



《中华人民共和国政府、吉尔吉斯共和国内阁和乌兹别克斯坦共和国政府
关于共同推动中国—吉尔吉斯斯坦—乌兹别克斯坦铁路项目合作的协定》
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Kyrgyzstan



Uzbekistan

2024 COUNTRY REPORT KYRGYSTAN



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For Kyrgyzstan, the past year witnessed domestic political shifts, fallout from the Russo-Ukrainian war, and steps forward on long-delayed projects.

Key Points:

- President Sadyr Japarov continued to consolidate power in Kyrgyzstan in 2024, passing a Russian-style foreign agents law, which in turn triggered critique from the United States, the EU, and Kyrgyz civil society.
- Long delayed projects, such as the CASA 1000 electricity grid and the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railway, are moving forward after lengthy delays.
- Kyrgyzstan continues to deal with fallout stemming from the country's economic reliance on migrant workers in Russia. Most major banks in the country are now refusing transactions with Russia out of fear of Western sanctions, and Kyrgyz migrants face increasing discrimination as anti-Central Asian harassment and xenophobia surge in Russia.

Chronological Reporting:

U.S. State Department and Human Rights Groups Urge Kyrgyzstan to End Crackdown on Independent Media

The U.S. Department of State released a statement on January 18, urging the Kyrgyz authorities to “ensure journalists can operate without undue pressure or harassment,” after the Kyrgyz police detained 11 journalists on charges of “calls for disobedience and mass riots.” Since the detainments, eight international human rights groups also urged the government to end the crackdown in a joint statement.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#), [RFE/RL](#)

Japarov Releases Open Letter to U.S. Secretary of State

On February 12, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov released an open letter on Facebook directed toward U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. In the letter, Japarov accused the United

States of “interfering” in the internal affairs of Kyrgyzstan. The letter was written in response to Secretary Blinken expressing concern over ongoing discussions of a bill that would classify some non-governmental organizations as “foreign agents.” A similar bill drew controversy last year in Georgia.

Source: [RFE/RL](#)

The United States Helps Kyrgyzstan Prepare for Future Pandemics

On March 13, the United States launched a joint initiative, including Kyrgyzstan, the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, and a consortium of other organizations, to help Kyrgyzstan prepare for future health emergencies and coordinate with the United Nation’s ‘One Health’ policy. This initiative, titled “A Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness Program,” targets seven key areas, including tracking and reducing antimicrobial resistance, monitoring zoonotic diseases, strengthening national laboratory systems, and bolstering health emergency management.

Source: [U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyzstan](#)

Rosatom and Kyrgyzstan Sign Agreement on the Construction of Small Hydropower Plants

The Ministry of Energy of Kyrgyzstan and the Country Office of Rosatom Corporation in Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on the construction of small hydropower plants at the ATOMEXPO 2024 Forum in Sochi. The two sides agreed to implement the construction of small hydropower plants with a capacity under 400 MW in Kyrgyzstan.

Source: [AkiPress](#)

Kyrgyz and International NGOs Urge Japarov to Veto “Foreign Representatives” Bill

More than 100 Kyrgyz NGOs have now called upon Kyrgyz President Japarov to withdraw a bill that they say would severely limit their operations in the country. The bill, modeled explicitly on Russia’s “foreign agent” laws, would require NGOs to register with the government as foreign representatives and routinely report on their activities. The United States, European Union, and Canada released a statement condemning the bill, which closely resembles laws in Russia that have been found to violate the rights to freedom of association and freedom of speech by the European Court of Human Rights. The new law is expected to have a chilling effect on the operation of Kyrgyz NGOs, many of which provide important social services and advocate for democratic governance and human rights.

Source: [Radio Free Europe](#), [Human Rights Watch](#)

Kyrgyzstan Advises Citizens Against Traveling to Russia

On May 2, Kyrgyzstan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement advising its citizens to avoid any unnecessary travel to Russia after a recent increase in reports of heightened security screenings at the border and refusals of entry for individuals from Central Asian countries. Following the March 22 Crocus City Hall attack in Moscow, there have been increased instances of xenophobia and scrutiny against Central Asian citizens in Russia.

Source: [The Moscow Times](#)

Turkish Company Begins Manufacturing Agricultural Products in Kyrgyzstan

Turkish company Akplas signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kyrgyzstan’s Minister of Water Resources and Agriculture and Processing Industry, Bakyt Torobaev, to manufacture equipment for drip and sprinkler irrigation. The MoU, signed on May 13, determined that the Turkish company would invest \$10 million into the project, which broke ground in July.

Source: [Times of Central Asia](#)

Riots in Kyrgyzstan Targeting South Asian Students

Unprecedented waves of violence against Indian and Pakistani university students rocked Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The mob attacks began on May 18 and appeared to have been triggered by viral videos of Kyrgyz mobs harassing and attacking South Asian students filmed on May 13. By the end of the riots, 29 South Asian students were injured with 15 taken to hospitals. Around 1,200 South Asian students reportedly left Kyrgyzstan in the days following.

Source: RFE/RL

Russia Announces Plan to Supply Natural Gas to Kyrgyzstan

On June 7, Russian state-owned energy company Gazprom announced that Russia intends to deliver natural gas to Kyrgyzstan. A formal agreement was signed in July for the long-term supply of gas to Kyrgyzstan, doubling the amount of gas supplied to Kyrgyzstan by 2050, calling for the for the construction of 250-300 kilometers of gas pipelines annually and connection of thousands of apartment buildings to the gas system.

Source: [Upstream Online](#), [Daryo](#)

Kyrgyzstan Resumes Uranium Mining

On June 13, the Kyrgyz Parliament, the Jogorku Kenesh, lifted the ban on mining uranium and thorium that has been in place since 2019. President Sadyr Japarov later signed the bill, enacting it into law. The lifting of the ban sparked concern by environmentalist groups; however, the government argued the potential economic rewards outweigh the risks, with President Japarov estimating a \$2 billion windfall for the state.

Source: [EurasiaNet](#), [CentralAsianLight](#)

Kyrgyzstan Completes Repatriation of 22 Women and Children from Northeast Syria

Following Kyrgyzstan's repatriation of 22 women and children from the al-Hol and Roj displaced persons camps in northeast Syria, the U.S. Department of State applauded the Kyrgyz government for "exemplary action on repatriations." From early 2023 to June of 2024, Kyrgyzstan repatriated 454 of its nationals from camps where 27,000 individuals from over 60 countries continue to suffer from dire humanitarian and security conditions.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)

Kyrgyzstan Publishes Daily Som-Yuan Exchange Rate

Beginning on September 1, the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan started including the Chinese yuan in its daily exchange rate publications. The yuan joined the dollar, euro, and ruble, whose exchange rates were previously published daily while yuan rates were published weekly. The change was meant to facilitate stronger economic ties between Kyrgyzstan and China.

Source: [Daryo](#)

Kyrgyz Bank Suspends Transactions Involving Russia

MBank, the fourth largest bank in Kyrgyzstan, suspended all money transfers through Russian banks. In its statement, MBank cited increased concern about sanctions against Russia as the reason for the shift. The MBank decision was part of a trend of several Kyrgyz banks suspending Russian transactions following a June 12 announcement by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control of new sanctions against Russia.

Source: [Daryo](#)

Kyrgyzstan Increases Fuel Trade with Neighbors

Commodity analyst Argus reported that Kyrgyzstan had more than doubled its gasoline exports

in the first half of 2024 to 5,800 tons. Nearly 70% went to Afghanistan, with the next largest importer being Uzbekistan. However, according to the International Energy Agency, Kyrgyzstan's oil-products industry is still dependent on Russian raw inputs, with the vast majority of crude oil imports coming from Russia.

Source: [Trend](#)

Kyrgyzstan Removes Taliban from Terror List

On September 6, Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs removed the Taliban from a list of prohibited terrorist extremist organizations. The move came following Kazakhstan accepting a charge d'affaires from the Taliban government of Afghanistan, while simultaneously stating that Astana was not recognizing the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan's foreign minister stated the decision was made "to secure regional stability and further develop the ongoing dialogue."

Source: [RFE/RL](#)

Rosatom Announces \$1.5 Billion Investment in Kyrgyzstan

On September 27, the Director General of Rosatom's representative office announced the Russian state-owned firm would invest \$1.5 billion in various renewable energy projects throughout Kyrgyzstan. The projects include Kyrgyzstan's first-ever wind-power farm, generating 110 mega-watts of electricity. Rosatom remains an active player in world energy even as Western countries have sought to economically isolate Russia since it launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Source: [Daryo](#)

Kyrgyzstan Seeks Investment from the UK for Modernization of its Railway Sector

On November 18, during the meeting held between Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Defense, Security, and Migration of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament, Ulan Primov, and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kyrgyzstan, Nicholas Bowler, Primov said that Kyrgyzstan is inviting British investors to pay closer attention to the modernization of the country's railway sector. "We invite British investors to focus on the road sector and the modernization of rail transport, which are crucial to strengthening economic integration in Central Asia," he stressed. Primov further added that Kyrgyzstan is also ready to create favorable conditions for attracting investment in hydropower and renewable energy projects as part of its green economy initiatives.

Source: [Trend News Agency](#)

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