Asanaliev Maksat Kubatovich

General Prosecutor

A.Toktonalieva Street, 139

Bishkek

720040

Kyrgyz Republic

Oldenzaal, January 2025

Dear General Prosecutor,

In this letter I wish to express my deep concern over the guilty verdicts handed down on 10 October 2024 against “Temirov Live” journalists: Makhabat Tazhibek-kyzy, Azamat Ishenbekov, Aike Beishekeeva and Aktilek Kaparov.

They were found guilty of “calling for active disobedience and mass riots, as well as calls for violence against citizens” based on a video published on social media that accused government officials of corruption. The journalists deny the charges. I am concerned that these charges have been brought to punish the journalists for their criticism of the authorities, in violation of the right to freedom of expression.

Makhabat Tazhibek-kyzy and Azamat Ishenbekov were sentenced to respectively six and five years in prison. I urgently request you to ensure the two men are released immediately. I further call on you to ensure that all charges against all four convicted journalists are dropped.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,