

Weekly Bulletin

Issue 4, 27 July 2005, review of 19 - 25 July 2005

The Bulletin is published in the framework of the Early Warning for Violence Prevention Project

The information in this bulletin is intended for use by individuals and organizations willing to make a peaceful intervention in a particular conflict situation. The Early Warning Center strives to provide accurate information while disseminating information timely to make prevention and early intervention possible. A variety of sources are used, including eyewitnesses, mass media, civil society representatives, officials and other knowledgeable people.

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1. Alerts

This week there are no alerts.

2. Weekly review

- On July 18, at the customs post "Dustlik" in Osh oblast, Uzbek border guards arrested Erkin Jakubzhanov, a fourth-year student at the faculty of journalism of Osh State University, when he attempted to obtain an interview from them for the radio network "Dolina mira." The young journalist is accused of cooperation with the Uzbek service of radio Svoboda. The radio network "Dolina mira" is a project of the International network of support of mass-media (Denmark), and prepares a program on the recent Andijan tragedy and its consequences for the region. His present whereabouts are unknown.
- On July 20, in Osh oblast, about eighty local residents seized a land plot at the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border in the area of check point "Dostuk." An interdepartmental commission has been formed with the purpose of investigating the circumstances and reasons for the seizure and determining its legality. The commission will make a decision prior to July 31, 2005.
- On July 20, in Kyzyl Kiya city, on the territory of "Aibek" market a crowd of 50 people (mainly women) gathered to demand verification the legitimacy of the allocation of a land plot for construction of a new wholesale market. Construction of the new market, which is located near "Aibek" market, creates competition for workers of "Aibek" market. Opening of the wholesale market is scheduled to take place at the beginning of August. The administration of "Aibek" market is organizing meetings and pickets in order to demand the closure of the new market. The Mayor of the city has personally provided explanation and protestors have returned to their workplaces.
- On July 23, in Aksy rayon of Jalalabad oblast, residents of Charbak village, Kashkasui village council, went as usual on Saturday to the market in the village of Nanai, located in the Republic of Uzbekistan. However, on crossing the border, they met armed Uzbek border guards who did not let them pass to Uzbek territory, and even threatened to shoot with machine guns. The angered

crowd broke through the chain of border guards and after crossing the border made their way towards the market. During this event, border guards detained a woman, who was carrying kymys in bottles to sell at the market (about 40 liters), took away her bottles and loaded them on a motor vehicle. Border guards declared that the kymys is confiscated. However, Kyrgyz citizens who had passed the border together with the woman released her and unloaded the motor vehicle with force. Only the intervention of Uzbek and Kyrgyz officials helped to avoid violence and to resolve the problem peacefully.

- On July 25, 2005, since morning, opposite to the Osh city administration a crowd of 20-25 people gathered to wait for a decision on the issue of allocating them land plots in the area of the state residency. The gathered people were veterans of the Afghanistan war and their relatives. The mayor of Osh city is holding negotiations with the representative of the Union of Afghan Veterans, who arrived from Bishkek. According to many of the gathered people they will seize these land plots without permission, in case the city administration will not meet their demands.
- The Central Election Commission (CEC) has scheduled re-elections in Kurshab constituency No. 39 between Madumarov A. and Orozbayev M on July 31. Yesterday, on July 25 at 11 o'clock in Uzgen city, a group of about 100 persons came to the building of the local administration (Akimiyat) and requested cancellation of re-elections in this constituency. The deputy of the regional oblast governor has calmed them and told them that he has passed their request to the CEC and will wait for the response to arrive in two days. In the meantime, the process of preparation for re-elections continues.

3. Trends and expectations

During the week from July 18 to July 25, the situation in the country as a whole appeared to be calm. Nevertheless, it is observed that some trends continue to take place and may cause potential tensions. These include ongoing land seizures, disputes between officials and persons who opposed them during recent parliamentary and presidential elections, continuation of the conflict concerning railway employees, and demands for the resignation of judges of the Supreme Court.

- **Disputes between members of the precinct election commissions and other sides involved in presidential and parliamentary elections** continue to take place in the country. According to local residents, the principal of school Chkalov in Naryn city, Aichorek Samakova (sister of parliamentarian Samakov K.) dismissed English language teacher Sarybai kyzy Guljan. Guljan acted as witness in a court case on violations committed by the DEC. She worked during the parliamentary elections as a member of the District Election Commission (DEC) of constituency No. 33. Guljan gave a testimony against violations of the election process by candidate Samakov K. After that the principal accused Guljan of a negligent attitude to work and has released her from her post. Guljan herself declared that she considers it as squaring of accounts.

On July 21 at an informal meeting in Kochkor, a dispute between Turgunaliyeva C (PEC member on one of polling stations of Kochkor rayon), and Baiterekov K (Mayor of Kochkor rayon) came to an end with the assistance of local officials, representatives of the President's Administration and law enforcement bodies. Chinara Turgunaliyeva had accused Baiterekov K. of organizing a competition among PECs on election day to gather the largest number of votes in favor of Bakiyev K. and of organizing that she was beaten-up by his supporters last week. According to representatives of the Coalition "For Democracy and Civil Society", Baiterekov has now started to oppress civil activists who were opposing him. Reportedly two civil activists have been compelled to temporarily leave Kochkor rayon because of fear for persecution. According to information from the Coalition, one of long-term observers of the Coalition, Bolotbekov Z., left for Bishkek on July 15 because of fear.

The Akim of Panfilov rayon in Chui oblast raised an objection to the head of Ayil Okmotu (local government) Kurpuldek and to the chairman of the PEC. After counting of votes during the

Presidential elections of KR, it became clear that candidate Aitikeev A. received a majority of votes. The Akim has declared that such a case is impossible taking into consideration that the majority of the population in other regions of the country voted for Bakiyev K. According to the data of Central Election Commission, at polling station № 7386 candidate Aitikeev A. has received 74.57 % of all votes.

- Incidents regarding **land seizures** continue. The situation in Osh City has aggravated. According to information provided by radio “Azattyk” about 7000 residents of Osh city are standing in a queue for housing. Among them, 4000 are especially in need of land plots. On July 20, in Osh oblast, about eighty local residents have seized a land plot on Kyrgyz-Uzbek border in the area of check point “Dostuk.” Many of these land occupants had been offered land plots in southern and southwestern parts of the city (Kenesh, Japalak, Turan). However, they have refused these lands, referring to the remoteness from the center and the weak infrastructure in these regions. According to claims by the land occupants, the 16 hectares territory that they have seized has been given on a long-term (49 years) lease to a Kyrgyz-Indian trade enterprise last year by the city administration of Osh, even though the territory does not belong to the city. According to the press-secretary of Osh city administration, Matisakov B., a part of the territory seized by residents of Osh city does in fact belong to Kyzyl-kyshtak village council of the Karasui rayon. It is a kind of enclave inside the city and there are a number of such territories in Osh city. The Osh city administration has on several occasions turned to the higher authorities regarding the enclaves of Karasui rayon. On July 1, the acting mayor of Osh city, Bakirov M, came to address the land occupants. He declared that this issue will be resolved in strict conformity with the law. According to the newspaper “Vecherniy Bishkek” (22.07.05) land occupants have given authorities three days to solve the problem. Land occupants have stated that they plan to begin construction of houses on the seized territory in the event that they are dissatisfied with the solutions proposed. Dinara Kamalova, one of the activists among land occupants, informed that at present a government commission consisting of 4 people is considering the issue. The commission includes the adviser of the Minister on development of local self-governance, first deputy Minister of Agriculture of KR, director of the State register and his deputy. Osh city administration has informed that the government commission will make a decision prior to July 31, 2005.

In Bishkek, according to the land occupants, who have settled in the micro-region of Tunguch, unknown persons frequently come with demands that land occupants must leave the site. Land occupants are afraid that in the near future workers of Administration of Oktyabr rayon may make an attempt to violently remove them from the seized territory.

- The protests against the decisions of the **Supreme Court** related to the parliamentary elections have not ceased. Dissatisfied protestors demand that authorities carry out judicial reforms in Kyrgyzstan and dismiss the chairman, Osmonova K., and judges of the Supreme Court. On July 21, 2005 at a press conference at AKIpress, representatives of the protestors from 7 “disputed” constituencies (№ 6, 21, 27, 28, 55, 59, 66) reconfirmed these demands.
- **Confrontations between worker collectives of large enterprises and their management** have also been noted. In At-Bashi village, for several months there has been a conflict between the head of the joint-stock company motor transport depot “Atbashi auto” and staff of this motor depot, many of whom are shareholders. Staff do not agree with the internal financial and personnel policy of Abdylidaev A. and complain that the division of shares was done with serious violations. As a result, Abdylidaev, for the sum of 250000 soms has become almost the sole proprietor of more than 20 KaMaz trucks as well as of all materials and the technical base. The staff of the motor depot have put forward a number of requirements, among others to return the motor depot to state ownership, to pay them for salaries that have not been paid yet and to give dividends to employees and shareholders of the enterprise.

It is the 20th day since the start of a hunger-strike by members of the new alternative trade union of railway men, directed against abuses of the administration and chief of the Rail Road, Isayev K. The trade union is dissatisfied with the incompetence of the new heads of Management of the Railroad, who, as its leaders state, have been appointed in violation of the law, i.e. without competition for the post. Hunger-strikers demand the replacement of the heads of Management of Railroad by conducting fair and open competition for executive positions, and to remove the rights of the existing trade union at the enterprise, as it is not worthy of trust. They also demand legal recognition of their alternative trade union led by Dokenov E. The State commission on verification of circumstances of violations has visited the enterprise twice. However, decisions on the resolution of the conflict haven't yet been made.

Expectations

- This week, on July 31, re-elections are expected to take place in two disputable constituencies: In Kurulush constituency №11 in Bishkek, elections will be held between deputy Olga Bezborodova and Kabai Karabekov. In Kurshab constituency № 39, elections will be held between Orozbayev and Madumarov. In constituency № 39, there is a possibility that discontent may increase on the part of voters that are supporters of the lost candidate.
- Inhabitants of Barskoon, Tosor, Tamga, Chon Jargylchak and Kichi Jargylchak villages, that are demanding compensation from the company "Kumtor Operating Company", have not received any response to their demands before the deadline of July 25. They now plan to conduct another protest action.

4. Recommendations

Recommendations concerning the issue of land seizures

To the state structures:

- To explain procedures and criteria for receiving land plots by means of mass media and on the spot
- To toughen measures on suppression of corruption among state officials during distribution of the land plots

To civil society:

- To cooperate with the state structures in mitigation of this conflict, in particular in activities on providing information about state decisions and procedures.

5. Announcements

You can subscribe/unsubscribe from this mailing list.

Russian version (the Russian version is the original version):

Send a message containing text: <SUBSCRIBE "your e-mail address"> or <UNSUBSCRIBE "your e-mail address"> at ewlist_ru@osce-academy.net

English version:

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Intervention Database: The Early Warning for Violence Prevention Project appeals to organizations and individuals interested in organizing conflict mitigation activities to register in the Project database. The database will allow us to promptly engage you in the development and implementation of violence prevention measures.

Crisis Emergency Fund: The Early Warning for Violence Prevention Project is also announcing a small grant program intended for implementation conflict and violence prevention measures.

For more information about the Database and Emergency Fund please contact Violetta Yan at: 264/27 Manaschi Sagynbaya, phone: 996 (312) 64-43-60, 64-46-58, fax: 996 (312) 64-44-63, e-mail: fti@infotel.kg

About the Project:

The Early Warning for Violence Prevention Project was initiated to prevent violence related to political conflicts by creating a mechanism of forecasting/investigating conflicts and implementing appropriate preventive measures. The project is initiated by the Foundation for Tolerance International and the International Foundation IFES and supported by OSCE, UNDP, and the Swiss and US governments.

In order to closely monitor the situation in the country, the Project created a national network of monitors selected among active members of the civil society and representatives of academic circles, media and law enforcement agencies. Overall, 36 monitors observe the situation throughout the country and maintain permanent communication with the Center for Early Warning.

The Center for Early Warning processes the information collected, prepares recommendations on interventions needed for violence prevention, and publishes a Weekly Bulletin.

The Early Intervention Component develops and implements action plans aimed at prevention of violence in close collaboration with governmental bodies, NGOs and international organizations. The Project also offers small grants for implementation of violence prevention measures.