


RITA KARASARTOVA

# FACING 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PEACEFULLY PROTESTING

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL 

 Kyrgyzstan



 CHALLENGE  
INJUSTICE.

ISBN: 64-002-806-233

# RITA KARASARTOVA

 Kyrgyzstan

Rita Karasartova (she/her) loves spending time with her children, practising yoga, and sewing *chapans*, the traditional quilted jackets worn by people in Kyrgyzstan. But since October 2022 Rita's life has been turned upside down. She was arrested and spent months detained in a cramped cell, denied access to healthcare and unable to see or speak to her family. Now she is under house arrest and a strict curfew.

Rita is a human rights defender and an expert in civic governance. For over a decade she dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated by a corrupt and unreliable legal system. She leads the non-governmental Institute for Public Analysis and is a member of the United Democratic Movement of Kyrgyzstan, fighting against poverty and injustice.

Alongside 26 others, Rita was arrested for opposing a new border agreement that gave control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. The group called for people to peacefully demonstrate against the agreement, demanding transparency from the government. Like others, Rita feared Uzbekistan would restrict or prohibit access to water, a scarce resource in the region where loss of access could have devastating consequences.

Rita and the others were initially detained for organizing "mass disorder", and she was charged with attempting to "violently overthrow the government", which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

**Demand Rita Karasartova's freedom.**



ABN: 64 002 806 233

## ACT NOW

Contact the General Prosecutor and demand Rita is immediately released from house arrest, all charges against her dropped and that she can carry out human rights activities without fear of retaliation.

Grab a petition and start collecting names and emails. There is also a template letter if you prefer.

You can also send the General Prosecutor a message on Facebook:

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/prokuraturoakg](https://www.facebook.com/prokuraturoakg)  
**HASHTAG:** #W4R23

## KEEP RITA'S HOPE ALIVE

Print off the solidarity letter template and let Rita know she is not alone by sending your messages and drawings of friendship and hope.

You can also send Rita a message of solidarity on Facebook:

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/rita.karasartova](https://www.facebook.com/rita.karasartova)  
**HASHTAG:** #W4R23

**Post your petitions, letters and solidarity letters to:**

Amnesty International Australia,  
Locked Bag 23,  
Broadway NSW 2007  
Australia

**Please send them to us by 31 January 2024.**

We'll post them to the target, include them in the handover in March 2024 and make sure that Rita gets your solidarity messages.



 **CHALLENGE INJUSTICE.**

December 2023

Index: EUR 58/6989/2023 English

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