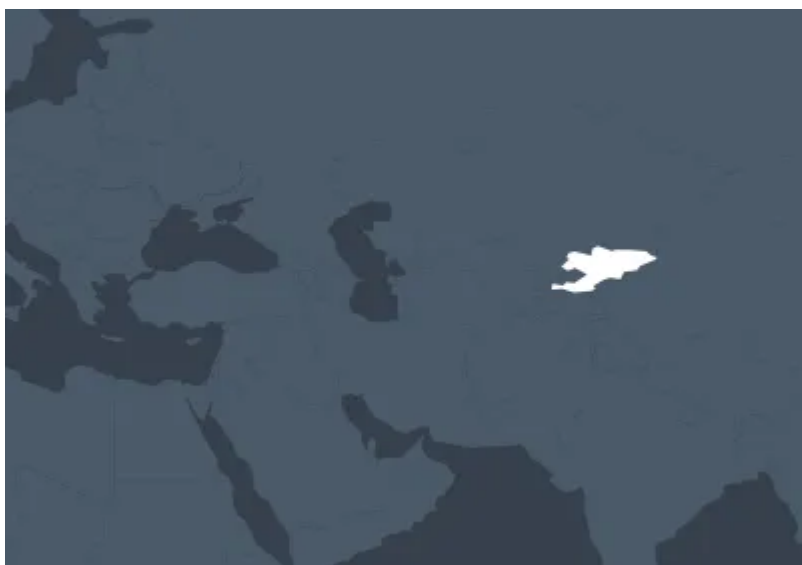


Freedom on the Net 2025



Internet freedom in Kyrgyzstan continued to decline during the coverage period, which was marked by detentions of journalists, activists, and individuals critical of the government, and a broader crackdown on online media outlets.

- In March 2025, President Sadyr Japarov signed a decree renaming the Ministry of Digital Development the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovative Technologies, and expanding its mandate to cover a range of digital services, including satellite technologies (A5).¹
- In April 2025, the Kyrgyz government filed a lawsuit against independent broadcaster April TV, arguing that the court should order the revocation of the outlet's broadcast license and suspension of its social media operations because the outlet "undermines the authority of the government."² In July 2025, after the

coverage period, a court ordered the outlet to close and suspend its social media operations (B6).³

- In February 2025, the Code of Offenses was amended to criminalize online libel and insult, stipulating fines of 65,000 som (\$750) for organizations and 20,000 som (\$230) for individuals.⁴ Another set of amendments introducing similar penalties for the “spread of false and unreliable information” online took effect in July 2025, after the coverage period (C2).⁵
- In October 2024, a Bishkek court sentenced journalists Makhabat Tazhibek Kyzy and Azamat Ishenbekov to six and five years in prison, respectively.⁶ They were reportedly accused of inciting violence in connection with a video posted on social media accusing authorities of corruption.⁷ Tazhibek Kyzy, who is the wife of exiled journalist Bolot Temirov, has reportedly faced death threats from another prisoner while in detention.⁸ In April 2025, Ishenbekov was pardoned (C3 and C7).⁹

