media must cover their activities on a regular basis, but, according to the author, forget that radio and TV time costs money. The mass media usually limits itself to brief information about NGOs, even if the NGOs do something of significant importance.

### *Website*

The Web site *www.internews.uz* has been re-launched; Internews Uzbekistan’s computer specialists continue working on the website. An English version of Internews Uzbekistan’s website (*www.internews.uz*) continues to be available. System administrators are currently working on the Uzbek and Russian versions. The website of Zamon (*www.zamon.uz*) will soon reflect the new format of Zamon.

## **Global Internet Policy Initiative (GIPI)**

### **Kazakhstan**

In Astana, GIPI held consultation meetings with officers in the new governmental body, the Agency for Informatization and Communications. During the meeting with the chairman of the Agency, GIPI discussed the main tasks and goals of the new structure as well as future participation of the officers in a roundtable that GIPI Kazakhstan plans to hold this fall.

GIPI held a consultative meeting with Ms. Klyueva, Chief of Department of State Communications Policy: During the meeting the following issues were discussed:

- Challenges for participation in International Communications organizations;
- Administrative and legal barriers for successful development of telecommunication market in Kazakhstan.

GIPI discussed the project “Evaluation of State Bodies’ Web Sites” with the Director of the Center for Information and Testing under the Agency for Civil Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Director of Administrative Department (Ministry of Economy).

On June 30- July 2, GIPI participated in the international conference, “Building the Information Commonwealth,” in St. Petersburg, Russia. GIPI coordinator Sofia Issenova addressed the conference with remarks on the policy of information society and development standards.

Issenova prepared an analytical article “New Technologies – New Society?” about the conference, which was published in the online newspaper *Navigator* (*www.navi.kz*), in the Internews bulletin *Perspektiva* and on the Web site of the Internet Training Center (*www.samal.kz*).

In July, Issenova gave an interview for the popular Internet newspaper *Navigator* ([www.navi.kz](http://www.navi.kz)) about draft process of the new law on Communications.

Issenova became one of the judges for the Best Web Site Competition ([www.award.kz](http://www.award.kz)) and took part in several meetings of the jury.

In August, GIPI coordinator prepared a presentation and memorandum on case studies on Kazakhstan, reviewing the legal regulation aspects in the sphere of telecommunications and informatization, as well as legal and regulative challenges.

In August, GIPI Coordinator in Kazakhstan Sofia Issenova took part in the ICT Policy Training Program in Budapest (organized by Stanhope Centre for Communication Policy Research in cooperation with the Open Society Institute and the Markle Foundation)

GIPI Kazakhstan works in collaboration with Andrey Marussov, Digital Divide & E-democracy Fellow, LGI, OSI and Leader of the Ukrainian NGO Agency for Information Development, located in Kiev.

In the framework of collaboration with Marussov, the list of Kazakhstani Internet sources were prepared. GIPI Kazakhstan was included to the subscribers list of [www.ega.ee](http://www.ega.ee) (a joint initiative of UNDP, OSI, and Estonian government).

At present time the Institute of Economic Research works on the e-project "Resources of Kazakhstan." We carried out consultative meeting with the team leader, who was interested in collaboration with GIPI Kazakhstan. Some materials for the project of IER were submitted.

For the purpose of the project "Evaluation of Government Web Sites," GIPI carried out a series of meetings with the project director. The goals, main tasks, methodology and expected results of the research were defined. GIPI coordinator submitted some basic documentation for the research.

## **Uzbekistan**

The following draft laws are in discussion in the Uzbek Parliament committees: the law on informatization (in a new edition, i.e., the present law will be substituted by a new one), the law on circulation of electronic documents and the law on electronic digital signature.

GIPI is participating in the discussions of the above laws within the Uzbek Parliament. The drafts have been revised for some technical as well as grammatical issues, but conceptually they have not changed. Adoption of the laws is expected in September 2003.

GIPI is participating in the process of implementing the .UZ domain by UZINFOCOM, which is an NGO comprised of representatives from the telecommunications and Internet society of Uzbekistan. GIPI is working with the Uzbek Parliament, planning a seminar dedicated to various aspects of the use of domain names. This seminar is planned for September 2003.

GIPI also is working with Uzbekistan Gateway Project of the Center of Economic Research (CER) to create a newsletter covering various issues relevant to Information and Communication Technologies. GIPI will prepare legislative and policy issues for the newsletter, while CER will deal with technical and economic aspects. The distribution of the newsletter is planned for

September 2003, after administrative and technical issues related to the restructuring of CER are resolved.

In August, GIPI began working with the Uzbek Parliament on the process of drafting and adoption of a new law on Electronic Digital Signature and on a new version of the law on Informatization. The first draft laws have been presented to Parliament members and will be discussed at the Parliament session held at the end of August. This will be the first stage of discussion. Afterwards, the laws will be amended to take into account comments by Parliament members. GIPI will also be involved in the process of re-drafting this law by participating in the Parliament's working groups and appropriate Parliament's Committee.

GIPI is involved in the process of drafting regulation on the status of electronic publications. The draft regulation has been developed together with the Uzbek Patent Office and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval, which is expected within a month.

GIPI prepared for the National Uzbekistan Summit on ICT. The Summit was held on Sept. 23-24, 2003. The GIPI representative spoke and delivered a report on "Conception of Legal Framework for Regulation of Activity Related to Use of the Internet." The Report was jointly prepared by GIPI with the UNDP DDI Program and describes the present situation regarding the regulation of activity related to the use of Internet, a review of foreign and international experience and regulation plus recommendations.

GIPI is the co-organizer of a seminar dedicated to the regulation of the use of domain names in Uzbekistan. The seminar is scheduled for mid-September and will be attended by government officials, parliament members and members of the Uzbek internet society. GIPI will be giving a report on foreign and international regulation of the use of domain names in Uzbekistan. The main issue to be discussed at the seminar will be correlation of domain names and trademarks and procedural steps required for avoiding the similarity of registered domain name to the trademark already registered.

In September, GIPI, in cooperation with the Uzbek Parliament, worked on the draft law on Digital E-Signature and the new version of the law on informatization. Drafts of the laws were passed by Oliy Majlis in the first reading. GIPI is also cooperating with appropriate Parliament committees to develop final versions of the laws.

GIPI participated in the National ICT Summit on Sept. 23-24. Farid Abdrshin gave a talk called "The Concept of the National Regulation of ICT and Internet." GIPI was a co-organizer of a seminar on handing the rights to the UZ domain name over to Uzbekistan. The seminar was postponed until mid-November. Members of the Uzbek government, Parliament members and representatives of Uzbekistan's Internet community are expected to participate in the seminar. GIPI will arrange a lecture on foreign and international regulation of domain names. The key issue to be discussed at the seminar is the link between domain names and trademarks.

#### **Component 1.4: Enhanced Support for Print**

##### OVERALL SITUATION:

This report comes in the wake of the release of another survey of the worldwide press that found freedoms wanting in Central Asia, this one compiled by the journalists advocacy group Reporters Without Borders. On a scale from 1 to 139, the highest ranking among the four countries targeted in the ICFJ/Internews effort fell to Tajikistan at 86. The lowest was Uzbekistan at 120, and

Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan landed at 98 and 116. *(It must be noted here that ICFJ's print media adviser regards the RWB/RSF report, first published last spring but still being touted by the Paris-based organization as valid, as seriously distorted. He says the rating that puts Kazakhstan below Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in press freedom was "event-driven" and based on heavy-handed government actions nearly a year ago, while "quietly timid" press systems like Tajikistan's are critically exonerated.)* Also during this reporting period, in Kazakhstan the president's daughter and media magnate, Dariga Nazarbayeva, launched a political party, Asar. A court in Uzbekistan in late September rejected an appeal from beleaguered journalist Ruslan Sharipov, serving a 5½-year sentence on sex-related charges. The journalist had been harassed for years because of stories he wrote critical of the police and violations of press freedom. The court dropped one of the charges and reduced Sharipov's sentence to four years. In Tajikistan, the Committee to Protect Journalists, after a two-week mission, called on the leadership to investigate the deaths of 29 journalists during the country's mid-1990s civil war and aired concerns over Tajikistan's criminal defamation laws and obstacles that journalists face in seeking information.

#### PROGRAM ACTIVITY:

The third quarter was primarily a time of preparation for a series of training programs set into motion in late September as the quarter drew to a close. The period also brought considerable progress on ICFJ's supplemental projects – the creation of manuals on topics in journalism and in media business management designed especially for Central Asia. Following is a summary of the activities either completed or begun during the third quarter:

- The launching of a series of three programs in Business and Economic Journalism in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (Sept. 21-Oct. 10);
- Newspaper Management and Financial Self-Reliance in Tajikistan (Sept. 29-Oct. 3);
- The first of the "Road Show" programs in basic journalism, administered in Semey, Kazakhstan (Sept. 7-10);
- Russian translation of the first of a series of manuals, "The Fundamentals of Reporting, Writing and Editing for Independent Newspapers," by George Krinsky, Central Asian press adviser (CAPA);
- Commencement of work on a second manual – covering the fundamentals of newspaper management and financial sustainability – by John C. Ronald, the editor and publisher of The Commercial Review of Portland, Indiana, and an ICFJ consultant.

In his first assignment for ICFJ, Gregory Bloom is the lead trainer for the workshops in business and economic reporting. During his career thus far, Bloom has served as business editor and executive editor of the English-language *Kyiv Post* in Ukraine. At the *Post* he oversaw an eight-page expansion of the paper, as well as the launching of two daily news Web sites, the Russian-language Korrespondent.net and KPnews.com, an English-language news site. He also developed and managed the project TACIS Support for Independent Media in Ukraine, which helped promote media independence during the March 2002 parliamentary election campaign. The workshops in business journalism were organized with the cooperation and assistance of the Internews offices in Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent.

John C. “Jack” Ronald made his fourth journey to the region as an ICFJ consultant, offering a workshop in business and financial management in for eight participants in Tajikistan. Ronald is the veteran of several basic - and advanced-level workshops on this topic elsewhere in the region but for the first time in Tajikistan. Ronald arrived in the region in mid-September and came to Dushanbe after completing work in a project with Freedom House in the Kyrgyz Republic. Ronald researched and made recommendations for improvements to the existing newspaper distribution network in that country.

During this period ICFJ also made plans to enter into a cooperative arrangement to offer a workshop in business and economic journalism for Kazakhstan, titled “Covering Resource Wealth.” Internews Arcata agreed that ICFJ would commit \$3,000 of its program funds to this effort, to be conducted Nov. 16-18 in Almaty by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) in cooperation with the Kazakhstan Press Club. IPD is a network of economists and social scientists based at Columbia University that helps countries in transition to formulate economic policy. For journalists in such countries the group also organizes training in business and economic news coverage.

ICFJ/Internews also lent its assistance to another ICFJ program in media management training for Kazakhstan. ICFJ consultant Judith Roales spent the month of June in Kazakhstan providing on-site consultations at the offices of newspapers that sent participants to this program, which included a stateside segment last spring. Several of these papers have fielded and continue to send participants to ICFJ/Internews training programs. Roales worked with newspapers in Almaty, Uralsk, Kostanai, Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk. She returned to Kazakhstan in September for further work with papers in Almaty and Shymkent, but the assignment was cut short because of a personal emergency.

The “Road Show” workshops are slated to continue at sites in western Kazakhstan in October, and Krinsky intends to bring these programs to sites in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan before year’s end.

Krinsky’s manual on journalism fundamentals is in production and is to be translated into the region’s indigenous languages; Ronald continues his work on the management handbook.

***Program Activities in Support of Objective Two (To engage citizens in the democratic process through increased availability of useful and credible information)***

**Component 2.1 - Production Funds for Public Interest Programming**

**Kazakhstan**

*Internews Production Fund Equipment Held up at Kazakhstan Customs*

In August, Internews ordered a set of TV equipment for Karaganda stations from the US-based company B&H Photo - Video, Inc. On Aug. 11th, the equipment (value of \$28,696) was delivered to Almaty, Kazakhstan, but Internews has been unable to receive it. The Customs Committee is requiring Internews pay custom tariffs despite the exemption from paying them that the U.S. assistance projects have previously had, as the US-Kazakhstani bilateral agreement is still up for discussion for re-ratification in the Kazakhstani Parliament. Though Internews immediately informed USAID about this, at this writing, the equipment continues to sit in the

customs warehouse, as there have been official negotiations by USAID and the U.S. Embassy to have customs release the equipment without customs fees.

### *U Vas yest Pravo! (You have the Right!)*

Internews' production center in August prepared the scenario for edition #7 on the legal aspects of garbage on city streets and is currently in the studio recording edition #6 (about environmental safety) and completing edition #7. Edition #5 (about trafficking of women) was edited. And graphic design was completed for the Kazakh language version of the project.

### Production Funds

On Aug. 25, Internews held a meeting of the production fund committee to review applications for another round of production fund grants. The following projects were awarded funding of the 19 applications:

- L. Makarochkina, E. Igissinov (Almaty), *U Vas yest Pravo (You have the Right)* production of ten more editions of the program; cash grant;
- Accept TV Lissakovsk Ltd. (Lissakovsk), creation of *Postfactum* and *Radius 30*-minute news programs; equipment grant;
- Foundation for Support of Independent Mass Media (Aktobe) to establish and support REAL.KZ informational and entertainment portal; equipment grant;
- Sobkor Ltd./Otyrar-TV Co. (Shymkent); equipment grant to create a center for translation of news and films into Kazakh language;
- *Raznye ii Ravnye* Newspaper and public association Women's Federation (Ust-Kamenogorsk) for creation of a new women's column; also to create a series of articles monitoring pre-election promises of Parliament and local representative bodies' members; cash grant.

Internews began working on a project with the Italian Embassy on the production of a video about abolition of the death penalty. Internews is producing a scenario, coordinating production as well as distribution among its partner TV stations.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### *Production Funds*

Two projects from the first round of production fund competitions in April 2002 recently completed their requirements. They are:

- *DDD* Newspaper (Osh), for a project entitled "Hukuk-Maktabi" (School of Rights), which included a section on legal issues published regularly. On this page, readers wrote in for legal advice. Feedback from readers was active, and many readers wrote in to the paper expressing how the section helped them decide legal issues on their own. The editorial board of the paper is planning to continue issuing the section.
- Anten TV (Karakol) received a set of equipment to produce and broadcast local news on social themes. Using the received equipment, the station will continue broadcasting its news program.

One project began broadcasting its project from the third competition of production funds in June 2003:

- Public Association JNT-Reporter, a project called “Frankly speaking...,” a socio-legal weekly radio program on women’s rights broadcast on Kyrgyz State Radio. The program will run a cycle of 44 15-minute programs.

On Aug. 22-26, Internews Production Fund coordinator Adel Laisheva traveled to Naryn to visit four electronic media outlets to supervise the following projects:

- Ayan TV, which is implementing the project “Gender Policy and Law,” a TV show including stories about women and problems they face;
- Radio station Almaz-Naryn, which is implementing the small grant program “Right for Aid,” a radio-show for women covering gender issues, problems of women in remote regions, live-air consultations;
- Radio station Tenir-Too and Almaz-Naryn and TV Shankhai, which have been awarded small grants on the third round of Production Fund last May, will start to work on their projects soon.
- Radio station Almaz-Naryn: “Birinci Bailyk den Sooluk» (Health is Wealth), weekly radio programs about problems in the field of healthcare. Timing: 45 minutes each, twice a month with necessary repetition. 1 year.
- Independent radio-station Tenir-Too: “Stop traffic\Ozunu Kul Kylba," weekly socio-legal radio program within the framework of the National Information Campaign on Prevention of Human Trafficking. Timing 15- 20 minutes. 1 year.
- PA Kol Kabysh/ TV station Shankhai: “Democracy at the Local Level," weekly 20-30 minutes TV programs produced and broadcast. 1 year.

Studio Epos began implementing the project “Ghost Villages of Tian Shen” which was awarded a production grant in the third round of Production Fund competitions in May 2003. Six documentary films will be produced about the problems of mountain villages. The team of Epos already shot footage in villages where there used to be very active mines and factories producing coal and rare metals. The director of the studio wants to show the society at large the stories of those abandoned villages and the fate of their inhabitants.

On Aug. 30-Sept. 2, Internews Production Fund coordinator Adel Laisheva traveled to Karakol to visit three media outlets which received small grants:

- TV station Anten TV, which is implementing a project of production of local daily news and of a weekly analytical program;
- Newspaper *Vesti Issyk-Kul*, which is implementing the project “Life of Remote Regions,” a weekly article covering the life of people in remote regions;
- TV station EMTV, which is implementing the project “Achyk Soz,” a live talk show, covering social issues, healthcare problems, etc.

On Sept. 15, Internews announced the fourth round of its Production Fund program, which will be thematic in nature. The aim is to stimulate the production of quality programs and articles covering health issues and healthy way of life that will be interesting for the Kyrgyz population. The best projects will get grants of technical equipment or financial support of up to \$5,000 for implementation of the project. The competition is open to all media outlets, production studios and freelance journalists. The deadline for proposal submissions is Oct. 15, 2003.

Internews signed four agreements to extend one-year projects from the first round in summer 2002, which are still working successfully. They include:

- Newspaper *DDD*, project “Hukuk-Maktabi” (Rights school), which includes an insert in each issue on legal matters;
- TV station Keremet, project "Aiyldashim-? kyldashim" for the production of talk shows with people from remote villages of Osh region;
- TV station Anten TV in Karakol for the production of local daily news and of a weekly analytical program;
- Radio station Delta for the production of a monthly program about the life and activities of ethnic minorities.

In August, Internews Kyrgyzstan edited a 26-minute documentary film for Counterpart. The film is about a conference entitled “The Fight against Poverty: Implementation of the National Poverty Reduction Program in Central Asia and the Role of Civil Society” organized in June 2003 by the World Bank Institute and Counterpart. The film will be used internally by the World Bank Institute to explain and promote its project.

On Sept. 26, in Bishkek International Organization of Migration (IOM) and Internews organized a public presentation of and discussion on the first part of the documentary film, *Faceless*, about the trafficking of women, for an audience of 50 journalists, representatives from the government, the U.S. Embassy and NGOs.

This film is a joint project of IOM, which financed the project, Internews, which provided equipment and technical support, and the staff of TV Pyramida, who produced the piece. The film is an hour-long two-part documentary. The first part (*Faceless*) consists of a series of interviews of victims of trafficking in Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates. The second part (*Technology of Debauch*) investigates the mechanism of the trafficking of women in Kyrgyzstan and UAE. The filmmakers did some risky investigative work, filming nearly 30 percent of their footage with a hidden camera.

The film will be broadcast in October on Pyramida and KTR, Kyrgyz State television. Internews will distribute the film to partner TV stations in Kyrgyzstan’s regions.

This project follows up Internews’ and IOM’s collaboration in 2002 on the production of Public Service Announcements on human trafficking and a documentary film about migrant workers.

On Sept. 9, the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University made a presentation of a 10-minute documentary film produced by its students' Mass Media Center with technical support from Internews. The film, called *Alma Mater* relates the ten year history of the university.

*Success Story: Investigations into Child Neglect in Kyrgyzstan*

Child neglect is one of the most serious problems facing Kyrgyz society today and is a major issue for government authorities. The number of abandoned children, or children removed from custody of neglectful parents is very high.

Kyrgyzstan has created a set of basic children's rights aimed at the prevention of child neglect. But despite measures to improve legislation and establish a number of orphanages and rehabilitation centers, the number of children living outside the family home continues to increase.

*A correspondent of the Delo ? newspaper*, Natalia Domogalskaya, with a production fund grant from Internews awarded in August 2003, conducted a series of investigations to uncover which organizations were really helping these neglected children, to provide feedback to the program and project coordinators and to enable the organization of a system of governmental activities in child protection. Her serialized investigations were called "Investigations into the Causes of Child Neglect in the Republic" and were published beginning October 2002.

The articles had a resounding impact. People who identified with the stories called and visited the editorial offices. Child welfare programs raised public discussions based on the issues in the articles. Following the publication of an article entitled "Born in Captivity" (Nov. 13, 2002), the Kyrgyz branch of UNICEF got involved in the problems of children born in prison. Since then, the condition of these children has improved significantly.

The NGO Mental Health and Society took note of the article "I Won't Go to School Any More" (Dec. 18, 2002). Unexpectedly, this article sparked a continued debate, at the end of which the Ministry of Education and Culture issued an order "On the prevention of suicide and death of children and adolescents in secondary schools." According to this order, it is now prohibited for schools to give entrance exams and collect "entrance fees" from parents. Primary school pupils are to be admitted at the micro-area school of their parents' choice, regardless of the school's status (gymnasium, lyceum etc.).

After the publication of the article "Little Jack-Rolls. What to Do with Them?" (Dec. 25, 2002), the juvenile affairs division at the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized a raid in the streets of Osh. The raid made it possible to identify families who are forcing their children to beg and put these children under protection. The journalist witnessed the raid and, based on the results of it, wrote a new article entitled "City Flowers" (July 2, 2003). The Kyrgyz Ministry of Internal Affairs also decided to publish the results of the raid in its departmental newspaper "Betme-Bet."

The day after publication of the article "Where are You, Mother?" (April 9, 2002), employees of the Jashtyk Children Adaptation-Rehabilitation Center in Bishkek informed the journalist that they were visited by the mother of one of the boys depicted in the article. She said that it was only through this article that she learned she could bring her child to the center free of charge without risking the loss of her child.

Considering that the circulation of *Delo ?* newspaper is 30,000 copies, and that it is distributed all over the country, it can be supposed that nearly half of the Kyrgyz Republic's population is

now aware of the problem of child neglect. Since all articles receive broad feedback and many inspired the decisions of the concerned organizations, one can fairly say that the project is reaching its goal.

## **Tajikistan**

### *New Youth Programming Project*

Internews has recently been awarded funding from US State Department's Department for Rights and Labor to coordinate a youth news exchange program that will link five production centers located at Tajik universities which will contribute to a weekly news program focusing on issues of importance to youth. The project will be implemented in cooperation with the NGO Dom Kino and the Aga Khan Humanities Project. Funding has not yet been made available at the time of this writing, and the project will be re-launched in February, at the beginning of the next academic term.

On Sept. 22-25, Production fund director Izzatmand Salomov met with students at Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP) at the Khujand State University to discuss Internews' upcoming Youth Programming project that is sponsored by U.S. State Department, Department of Rights and Labor.

On Sept. 20, Karim Azizov (Internews' *Nabzi Zindagi* producer) met with students at the Kulab State University that are studying journalism within the framework of the Aga Khan Humanities Project. The students all expressed keen interest in participating in youth programming project. The head of the AKHP in Kulab, Shamsiddin Gulahamdoev, said that the students already have experience preparing news stories on various themes, but they currently don't have an editing suite. Azizov and Gulahamdoev agreed to set up a number of meetings with students in Kulab concerning their future participation in *Nabzi Zindagi* and the new Youth Programming Project.

## **Uzbekistan**

On July 8, the jury for the Production Fund gathered to determine the grant-winners in the fourth production fund contest. At present, Internews is negotiating with the winners to amend their projects' on budgets, scripts, workplans, etc. Overall, 11 projects with a budget totaling \$62,215 plus 1.5 million soums have received initial approval. The grant winners include:

- Victor Sapiro, Chirchik TV. \$9,740 toward equipment and \$2,460 towards the production of program called *Legal Courier*;
- Rakhmonkulov Bakhodir, Oynai Jakhoni Bekabad in Bekabad. \$4,000 towards live reporting on legal issues;
- Zufarjon Sultanov, TV and Radio Company Ferghana Province. \$2,492 towards radio program called *Independent Opinion* to cover social and legal problems in Ferghana Valley;
- Maholot Yuldasheva, Editor of Poitakht Studio. \$4,453 towards production of TV program called *Special Reporter* to cover legal and social issues in Tashkent;

- Bahitbek Elmanov, director of Turan Youth Center. \$18,465 towards setting up the first FM station in Karakalpakstan;
- Jamshid Zakirov, journalist. \$3,400 toward the production of a cycle of radio programs called *Children in Need* on Navruz Radio;
- Ilkhom Nasirov, freelance journalist. \$3,000 toward the production of a program called *Jizzak and the Jizzaker*” which will tackle relevant social and political issues of that city;
- Matluba Yusupova, editor at TV and Radio Company Andizhan Province. 1.5 million soum toward the production of a series of PSAs about law, healthcare and education;
- Alyona Aminova, producer. \$625 toward the production of a documentary *Captives of Tuberculosis* that will air on the state channel;
- Tamara Prokopyeva, Director Orbita TV. \$3,500 toward the production of a series of educational programs for children.

*Success Stories: Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Radio Grande*

On June 1, Radio Grande, with the support of Internews Uzbekistan’s Production Fund, began a radio project entitled “The Declaration of Human Rights”. The main goal of the project was to increase listener’s awareness of their legal rights. To accomplish this, the journalists created a series of 48 broadcasts which aired twice in a week in both Russian and Uzbek. Each report focused on one article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and included an interview with an expert in a particular sphere of law and legislation. As part of the report, the journalist and expert would discuss actual cases of human rights violations which had occurred in different areas of Uzbekistan. In addition, journalists Sayora Rusikulova and Eleonora Baltabaeva (with the help of legal specialists) used each broadcast to give listeners concrete examples of how they could defend themselves against similar human rights violations.

Each broadcast was aired in conjunction with an article in the newspaper “Zerkalo 21 Vek”  
Some examples of the broadcasts included:

- Interview with Rudolf Ambarsumov, the lawyer for the Uzbek Association of Lawyers. Ambarsumov discussed the right of an individual to be considered innocent unless proven otherwise;
- A discussion with public prosecutor Igor Li on how an individual has the right to privacy, a right to an expectation of the inviolability of his home, and how someone’s ethnicity shouldn’t give one more or less rights than other ethnicities.
- An edition dedicated to the right to freedom of speech, thought and religion. The expert interviewed was Liya Djamilova, chief consultant for the National Center of Human Rights.

As a result of the airing, the station was flooded with encouraging and supportive listener phone calls. Some called to talk about their own brush with a human rights violation, which prompted the radio station to do a follow-up with these callers for another show.

One listener called the station after hearing an edition about the right to receive medical care, relating how she could not receive disability compensation for years. After the program, with the

help of the station, she received the necessary certification of disability, compensation and free medical care for the disabled.

Toward the end of the series, listeners began to refer to the radio station as the “legal literacy” radio station.

#### *Success Stories: Production Fund Supports Innovative Women’s Radio Programming*

Natalya Bushueva produced an hour-long cycle of interactive stories that covered a variety of women’s issues such as: domestic violence, women and poverty, prostitution, women and labor. The cycle was followed up by a very active call-in session to which several prostitutes called. One called in claiming that she fell into prostitution because the government did not create conditions in which she could work a regular job. In response, another woman called, saying that in other more developed countries, prostitutes live and work.

Irisgul Jumabaeva, from the channel Yoshlar (Karakalpakstan State Radio), produced a series on issues of women’s employment called “The Woman who Holds the World on her Shoulder,” reporting on rural women businessmen. The broadcast was followed by many call-ins from women asking advice on how to start their own businesses.

#### *New Legal Literacy TV Program, Jarayon*

Internews is preparing to launch a legal-issues program called *Jarayon*. The program, which aims to raise legal literacy among Uzbek citizens, will feature actual court cases and court proceedings to illustrate the law and the legal process in Uzbekistan. Experienced lawyers, prosecutors, and court officers will reconsider the case and its verdict and will hold a talk show discussion in which audience participants can give opinions and raise questions.

In August, producer Mekhri Saatova together with cameraman Timur Abdullayev and graphics specialist Alexei Kidisyuk began working on the design of a new studio for the program.

Saatova also researched several court cases suitable for the legal program. Several cases found by Saatova were discussed at the seminar conducted by Michael Delahaye from Aug. 11-21. At the seminar, participants produced a several pilot versions of the program.

During September, Saatova dealt with logistics and supervised the development of *Jarayon*’s logo, music and studio design, as Kidisyuk began working on openings, links and titles for the program.

Saatova has found a judge to appear in the show and to preside over the court cases. The judge, Khusan Usmanov, is the director of the law firm Inyurkollegiya and has been a judge for 25 years. Saatova continues looking for prosecutors and lawyers for the defense.

#### *Network*

Internews Uzbekistan brought technical consultant Rinat Shamsutdinov on staff to work as technical consultant for the network of independent TV stations in Uzbekistan.

On July 28-29, Internews held a meeting for the seven directors of Network member stations (and also members of the Association) to discuss the documents that will regulate the Network’s activities. Certain amendments were introduced to the agreement between Network members. An

addendum detailing technical parameters of each member station's work was attached to the document. The documents will be further amended and then submitted to the station directors for approval. The documents will form the legal basis for the activities of the Network, and, partially of the Association. Internews lawyer Galina Mayorova drafted agreements and contracts for participating stations in the TV Network.

In August, Shamsutdinov drafted a budget for the equipment necessary to launch the new independent TV Network. He has worked in coordination with technical director Samir Sharafutdinov find local companies selling multimedia projectors and projection screens (equipment necessary for the legal activism program) and he traveled to St. Petersburg and Novosibirsk to explore the market for transmitters, plus to negotiate with potential suppliers for the purchase, delivery, installation and maintenance of transmitters for the TV Network.

Vsevolod Paevsky, Marketing Consultant to the Network, met with major Uzbek advertisers, such as the Joint Venture Tashkent Tea Factory (Impra, Tashkent Tea), Beta Tea Limited (Bayce, Beta). Zdravplus, Unilever (Rexona, Lipton, Rama), Daewoo Unitel, Wrigley's, Nestle, Grey, D'arcy, McCann Erickson and others. Advertisers expressed interest in placing ads on the new independent TV Network if the network is able to offer unified, high-quality programming, synchronization of broadcasting schedules and commercial schedules, data from independent researchers on viewership of the whole network and each particular station; an appropriate mechanism of monitoring and, one collective bank account; Paevsky is drafting up an advertising brochure for potential advertisers.

### **Component 2.3 - Thematic Journalism Training**

#### **Kazakhstan**

On Sept. 3, Internews co-coordinated a seminar for journalists who will cover elections process with National Democratic Institution and National Independent Observers Network. Representatives of the following TV stations took part in the seminar: Channel 31; Tan TV; Shahar radio and TV station; Rakhat TV. The seminars subject: activity of media during elections campaign. Goal: journalist training before upcoming elections to local representative bodies – maslikhats.

#### **Tajikistan**

On Sept. 2, Internews, Oxfam, and the local NGO *Tsentri Obucheniya i Sotsialni Pomoshch (Center for Training and Social Assistance)*, arranged a seminar for journalists entitled "Basic Problems of Access to Clean Water and Water Resources in Tajikistan." British trainer John Magras led the seminar, which was followed by a discussion on various aspects of access to fresh water in both rural and urban areas of Tajikistan. Twenty-five media professionals participated in the seminar.

#### **Uzbekistan**

##### *Reporting on Legal Issues*

From Aug. 11-20, Internews Uzbekistan held a seminar called "Creating a Legal Activism Program on Television" run by former BBC reporter Michael Delahaye. The seminar was created to handle both the technical and legal issues arising from the development of a show that will

discuss openly legal cases that have already been tried in court. Participants included Internews Uzbekistan staff that will work on the TV program *Jarayon*, as well as 11 journalists and camera operators from Jizzak, Kokand, Bukhara, Bekabad, Gulistan, Chirchik, Karshi and Samarkand.

At the seminar, three live pilot programs were produced using lawyers and litigators. The pilot programs were similar to courtroom TV shows in America, using multiple cameras, journalists and an audience. This seminar showed the participants what technical skills they would need to master in order to produce effective programming; skills that included proper use of sound, proper lighting and appropriate cutaways. The seminar also helped them understand the importance of using a legal consultant to make sure the show was in compliance with Uzbek legislation.

Throughout the seminar, Internews lawyer Galina Mayorova assisted the trainer, giving frequent lectures on Uzbek legislation that applies to the production of a program on legal issues, revising real legal cases that have already been adjudicated.

Delahaye also provided extensive consultation to *Jarayon* producer Mekhri Saatova and chief cameraman Timur Abdullayev.

#### *Drug Demand Reduction Program Seminar*

On Sept. 19-23, Alexander Knyazev ran a five-day seminar called “TV Coverage of Drug-Related Issues.” Knyazev is a television journalist who worked on ORT, a newspaper journalist, and a photojournalist currently working at the journalism department at Kyrgyzstan Slavonic University. The seminar is part of the Drug Demand Reduction Project (DDRP) run by the Open Society Institute, and in which Internews is an implementing partner. Participants at the seminar included journalists from Ferghana Valley, Surhandaryo, Tashkent and Samarkand. Participants developed scripts covering drug-related issues and edited them for broadcast.

#### **Component 2.4 - Co-Productions**

News from *Aina* (Kazakhstan.) Each month, Internews produced four versions of the television journal *Aina*: two in Russian and two Kazakh language, with the total time of about one and a half hours and is distributed to 14 non-government stations in Kazakhstan. *Aina* #85 presented a special edition on children’s rights in Kazakhstan.

News from *Nabzi Zindagi*. For the first time in Internews Tajikistan history, TV Jahonoro (Chikalovsk, Sughd province) began to contribute stories to *Nabzi Zindagi*. Also, Internews TV productions can now be watched in Dushanbe on TV Poitakht and TV Somnion.

News from *Zamon* (Uzbekistan.) *Zamon* is currently restructuring its format so it will focus heavily on targeting and training key journalists, mostly freelancers within Uzbekistan to bring them to a much higher quality of research, script writing, shooting and editing. The show will be restructured to allow for beat reporting plus in-depth longer-format pieces. The new format was launched in mid-September. The first edition of the newly revamped show included the following segments:

- Retrospective of the body of work of Uzbek filmmaker Shukhrat Abbasov. Abbasov was a popular filmmaker during Soviet times, which meant that he had to work under heavy censorship. His films were popular with the older generation;

- Explainer of the concept of currency convertibility. This short piece was produced to give an overview of the issue, including why convertibility is important, which other countries still do not have convertibility and on the government's promises to create a convertible currency;
- Long form piece on homeless children that highlights the growing numbers of children and families living on the streets;
- Investigative piece on nitrate use by produce farmers. This piece highlights the health effects of nitrate consumption, the overuse and dependence on nitrate by farmers, and how farmers will lie about the use of nitrate in their fruit. (The reporter purchased supposedly nitrate free watermelon and had it tested at a lab.)

### *Fergana Valley News Exchange*

The project Voices of the Ferghana Valley will resume in autumn 2003 as the Eurasia Foundation redesigns the project and brings on new partners. The project has been expanded to cover new components, such as articles in Ferghana Valley based newspapers as well as radio exchanges.

On Sept. 12-16, Internews Uzbekistan Managing Director Khalida Anarbaeva and Internews Kyrgyzstan Country Director Nicolas Ebnoter participated in the meeting of the expert committee of Eurasia Foundation in Khujand, Tajikistan and a training seminar devoted to the next stage of the Voice of the Ferghana Valley project. Internews will provide consultation and technical support for mass media that will be involved in the news exchange.

News from *Open Asia*. *Open Asia* is produced weekly in Russian in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and translated into local languages in the respective Central Asian offices.

News from *Asman Radio News Exchange Program in Kyrgyzstan*. In mid-September, Internews began producing and airing its new radio news exchange program *Asman* ("Sky" in Kyrgyz). The 15-minute program is produced weekly and is composed of news reports from five radio stations across the country: Tatina in Kara-Balta, Tenir Too in Naryn, Salam in Batken, Almaz Iug in Osh, Burana in Tokmok and LW in Karakol. A station from Bishkek may also join the project, and the project will eventually come out in the Kyrgyz language as well. The program includes one report weekly that is sponsored by CAMP (Central Asia Mountain Program) on a mountain-related theme. CAMP is paying the stations for this report and its broadcasting, and Internews is providing the service of its producer and its radio studio. The partnership has been established for six months.

### *Some Sample Reports from the Region:*

From *Aina* 88, according to experts' estimates, there is a serious demographic problem in Kazakhstan: a decreasing population. Young Kazakhstani citizens do not want to have children, because it is costly. In order to save the population from aging, the state started paying citizens for giving birth to more children. But a one-time payment of 13,000 tenge can not solve the problem. Demographers are trying to convince bureaucrats to restore monthly aid throughout maternity leave, but the budget hasn't enough funds.

From *Aina*, Kazakhstan opened its borders with China after the World Health Organization statement announced SARS is no longer a threat. However, the SARS virus created fear and distrust toward all Asians. Police detain those coming from China like criminals and put them in an isolation ward. Kazakhstani specialists think that SARS is hiding until the autumn, when a new and stronger epidemic could emerge.

From *Aina*, international funds sponsoring Kazakhstani NGOs are gradually reducing their assistance and leaving the country. Experts have come to the conclusion that the Kazakhstani economy no longer needs foreign financial assistance, so the country has lost a significant part of this support. Eighty percent of NGOs, particularly those funded by international assistance, are likely to close. The new law on NGOs is up for discussion in parliament and this is causing anxiety and distrust among NGO leaders.

From *Aina*, AIDS-infected drug addicts refuse free medical treatment. A program for AIDS prophylactics may fail. According to official information, there are 50,000 drug addicts in Kazakhstan, but police report the real number is five times higher. The average age of addicts is between 14 and 30 years old. The worst situation is in southern Kazakhstan, through which the main drug trafficking occurs. Every year the number of addicts with AIDS increases.

From *Aina*, the state is ready to legalize methadone to help stop heroin use. In experiments carried out in two cities, drug addicts are offered methadone instead of heroin in syrup or pill form. Advocates of the methadone program think that this is a panacea for AIDS distribution and other infectious diseases, since there is no need for needles. Opponents believe the number of addicts in the country will increase.

From *Aina*, Kazakhstan is trying to introduce a system of foster care. One of the charities in Almaty initiated such a program. Almaty families took in nearly 100 children from orphanages, and these families will be paid for acting as foster fathers and mothers. The creators of the program believe children older than 10 have no chance to be adopted, so the majority of these children will never know parental care. In the future they will have problems adapting to life outside the walls of their orphanages and will have problems creating their own families. Foster homes give them the opportunity to see a real family model. One question remains: What will these children get from this program – family experience or psychological trauma?

From *Aina*, in Kazakhstan, energy facilities are up for sale. But are private owners able to protect the republic from an energy crisis? Most energy facilities in Kazakhstan require thorough repairs from years of neglect. Without financial investment into this sphere, a significant part of the republic may lack heat and electricity. The authorities propose two options: increase energy utilities fees or sell energy distribution companies.

From *Aina*, the president of Kazakhstan tries to create a favorable image of Astana. Currently the new capital looks like a "Potemkin village." Behind the rich facades of the central streets, dirt and disorder remain hidden. A competition, "Astana Yards" was specially developed to tackle this issue, awarding one million tenge for the best yard.

From *Aina*, in the Soviet era, prisoners' labor brought in tremendous profits; now in prisons, work is a reward for good behavior. Due to lack of work, inmates in Kazakhstan's prisons go on strike, demand TV watching privileges at night, and refuse to participate in cleanups. Prisoners suffer from idleness, while advocates for prison inmates calculate the billions of tenge that the government loses out on.

From *Aina*, today in Kazakhstan, serious scientific research is considered eccentric. World-famous scientists net butterflies and breed ostriches and believe it is their life-work. Eminent Kazakhstani scientists do serious scientific research, but from the outside it seems to be an amateurish hobby. In reality, most of Kazakhstani scientists, in order to work on their research,

must seek commercial sponsorship, because the government dedicates little financing for research and for the purchase of modern equipment.

From *Aina*, in Kazakhstan, the school uniform is making a comeback in high schools. This year, it was introduced to Almaty schools due to numerous appeals of schoolchildren's' parents. Designers have offered several choices for students. Though it is assumed that a uniform will create some homogeneity among students, particularly to create a less visible difference between those from wealthier or poorer families, but is it true in reality?

From *Aina*, in Kazakhstan, often the development of sports often depends on the interests of high ranked bureaucrats. Kostanai hockey players are fortunate because the oblast government is fond of hockey and organized a team comprised of businessmen and his subordinates. Now, in Kostanai we see skates and hockey sticks becoming fashionable and the issue of a special program of young hockey players. The coach believes that he will train gifted sportsmen for the national hockey team, so long as high ranked bureaucrats sustain their interest in the sport.

From *Door*, a report from TV Keremet (Osh), a report about the life of a prostitute with striking interviews about how she left her village to find work, what medical problems she is having, who her boss is and how she is hoping for a better life.

From *Door*, a report from Osh State TV (Osh), a report about a remote Kyrgyz village in the south which is not receiving any Kyrgyz broadcasts whatsoever, only getting radio and TV programming from neighboring Uzbekistan.

From *Door*, a report from Osh State TV (Osh) about a small city invaded by big rats. Several people have been seriously bitten by the rats. Children are playing with the rats.

From *Door*, a report from MIR-TV about the causes of the recent expulsion from Kazakhstan of Kyrgyz migrant workers and about the Kyrgyz policy on migration.

From *Door*, reports from TV station DDD from the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. One is about the construction of a school in Kyrgyzstan for ethnic Kyrgyz living on the other side of the border in Tajikistan. The other is about problems faced by an ethnic Kyrgyz who moved from Tajikistan to Kyrgyzstan.

From *Door*, on the occasion of the beginning of school year, a report from TV station Tatina about the average cost for a family to send their child to school.

From *Door*, a report from Shankhai TV about the bad condition of roads in the Naryn region. Big trucks and climate aggressions combined with a lack of public funds cause serious damage.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a report from TV Mawji Ozod (Vose) about ice-cream consumers in Kulab. In Kulab, more low quality ice-cream is being produced on the streets under unhygienic conditions. Many people have become sick, to the point where they require hospitalization. One of the victims was Afzalmoh and her three children. They went to the hospital and had to pay 200 somoni (over \$60) for treatment. During the last month, there have been 12 similar cases.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a report from TV Regar about the controversial company *Jamol i Ko.*, which is selling beads. The journalists tried to get more information about the activities of the company, studying the realities and the myths surrounding the company and investigating the commercial

structures of the company. The tax organs consider that the company is engaged in a pyramid scheme, but the company claims that they work legally and their only aim is to help people. Currently thousands of people are lining up to buy beads.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a report from TV Mawji Ozod about the violations of the rights of migrant workers by employment agencies. Abdurahim from Vose went on an officially arranged trip to the Russian Federation. A former teacher, Abdurahim tells how a state official in the department of labor, Mamlakat, offered him and others passage to Moscow with promises of work. However, before reaching Moscow, Mamlakat disappeared. With great difficulties, Abdurahim found illegal work and in the course of his work, he broke his leg and was forced to return home without money. Now he does not even know how to support his family.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a report from TV Kurghon-teppa about poverty in some areas in Kolkhozabad which suffer from severe water problems. Maydagul and her children, like almost 1,500 other residents, are forced to walk a kilometer in order to get fresh water. Due to water shortages, the harvest in this area was poor this year. Officials say that investments are necessary in order to provide these villages with fresh water. In some areas here, the Red Cross is providing the citizens with fresh water.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a report from SM-1 (Khujand) about access to clean water in Khujand and nearby villages. For many years, the tap water has been very dirty in Khujand and nearby villages, which caused outbreaks of many diseases, but now they have access to fresh and clean water from the Ovchikalacha Canal.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a report from TV Mawji Ozod about the inhabitants of Kurbonshahid in Vose. The settlement is close to the historical monument Khulbuk. According to the plans concerning the 2700 years celebration of Kulab, this monument will be renovated and the inhabitants of the settlement must be resettled to other areas because they are allegedly disturbing the renovation. The compensation for the resettlement is very small, and they are demanding more money.

From *Zamon*, in Angren: a follow-up to a story that was produced about the closure of a local swimming complex. This latest edition highlighted how the pool now had water (thanks to exposes of previous issues of *Zamon*), but there are still problems, such as its lack of hot water and the overall bad conditions of the premises.

From *Zamon*, in Bekabad, a town that borders Tajikistan, there remains a government quarantine against SARS that has affected the ability of citizens to cross back and forth across the border. The result is that traded goods, particularly food, have become much more expensive. Nowhere else in Uzbekistan is there a SARS quarantine and there have been no officially reported cases of SARS.

From *Zamon*, in Andijan, a story about how young men can buy their way out of army service with a one-time fee. Ironically, the army has become dependent on this money to help sustain their current conscripts.

From *Zamon*, a segment about how the Uzbek government's expenditures on health care fell from 6 percent of the budget during the Soviet era to 2.6 percent of the current budget, and how this is affecting families who can't afford medical treatment and care.

From *Zamon*, a piece about a hunger strike organized by the female employees of a Namangan government organization providing services for clothes, like washing and tailoring. The Namangan authorities wanted to move them to another building. The female employees were against such a move. The hunger strike forced the authorities to change their mind.

From *Open Asia*, Kazakhstan is facing an epidemic of psychological disorders, psychiatrists believe. Currently several dozens of officials from the Ministry of Health, thousands of private practitioners and societies of anonymous depression sufferers are fighting with psychological illnesses. How successful is this fight?

From *Open Asia*, Kazakhstani academics are devising a model of the modern aul (village). Umbet village near Almaty was a prototype for such a model. While scholars and bureaucrats are planning a program for rural revival, farmers are migrating to cities in search of jobs. 800 auls have been considered unpromising by the government and will not receive government investment. During the last two years alone, 300 villages have been abandoned.

From *Open Asia*, Kazakhstan is trying to rearrange its educational system according to European standards. Children will study in schools for 12 years from now on. But in fact, Western standards are not compatible with Kazakh schools' capabilities. The transfer to 12-year education systems will require additional funding. The budget plans a little bit more than 4 million tenge for the next year. If we divide this sum by fifty, for the fifty schools where the experiment will be conducted we will find that each school only will receive \$500 additional next year.

From *Open Asia*, in Tajikistan, there is currently a heated debate on the abolition of the death penalty. Both advocates and opponents of the death penalty agree that the information about an execution should be open for both relatives of the condemned and society, and that graves should be provided for the executed. Currently, all information related to executions is considered state secret.

From *Open Asia*, a report from Osh on illegal migrant workers from Tajikistan in southern Kyrgyzstan, who are bringing down the wages in the labor market. Because household expenses in Tajikistan are lower, the Tajik workers are willing to accept lower wages.

From *Open Asia*, a report on the work of the Ombudsman's office in Bishkek, which just opened at the beginning of the year. Though the institute has received several hundred complaints and has received much support from government as well as from international organizations, it is still determining its role and a method for working effectively.

From *Open Asia*, a report about the closure of the opposition newspaper *Moya Stolitsa* in Bishkek. The report focused on the last of nearly 40 cases filed against the newspaper in which the Kyrgyz Prime Minister Nikolai Tanaev sued a pensioner who, in an article published in *Moya Stolitsa*, insinuated Tanaev's involvement in the disappearance of government funds. The report raised the questions of freedom of speech and the professionalism of journalists.

From *Open Asia*, a report about an incident on the Uzbek border which led to the death of a Kyrgyz citizen shot by an Uzbek border guard. The report investigates the circumstances of the shooting and the comportment of Uzbek border guards.

From *Open Asia*, a report from Osh about pieces of land offered in an area of Osh city, which attracted a lot of people eager to build homes until they realized that there was no water available on this territory. Today the area is deserted, and local authorities don't want to solve the problem.

From *Open Asia*, a report about a summer camp for teenagers organized by a former member of Kyrgyz Special Forces. Through military exercises and discipline, he is preparing the young volunteers for their military service.

From *Open Asia*, a report from Tajikistan about the resettlement of people from Ayni in the south of the country. People from Ayni had been promised land, free gas, electricity and housing if they resettled in the southern part of the country. However, the reality is that the local government is providing them with insufficient support. There is a shortage of water and electricity, and they have to build their own houses, and the government is doing little or nothing to assist them.

From *Open Asia*, a report from Tajikistan about market basket surveys in Tajikistan which show that living expenses in Tajikistan are 11 times higher than what the average income can provide. According to the committee on economics and trade, in Tajikistan, a person needs at least 55 somoni (about \$17) per month only for food, while the minimal salary is 5 somoni (about 1.6 USD). One of the people interviewed in the story, Norinisso Abdullaev, is working on the fields close to Dushanbe. Abdullaev has three small children and an unemployed father. In addition to feeding them, Abdullaev also has to pay for communal services, electricity and gas. Abdullaev is thus forced to work 12 hours a day in the rice fields outside Dushanbe.

From *Open Asia*, a report about diabetes in Tajikistan. Today insulin is imported from abroad, and diabetes sufferers get no assistance from the state. It is estimated that some 4,000 people in the Sughd province suffer from diabetes and in the province alone; the annual number of required insulin injections is estimated at more than 10,000, while only 1,000 injections are given free by international humanitarian assistance programs. Some diabetics have formed the organization *Shafkat* which has set up a fund to providing assistance to the poor. So far, the organization has been able to raise \$350, a sum for which not even one person can be provided with insulin for one year. Due to lack of insulin, gangrene has become more and more common.

From *Open Asia*, a report on trafficking of women and sexual slavery in Tajikistan. Many young Tajiks are trafficked every year to Afghanistan and Pakistan. This kind of trafficking began during the civil war and continues. Gulmurod was told by a certain Zafar that his daughter could find well-paid, short term work in Pakistan as nurse. Since then, six years have passed, and Gulmurod, recently received his first letter from his daughter. He has now begun to gather money in order to go to Afghanistan to bring his daughter back. In Tajikistan, neither the authorities, nor the Afghan embassy have been able to help.

From *Open Asia*, a report from Tajikistan about the dire situation of the Tajik postal system. Post offices are unable to access internet or telephone services, and very few people write letters. The postmen have a monthly salary of approximately 20 somoni (some \$7). Employees working at the Karakkum post office are selling their own property in order to survive.

From *Open Asia*, in Karakalpakstan about 64 percent of the population of the semi-autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan (predominantly children and teenagers) suffer from iodine deficiency. Young men enrolled in the army are shorter than their contemporaries in other CIS countries by an average of 10 centimeters.

From *Open Asia*, in Uzbekistan, a profile of an unusual mullah. The Koran prohibits its followers from earning a profit. Yet in Margilan, there is a mullah who also works as a businessman. This piece highlights how this particular mullah has interpreted the Koran to his benefit.

From *Open Asia*, in the Rishtan district of the Ferghana Valley in Uzbekistan more than 80 people have been afflicted with malaria. Authorities claim the infection comes from neighboring Kyrgyzstan. Others disagree and point to the vast number of marshes in the Ferghana province which are a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Unfortunately, those infected with the disease are not treated, and there have been no official reports of this outbreak in any official news reports.

From *Open Asia*, about Nayman village at the border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the village was split into two parts, one Kyrgyz and the other Uzbek. This story is about an Uzbek woman who receives some income from 70 acres of land she cultivates on the Uzbek side. For cultivating 50 acres on the Kyrgyz side, she received 20 kilograms of oil.

From *Open Asia*, a piece about the hijab, the conservative Islamic attire that, according to the journalist, more and more women in Uzbekistan prefer to wear. The hijab is a robe that includes a scarf that covers the whole body. The piece showed the opinions of women who choose to wear and not wear the hijab.

From *Open Asia*, in Uzbekistan, a piece about a meteorological and space monitoring station in Kitab, the station with the most clear, cloudless days in the entire CIS. After the fall of the Soviet Union, there has been almost no scientific research conducted at the station, in part because the number of research scientists at the station has fallen from 30 to just one.

From *Open Asia*, from Uzbekistan, a story called "Children, Do Not Go to School." The newspaper *Pravda Vostoka* published Nadezhda Shabanova's article by the same name about a 14-year-old boy in Bukhara who did not attend school for a year and worked in his elder brother's bakery instead. The piece includes an interview with the Prosecutor of Bukhara who said that 200 parents had been fined for violating their children's rights to education.

From *Open Asia*, from Uzbekistan, a story about the trial of Ruslan Sharipov. Sharipov, a journalist and human rights defender was put on trial and convicted for article 120 (homosexuality) as well as for sex with minors. Though opinions vary about Sharipov's professionalism as a journalist and rights defender, some claim that he was targeted by the authorities for his materials that criticized the government for violations of the rights of sexual minorities in spite of Uzbekistan's being a signatory to the International Convention on Human Rights. According to some activists in the story, the article in the Uzbek constitution forbidding homosexuality, a holdover of the soviet era, is used to blackmail and repress citizens, and the case against Sharipov, they claim, is a case in point.