



PRESS RELEASE

Strengthening the fight against torture and impunity in Kyrgyzstan: Prevention, Accountability, Remedy and Reparation

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The European Union Delegation to Kyrgyzstan has awarded a grant to the [Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights](#) (BIM) and their partner The Tian Shan Policy Center (TSPC) - American University of Central Asia to implement a new project on “Strengthening the fight against torture and impunity in Kyrgyzstan: Prevention, Accountability, Remedy and Reparation.”

Kyrgyzstan has in recent years declared its commitment to fight torture and ill-treatment and to eliminate impunity of perpetrators of torture. International torture monitoring mechanisms such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture as well as national civil society organisations have, however, repeatedly highlighted shortcomings in legislation and law enforcement practices that lead to the perpetuation of torture and ill-treatment in the country. The project aims at providing technical support to a reform process that is aimed at bringing the Kyrgyz criminal justice system in conformity with international human rights standards.

The project will be a continuation of TSPC’s current project “Program to enhance the capacity of NGOs and institutions to advocate for implementation of human rights decisions and standards to prevent torture.” Based on international best practice studies, it will advocate for legal, procedural and institutional reforms in order to both prevent torture and to increase accountability of its perpetrators in Kyrgyzstan. In the course of the project, proposals will be developed to strengthen the legal, regulatory and institutional framework against impunity. At the same time, the project will enhance awareness of relevant stakeholders and decision-makers of the standards for effective investigations, it will increase capacities to implement these standards and to follow up to recommendations by international and regional torture monitoring bodies. The project also aims at providing support to the Anti-Torture Coalition in setting up a durable and sustainable civil society anti-torture network. The capacity of the Anti-Torture Coalition and its member organizations will be strengthened with a view to carrying out effective monitoring visits of detention facilities and other places where persons are deprived of their liberty. The project is furthermore designed to provide the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) – the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture and the Coordinating Council – with technical and capacity building support. Finally, the project aims at increasing awareness of international standards of remedy and reparation with both State and non-State actors and at enhancing the capacity of relevant CSOs to support victims of torture. A micro-grant will be issued to one or more Kyrgyz CSOs which provide victims of torture with legal, medical and psycho-social support.

The project will run from February 2014 to September 2015 and will be conducted in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office of Central Asia (OHCHR ROCA) and the Open Society Justice Initiative. The project will be uniquely positioned to consider how international best practices for the prevention and investigation of torture can be implemented in Kyrgyzstan. It will take the feedback of the local community and national stakeholders, align it with the strategic goals of torture prevention in Kyrgyzstan and make use of

the expertise of international partners and comparative best-practice examples to design concrete action plans, strategies and methodologies suitable for the implementation in Kyrgyzstan.

For more information, please contact Andrea Schuechner, andrea.schuechner@univie.ac.at or Sarah King, king_s@mail.auca.kg. Please visit the website of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights at: <http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en> and the website of TSPC at: <https://www.auca.kg/en/tspc/>.



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Address:

Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic
21 Erkindik Boulevard, Business Centre Orion,
5th floor
Bishkek, 720040, Kyrgyz Republic
Telephone: +996 312 26 10 00
Fax: +996 312 26 10 07
E-mail: delegation-kyrgyzstan@eeas.europa.eu

Tel:

Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyzstan>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eudelkg>

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