

Kyrgyzstan – Post Violence Justice Deeply Flawed

Human Rights Watch 8 June 2011 (...) Investigations and trials following inter-ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010 have been fundamentally flawed and undermine efforts to provide justice, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

The 86-page report,

["Distorted Justice: Kyrgyzstan's Flawed Investigations and Trials on the 2010 Violence,"](#)

concludes that criminal investigations into the 2010 violence have been marred by widespread use of arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment, including torture. Prosecutorial authorities have refused to investigate allegations of torture, and courts have relied heavily on confessions allegedly extracted under torture to sentence defendants to long prison sentences after court hearings in which threats and other forms of intimidation and, in some cases, physical attacks against defendants and their lawyers went unchallenged. The profoundly flawed investigations and trials, mainly affecting the ethnic Uzbek minority, undermine efforts to promote reconciliation and fuel tensions that might one day lead to renewed violence, Human Rights Watch said. (...)

(...) Human Rights Watch urged the Kyrgyz authorities to:

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Immediately enact a zero-tolerance policy for violations during detention;

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Amend Kyrgyz legislation to ensure that it fully incorporates its international law obligations to prevent and punish all incidents of torture;

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Promptly and objectively investigate all allegations of torture, ill-treatment, and other violations of detainees' rights;

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Initiate a formal review process of all cases connected to the violence in the south;

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Conduct new investigations and trials in all cases in which there have been serious violations;

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Facilitate a visit to Kyrgyzstan by the UN special rapporteur on torture. (...)

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