



PRI

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER
DECEMBER '17



*Penal Reform
International (PRI)
in Central Asia*

4-5
SEPTEMBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

Within the framework of PRI project “Support to Judicial Reform in Kazakhstan: Empowering of civil society organisations (CSOs) to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups in Kazakhstan” supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan, a National seminar on development of cooperation between judiciary system and civil society on providing access to justice for vulnerable groups in places of deprivation of liberty was organised.

International standards in the field of human rights protection, strengthening of cooperation between the judiciary system and civil society, as well as issues of access to justice for vulnerable groups in places of deprivation and restriction of liberty were discussed during the event.

With the support of Penal Reform International in Central Asia, the International Forum «The role of the Ombudsman in improvement of normative and legal acts in the field of human rights: expectations and prospects» was held.

It should separately be noted that for the first time in the history of Kyrgyzstan, more than 15 Ombudsmen from all over the world, as well as representatives of national human rights institutions, members of the parliaments of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of the UN, OSCE, and Danish Institute for Human Rights, along with representatives of the Constitutional Chamber, judicial and law enforcement bodies of Kyrgyzstan gathered at one site.

The visits of the Ombudsmen were initiated by the Heads of State of the participating countries, thereby emphasizing the significance of the Forum.

6-8
SEPTEMBER
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



07
SEPTEMBER
Atyrau, Kazakhstan

In the main building of the Atyrau State University named after Kh. Dosmukhamedov a coordination meeting was held under the **CAPSTONE PROJECT «Development of Human Rights Courses for Higher Educational Institutions in Kazakhstan»**. The coordination meeting was attended by representatives of the Akimat of Atyrau Region, Prosecutor’s Office, Department of Justice, Department of Criminal-Executive System,

Probation Service, administration of the Atyrau State University named after Kh. Dosmukhamedov, and PRI.

The project will result in the development of research projects by groups of students, the concepts of which will be offered to relevant state bodies for further reform and humanization of criminal legislation. The winner of the project will take part in a study trip to the Kingdom of the Netherlands to get an insight into similar projects in European countries, exchange experience in the field of human rights, and study the educational system in Europe.



...MORE THAN 15 OMBUDSMEN
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD,
AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES
OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTIONS, MEMBERS
OF THE PARLIAMENTS
OF KAZAKHSTAN
AND UZBEKISTAN



A national meeting on improving closed institutions for children and preventing juvenile delinquency, **working with children in conflict with the law and experiencing difficulties and on activities of special educational organisations in Kyzylorda and Mangistau regions** was held in the Republic of Kazakhstan within the framework of a new project on improving of judiciary system for under-age children carried out by Penal Reform International in Central Asia and UNICEF.

The national meeting was held with participation of international experts and with support from Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights of Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

12
SEPTEMBER
Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

18-19
SEPTEMBER
Warsaw, Poland

As part of the **OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meetings**, an event was held where participants from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the legal community, raised issues related to violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (hereinafter VERLT) in the context of imprisonment, which increasingly attract attention of the OSCE and public at the international level.

As part of the ODIHR Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Program (HRAT) as well as Penal Reform International (PRI) projects, a study was initiated to explore various problems related to human rights that arise in the VERLT prevention and counteraction in prisons.

The event provided a platform for further human rights research related to preventing and



combating VERLT in prisons and facilitated exchange of information and views on this issue, emphasizing the need to respond to human rights issues in combating VERLT in the context of imprisonment.

Besides, human rights activists from Central Asia made reports on the situation of human rights in their countries, raising the issue of torture and ill-treatment in closed institutions.

Within the framework of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, PRI in cooperation with civil society organisations: «Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan» (Kyrgyzstan), «Kylm Shamy» (Kyrgyzstan) and «League of Child Defenders» (Kyrgyzstan), «Alternative» Family Restitution Center (Kyrgyzstan), «Qadyr-Qasiyet» (Kazakhstan), had also arranged an event to address torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment in closed institutions of Central Asian countries.

21
SEPTEMBER
Paris, France

PRI team made a working visit to the DCI Office (Defense for Children International).

During the meeting issues on juvenile justice were discussed and experience of two States - Kazakhstan and France -shared. Representatives of both organizations talked about the future cooperation on solving the issues of juvenile justice as well.



**HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS
FROM CENTRAL ASIA
MADE REPORTS
ON THE SITUATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THEIR COUNTRIES**

Penal Reform International office in Central Asia held the first working meeting with the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption.

The implementation of the program is supported by the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption, Committee of the Criminal Executive System, Mazhilis of the Parliament and expert community.

During the meeting with the Agency for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption, an agreement was reached to strengthen cooperation in studying and conducting external risk analysis, developing expert documents on identifying factors that require legislative changes, building the capacity of the agency's hotline staff, involving civil society prevention of corruption in criminal executive system.

25
SEPTEMBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

03
OCTOBER

Astana, Kazakhstan

A memorandum on mutual understanding and cooperation was signed between the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption and Penal Reform International in Central Asia.

Opening the memorandum signing ceremony, Alik Shpekbayev thanked the representatives of the international organisation for their active civil position and noted that involving experts with such experience in the implementation of the anti-corruption policy will enable to look at corruption in penitentiary institutions from various positions.

Also, the memorandum signing ceremony was attended by Jackie Davis, Head of Political Section of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan. The British Embassy positively assessed the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy.

During the event, the main directions of the memorandum were announced. Thus, the document includes the creation of a working group to conduct an external analysis of

corruption risks in the penal system, as a result of which it is expected to develop draft regulations aimed at preventing corruption in this area.

In addition, considering the potential of the international organization and existing experience in the field of communication and interaction with the population, a set of measures aimed at increasing the capacity of the employees of the Agency's Call Center is planned.

To implement these directions, PRI representatives also attracted international expert Anthony Amaeci, who is an experienced adviser on prison services, creation and development of prison security, design, administration and management.



Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia together with the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan and Committee of the Criminal **Execution System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan** holds an art exhibition dedicated to the European and World Day against the Death Penalty.

As known, every year on October 10, the European and World Day against the Death Penalty is celebrated. In this regard, PRI initiates "Art out of freedom" art exhibition, which will present the works by those sentenced to life imprisonment.

The purpose of the event is to draw public attention to the importance of promoting alternative and humane measures of punishment to death penalty and respect for human rights, improving the effectiveness of life imprisonment, means and methods of treating special category of prisoners, and raising public awareness of the importance of hard work of prison staff in the service of society.

09-11
OCTOBER

Astana, Kazakhstan

Combatting corruption in Kazakhstan's prisons were **first discussed on the National meeting on rooting out corruption** in penitentiary system with the participation of interested state bodies, national and international experts, international organisations and diplomatic missions.

05
OCTOBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

Within the framework of the national meeting, its participants highlighted a whole range of problems and causes that contribute to the emergence of the conditions creating corruption: gaps in by-laws, departmental rules and instructions.

The event was part of the first phase of the new program direction of Penal Reform International in Central Asia in cooperation with the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption, Committee of Criminal Executive System of Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Public Council at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the support of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan.

17
OCTOBER
Atyrau, Kazakhstan

The event on the occasion of the launch of the Capstone Project in Atyrau State University named after Kn. Dosmukhamedov continued with a training delivered by PRI's national expert Malika Tastanova concerning the «Improving students' skills in writing a research project in a team».

An interactive part of the training was a game conducted by the expert among participants, during which students divided to groups of three were asked to jointly formulate a model for improving the rights of orphans in Kazakhstan. After 15 minutes of preparation, all teams presented their ideas to the public for four minutes each. It is noteworthy that the students used a creative approach in addressing the issue bearing in mind to rely on the existing foreign experience. The purpose of this assignment was to make it clear to each participant how important teamwork and proper allocation of responsibilities in conducting research is.



**THE MAIN PURPOSE
OF MONITORING
VISITS IS IMPROVING
THE SITUATION WITH
CHILDREN
IN THE COUNTRY**



25-27
OCTOBER
Almaty, Kazakhstan

Commissioner for Children Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan Zagipa Baliyeva had the first national meeting with members of the Monitoring Group from different regions of Kazakhstan who will monitor the observance of the rights and best interests of children in Astana, Almaty cities, Almaty, Kyzylorda, Mangystau, Pavlodar, South Kazakhstan regions.

The main purpose of monitoring visits is improving the situation with children in the country, ensure observance of children's rights in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in every institution of the country, and hear the voice of every child in Kazakhstan. UNICEF in Kazakhstan and Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia support the activities of the monitoring group of the Children Ombudsman.

In the next two days, Monitoring Group of Commissioner for Children Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan had first visits to the institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan together with the Children Ombudsman Zagipa Baliyeva, representatives of Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia and UNICEF in Kazakhstan. They visited boarding school in Almaty for the disabled children with psychoneurological disorders and Public Government Institution «Zhanuya» Specialised Complex (an auxiliary boarding school No. 3 for orphans and children left without parental care).

During the monitoring, the staff of the institutions received important recommendations from the experienced experts of the Monitoring Group for Almaty and Almaty region on improving their work.

**08
NOVEMBER**

*Talas Region,
Kyrgyzstan*

As part of the joint project of the British Embassy in Kyrgyzstan and Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia, a number of important events took place in the Talas Region of Kyrgyzstan. Among them were the second coordination meeting of state bodies and civil society with a view to creating a system of convicts' resocialization, observance of the probation laws, and development of programs for ex-convicted that bring income to them. At the second coordination meeting, a number of important steps were taken to create an effective system of convicts' resocialization, interaction of civil society with the probation service to implement the post-penitentiary stage.

In addition, a working meeting of Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia with the Penal Enforcement Inspectorate of the State Penal Correction Service and Public Association «Unity Alliance» was held where the parties discussed the implementation of the program aimed at creating a system of resocialization of ex-convicts.

**CONVICTS CAN
USE ACQUIRED SKILLS
TO DEVELOP BOTH
EMPLOYMENT IN PRISON
AND THEIR OWN
BUSINESS UPON
RELEASE**



As part of the project of the British Embassy in Kyrgyzstan and State service of execution of punishment (GSIN) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic together with Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia, dress-making courses have been introduced in the closed establishment No. 10. Convicts can use acquired skills to develop both employment in prison and their own business upon release.

Art courses were also introduced to promote the establishment of a psychological climate among convicts. PRI together with the State Penal Correction Service of Kyrgyzstan visited art courses in the prison, discussed with the master and convicts themselves how pictures can receive public attention, as well as the development of such courses in other closed institutions.

**09
NOVEMBER**

*Jalal-Abad Region,
Kyrgyzstan*

**14-15
NOVEMBER**

Astana, Kazakhstan

As part of the PRI's project « Development of the Reporting of Central and Regional Authorities and Good Governance in the Law Enforcement System to Combat Corruption in Kazakhstan » with the support of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan, a number of important events were held.

The intersectoral meeting of the Agency for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption, Committee of the Criminal Executive System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia was held to assess the current situation and build next steps to counter corruption in the

penitentiary system. The meeting was held at a high constructive level. It resulted in the arrangement of joint events for the next quarter, as well as long-term development plans.

Then a series of training events of the second cycle was opened by trainings for employees of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption in identifying and preventing corruption factors. Representatives from all regions of the country took part in a two-day training session dedicated to legislative capacity and international standards of operations. In general, the program of the event covers a wide range of issues specializing in operational standards in various areas - procedures for obtaining information, investigating, assessing risks and applying modern IT tools, assessing security threats, and much more.

ITS PURPOSE WAS TO TELL THE AUDIENCE ABOUT CHILDREN BORN WITH A WEIGHT OF 500 GRAMS, AND ALSO TO SHOW THE WORK OF DOCTORS OF NEONATOLOGISTS, NURSES AND MEMBERS OF THE "28 STITCHES" CLUB WHO WORK IN THE FEMALE COLONY UG-157/11 IN ATYRAU



An entertainment program dedicated to the World Prematurity Day, established in 2009 at the initiative of the European Foundation for the Care of Newborns, was held. The program was organized with the support of the Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan, Committee of the Criminal Executive System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, PRI in Central Asia, and «28 Stitches» Club.

Within the framework of the holiday in Astana and Almaty on November 17, there was a photo exhibition «World Prematurity Day» dedicated to World prematurity day. Its purpose was to tell the audience about children born with a weight of 500 grams, and also to show the work of doctors of neonatologists, nurses and members of the «28 Stitches» Club who work in the female colony UG-157/11 in Atyrau.

In other regions of Kazakhstan, under the holiday program, master classes on knitting in women's colonies were organized; various actions took place with a change in the illumination of important city buildings to purple and white; meetings were held with parents of premature babies in perinatal centers with presenting woolen kits as well with schoolchildren dedicated to the World Prematurity Day.

17
NOVEMBER
Kazakhstan

20-21
NOVEMBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

A series of second cycle activities in the framework of the PRI project «Development of Reporting of Central and Regional Authorities and Good Governance in the Law Enforcement System to Combat Corruption in Kazakhstan» with the support of the **British Embassy in Kazakhstan**, was continued by a training on anti-corruption to study monitoring of external and internal risks in the prison system and building effective monitoring network together with civil society.

Chairmen and members of the Public Monitoring Commissions as a civil institution with many years of monitoring experience of observance of human rights in places of restriction and deprivation of liberty, together with representatives of the Agency for Civil Service and Anti-Corruption Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, were trained in identifying factors that create conditions for corruption and opportunities to address issues.

The event, like the purpose itself, aims to identify systemic issues that require attention, and search for appropriate solutions, including changes in legislative acts and intra-departmental regulations.

...MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH PARENTS OF PREMATURE BABIES IN PERINATAL CENTERS WITH PRESENTING WOOLEN KITS AS WELL WITH SCHOOLCHILDREN DEDICATED



TO IDENTIFY SYSTEMIC ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION, AND SEARCH FOR APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING CHANGES IN LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS



The Commissioner for Children Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan (Children's Ombudsman), UNICEF in Kazakhstan and Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia conducted an informational briefing for the media, embassies and international organizations. **The Children's Ombudsman presented a report on the situation of children and observance of their rights in Kazakhstan**, as well as the main activities of the Children's Ombudsman for observing the children's rights and ensuring their best interests in Kazakhstan.

The briefing was also attended by the Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Ms. Renate Winter, and Professor of the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, PRI's international expert and consultant on human rights and criminal justice, former Commissioner for the Rights of Prisoners, prison system of Northern Ireland and independent Member of the Council on Police Reform in Northern Ireland.

In addition, these days an international children's conference was held, symbolically called «Kazakhstan, friendly to the child» aimed to further develop and improve the permanent platform created in 2016 for carrying out constructive dialogue and pooling the efforts of international, national, non-governmental and public organizations on topical issues ensuring the rights of children in accordance with world standards.

The international conference was held on the day of the celebration of World Children's Day. This year, it was held in a special way throughout the world, including through actions under the slogan #KidsTakeOver on the initiative of UNICEF.

Also within the framework of this conference, the dialogue platform was launched for independent monitoring, which brought together representatives of state bodies, non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, experts, foreign guests and children. At this site, the recommendations of the UN Committee for Kazakhstan on monitoring

**20-21
NOVEMBER**
Astana, Kazakhstan

the rights of the child in the country were discussed and action plans were developed for each section.

The children noted that it is very important that their opinion be taken into account when making decisions regarding their lives, and that the right to choose their own profession is fully ensured. It was especially noted that it is necessary to take measures to prepare children who leave orphanages and other children's institutions to adulthood, to live in society in advance. The experts also expressed the opinion that every ministry of the country should have a department responsible for youth policy and children's rights in a specific area of activity of a particular ministry.

Along with this, on November 20-21, the United Republican Action «Child - Society - State» was held. Meetings of representatives of children's and youth organizations with leaders of central and local state bodies, discussion of topical issues, cooperation in implementing joint projects were organized.

The organizers of the conference were the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan, and Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia.



...FOR OBSERVING THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND ENSURING THEIR BEST INTERESTS IN KAZAKHSTAN



21
NOVEMBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

As part of the «Anti-torture» project implemented by NGO «Qadyr-Qasiyet» in conjunction with public monitoring commissions (PMCs) in 6 regions of Kazakhstan with the support of Penal Reform International in Central Asia, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Program, the scientific and practical conference «Kazakhstan: Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol)» was held.

The conference was attended by judges, prosecutors, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense, and National Center for Human Rights, diplomatic missions, academics, experts, psychologists, lawyers, PMC members and national preventive mechanism (NPM).

**22
NOVEMBER**

Shymkent, Kazakhstan

The National Consultation, timed to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, was held.

At the consultation the central and regional government authorities, representatives of courts, non-governmental organizations from across the country, international and national experts raised the issues related to women and girls offenders.

Participants of the event offered the implementation of systematic preventive measures aimed at improving respect for women's rights, both in the community and in prisons.

A training was held regarding the special needs of the most vulnerable prisoners (on the investigation of complaints and death in custody). They were conducted for the members of the Public Monitoring Commission by Pauline McCabe, an international expert and adviser on human rights and criminal justice, former Commissioner for the Rights of Prisoners, Prison System and Penitentiary Institutions of Northern Ireland. Investigation of death in custody is one of the difficult moments of the work of investigators, and this training touched upon the main pressing issues of investigating death in custody.

This training is part of the PRI project «Support to Judicial Reform in Kazakhstan: Empowering of civil society organisations (CSOs) to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups in Kazakhstan» funded by the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan.

**23
NOVEMBER**

Shymkent, Kazakhstan



INVESTIGATION OF DEATH IN CUSTODY IS ONE OF THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS OF THE WORK OF INVESTIGATORS, AND THIS TRAINING TOUCHED UPON THE MAIN PRESSING ISSUES OF INVESTIGATING DEATH IN CUSTODY

**24-25
NOVEMBER**

Shymkent, Kazakhstan

A series of training was continued with courses to counter corruption enabling the study of external and internal risks in the prison system and build effective monitoring network together with civil society with the support of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan.

These trainings were held in Astana and Shymkent on the territorial proximity to the regions. Earlier a similar training was held for the first group. Now participants from South Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Zhambyl, Mangystau, Aktobe, Almaty and Almaty region discuss areas that are subject to corruption within the penal system, based on years of experience.

The round table on the observance of the right to freedom from unlawful detention and medical care in temporary detention facilities (IVS) of the internal affairs bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic was held.

The goal of the event was the actualization of the issue of observance of guaranteed human rights and development of promising recommendations aimed at improving human rights in places where freedom is restricted.

The event was attended by representatives of competent state bodies, Jogorku Kenesh, Akyikatchy (Ombudsman) of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as national non-governmental and international organizations.

**29
NOVEMBER**

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



29
NOVEMBER

Atyrau, Kazakhstan

As part of the Capstone Project implemented in Atyrau State University named after Kh. Dosmukhamedov PRI in Central Asia with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kazakhstan organized a training course on research in the field of human rights and criminal justice for the academic staff of the university.

Teachers of the university together with the invited expert from the University of Radboud in the Netherlands - Maria Fedorova discussed topical issues on the structure and methodology of research in the field of criminal justice, correct formulation of the thesis and selection of relevant sources. The expert and participants also analyzed international and foreign jurisprudence in the field of human rights, comparing with the existing system in Kazakhstan.

**01
DECEMBER**
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The National Conference on the modernisation of the prison system was implemented through alternative non-custodial measures and reduction of the prison population. The event is held as a continuation of the I Penitentiary Forum, which took place in March 2017.

Participants of the National Conference held a productive and constructive dialogue. Such an exchange of opinions contributes to the creation of new ideas, new pinpoint directions and cooperation between the state and society. At the end of the official part, the work continued in practical sectional areas of modernization.

As known, the measures taken to humanize the criminal legislation lead to the introduction of alternative non-custodial measures. Mechanisms for their implementation are being developed along with state strategic departmental documents aimed at developing the penitentiary system and measures to reduce the prison population of the country.



PARTICIPANTS WORKED IN GROUPS BY COMPARING THE LEGISLATION OF KAZAKHSTAN AND EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Trainings were held for representatives of civil society (NGOs) and Public Monitoring Commissions (PMC) for the monitoring of places of detention in police custody and temporary detention facilities (IVS) as per the most advanced European and international practice. They were conducted by David Cater, an international PRI expert consultant on the police reform and improvement, a consultant on organized crime, a senior officer of the Police Service of Great Britain

Participants worked in groups by comparing the legislation of Kazakhstan and European Convention on Human Rights, and putting forward recommendations based on the identified «gaps» in legislation. It is important to note that not only international and European experience is exchanged, but also an exchange of experience and opinions between the regions of Kazakhstan.

This training took place under the PRI project «Support to Judicial Reform in Kazakhstan: Empowering of civil society organisations (CSOs) to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups in Kazakhstan» funded by the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan.

**04-05
DECEMBER**
Astana, Kazakhstan

**06
DECEMBER**
Astana, Kazakhstan

The First Discussion Club «Women's Rights Talks», dedicated to women's rights and eradicating violence, was organized with the support of Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia and British Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and disastrous consequences of human rights violations in the modern world.

A workshop was held for representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Within three days, the program was based on the training of representatives of the Academies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Investigation Department, Administrative Police Committee, Committee of Criminal Executive System of Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other units. Investigators, interrogators, and teachers gathered to investigate the UK's experience in police accountability and legal framework for conducting police investigations, as well as charges, defense from prosecution and substantive resolution in the context of upcoming updates to the criminal process in Kazakhstan. Its participants discussed the methods of investigation of a committed crime, pre-emptive investigation, and duplicating investigation. As part of the exchange of experience, issues of incitement, initial investigation, investigative evaluation, treatment of suspects, evidence-based assessment, prosecution, and case management were discussed. The event was held within the framework of the second cycle of anti-corruption training with the support of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan.

06-08
DECEMBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

07
DECEMBER
Astana, Kazakhstan

On the eve of the International Human Rights Day, the PRI Human Rights Award was held for the first time in Kazakhstan, which was first established by Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia to celebrate citizens of Kazakhstan who dedicated their lives to human rights activities for their special contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Back in 1948, on December 10, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first universal international human rights instrument. In 1950, a resolution was adopted calling on all states and interested organizations to establish December 10 each year as Human Rights Day. The goal of the proclamation of this day is to draw the attention of «people around the world» to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common ideal for all people and peoples. Today we are already on the threshold of the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of this important document.

The award took its start in Kazakhstan, and the next years will be extended to other countries of the world. The difference of this award is that the competition process is presented not in the announcement of a separate competition, but in monitoring the Internet, television and printed sources of the activities of participants in the field of protection and promotion of human rights.

This award is unique because it unites representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations, state bodies, parliament deputies, representatives of embassies and international organizations that are nominees and thanks to whose efforts in the Republic of Kazakhstan the issue of human rights is given due attention for the benefit of all citizens of the country.



CEREMONY OF PRI HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD



ONE OF THESE 6 AWARDS
 WAS GIVEN TO PENAL REFORM
 INTERNATIONAL (PRI)
 IN CENTRAL ASIA REPRESENTED
 BY ITS REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 AZAMAT SHAMBILOV



08
DECEMBER
 Astana, Kazakhstan

The reception of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Kazakhstan on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, celebrated by the whole world every year on December 10 since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was held.

The reception program included the International Human Rights Award ceremony for outstanding civil society organizations that made a significant contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights in Kazakhstan. The nominees were chosen by a specially created commission of the international community in Kazakhstan (International Community Panel).

One of these 6 awards was given to Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia represented by its Regional Director Azamat Shambilov!



A LIVELY, PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION HELPED TO DEVELOP
 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY,
 AND EXPERTS SPECIALISING IN ANTI-CORRUPTION ISSUES



On the eve of the International Anti-Corruption Day, under the auspices of the Agency for Civil Service Affairs and Anti-Corruption, the international conference «Modern Anti-Corruption Standards and Development of International Cooperation» was held.

The dialogue platform, aimed at a broad discussion of the most pressing issues of combating corruption and achievements in this field, brought together leading experts from foreign countries, heads of central state bodies, international organizations and diplomatic corps.

The international conference presented a unique opportunity for exchanging experience

08
DECEMBER
 Astana, Kazakhstan

between countries, highlighting Kazakhstan's experience, achievements, and ongoing efforts both at the legislative and practical levels.

Azamat Shambilov, Regional Director of PRI in Central Asia, moderated the experience of Great Britain, France and national practice of Kazakhstan as part of the platform «On the state of corruption at the international and national levels». A lively, productive discussion helped to develop recommendations to the government, civil society, and experts specialising in anti-corruption issues.

11
DECEMBER

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Within the framework of the International Human Rights Day, the International Conference «Human Rights in the Prism of the Constitution and Strategy of Action for the Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan» was held.

Opening the event, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Ombudsman) thanked for accepting the invitation of the legal institutions of Moldova, Kazakhstan, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Secretary General of the European Institute of Ombudsmen.

The event was organized by the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Uzbekistan with the support of the OSCE Project Coordinator. The delegation of Kazakhstan was represented by the Commissioner for Children's Rights, Penal Reform International (PRI), Call Center for Children's Assistance, and NGO «Bakhytty Bala».



A meeting of the interdepartmental working group was held, which included Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia, Commission of KazNU named after al-Farabi, Committee of the Criminal Executive System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss joint activities and cooperation within the framework of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy for Social Rehabilitation of Individuals who have been released from prisons and who are on the records of the Probation Service in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2019, including the pilot project to receiving by convicts of education with the use of new teaching technologies.

The essence of this project is to create conditions for obtaining education not only through the traditional education system, but also with the use of new teaching technologies. In a word, to give the convicted an opportunity to study in higher educational institutions of Kazakhstan remotely. The most optimal forms of education for convicts are distance learning through the Internet and case technology. On these and other issues, as well as regarding the pilot project on «obtaining by convicts of education using new teaching technologies» an offsite meeting of the interdepartmental working group and the university itself was held at Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi.

20
DECEMBER

Almaty, Kazakhstan

26
DECEMBER

Astana, Kazakhstan

The team of Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia congratulated children in the Minors Adaptation Center in Astana on the New Year. Every time you come to such center or another institution where children are in a difficult life situation, you worry about having enough gifts. Children are very pleased with any, even a very small surprise, and the attention of guests. Today MAC in Astana have 18 children aged from 3 to 18, both boys and girls. All the children are wonderful, the elders look after the younger ones, and teachers try to create a home atmosphere for the holiday. Moreover, even for a minute, seeing joyful faces, you forget that there are children in a crisis, who really need help and support from society and the state. Today we realised that it is very important when society supports children who are in a difficult life situation. There are no someone else's children; these are the children of our country - Kazakhstan. However, children in difficult life situations who were on the street, abandoned children, children from disadvantaged families whose parents are in trouble or also in difficult life situations who also need support, children without documents, children who are lost and need support.



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REGIONAL DIRECTOR
of Penal Reform International (PRI) in Central Asia

QUOTES PUBLISHED IN THE MEDIA

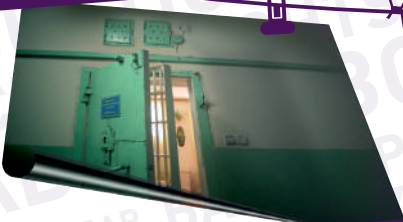


"Statistics show that out of 35,000 convicts, 0.14% are minors. Seven special educational institutions hold children whose behavior is recognized as antisocial, in one institution there are children who have not reached the age of criminal responsibility. About 180 children are kept in special schools, 180 children is not a complete indicator, since every year a large number of children go through the lists of the police. To date, more than 8,000 children are registered with internal affairs agencies."

"Today, 2,744 women are serving their sentences in Kazakhstan prisons. Of these, the largest number is between the ages of 30 and 50 (59%). Another 20% are young women under 30. There are also very young - from 18 to 21 years old, but only 3%. The motives of crimes and offenses committed by them are different, but they are all united by one - violence."



"The global trend of criminal justice shows a positive effect of reducing the prison population - which significantly reduces the burden on the state budget."

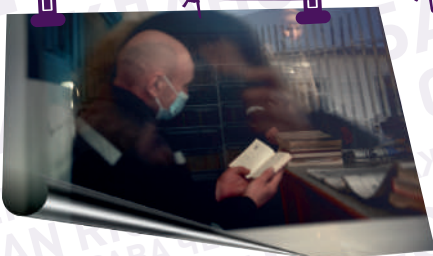


"It is important to note the increase in the number of juvenile convicts in prisons; this year for the first time in the last three years, there has been an increase of 25%, and 22 children under the age of 3 are kept in a female colony with their mothers. Convicted women constitute 7.8% of the total prison population totaling to 2,744 women."

"As known, according to the corruption perception index formed by Transparency International, Kazakhstan is ranked 131 out of 176, which indicates an extremely high level of corruption in the country."



"The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also called the Nelson Mandela Rules, are universal and recognized minimum standards for penitentiary staff in dealing with prisoners."



"To date, 2,834 convicts are trained in 54 general education institutions, and the number of convicts receiving vocational education (35 specialties) is 3,757. This is only 10% of the total prison population. From the point of view of successful implementation of resocialization programs, the experience of foreign countries shows that obtaining higher education by convicts while in prison positively influences their further life after release, and also prevents attempts of repeated offence."