



Association Droits de l'Homme en Asie Centrale

Centre MBE 140, 16, rue du Docteur Leroy, 72000 Le Mans France

Tel.: +33 6 49 38 86 59; Email: ahrca.org@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

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Kyrgyzstan: the tax authorities demand a payment for the property of a wanted person

Tax authorities of Kyrgyzstan demanded to pay a tax on vehicle owners do not have control over.

Owners of vehicles stolen or set on fire during the ethnic conflict in June 2010 are facing demands to pay the tax for the past five years.

According to official data (*Statistics of the State Directorate for Reconstruction of Osh and Jalal-Abad, 2010*), during the ethnic conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010, 620 cars and 30 trucks and buses were hijacked and set on fire. Of these, ten were returned to the owners of the vehicles, others were put on the wanted list.

Inspectors the Tax Service¹ explain their demands to the citizens by the fact that the vehicles belonging to the latter are registered in the database of taxable property.

But, as it turned out, the car owners who have suffered during the tragic events are not exempt from the taxation. Even those who reported their loss of property to the Prosecutor's Office and the State Agency for Local Government and Ethnic Relations at the Government of Kyrgyzstan (GAMSUMO)² are among them. In 2013 these very citizens were exempted from the mandatory inspection of vehicles, because they did not have control over their property due to an objective reason.

Association for Human Rights in Central Asia (ARCA) calls on the Kyrgyz government to provide an exemption on the tax on personal property for the citizens, who have no control over their property as a result of the ethnic conflict.

¹ <http://www.sti.gov.kg/>

²State Agency for Local Government and Ethnic Relations at the Government of Kyrgyzstan (GAMSUMO).
<http://www.gamsumo.gov.kg/>