



**КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНДА ПЕНИТЕНЦИАРДЫК ТУТУМДУН РЕФОРМАСЫН КОЛДОО**  
**ПОДДЕРЖКА РЕФОРМЫ ПЕНИТЕНЦИАРНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ**  
**SUPPORT TO PRISON REFORM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

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31/2, Razzakov Str., Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan • Tel.: +996 (312) 32-1732

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**KYRGYZ GOVERNMENT ADOPTS NEW NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PENAL REFORM**

*Bishkek. May 28.* The Kyrgyz Government has recently adopted a new National Strategy on the Development of the Penitentiary System in the Kyrgyz Republic. This strategy, covering the period from 2012 to 2016, aims to improve prison conditions and promote social reintegration of detainees. It replaces the programme ‘Umut’ (i.e. ‘Hope’), which has guided the efforts of the Kyrgyz Government to reform its penitentiary system during the past 5 years.

The strategy, adopted officially by Kyrgyz Government Decree No.297 on 15 May 2012, contains a detailed overview of the current state of the Kyrgyz penitentiary system, including an assessment of its strengths and weaknesses. Based on this analysis, the strategy identifies a series of key priorities, ranging from the further improvement of penal legislation and increased opportunities for prison staff training and development, to measures aimed at improving prison conditions, including better health care, and promoting income generating activities, vocational training and social rehabilitation of prisoners.

“This important new strategic document is the result of an open and transparent consultation process involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society”, said Mr. Kuanyshebek Kenebaev, First Deputy Chairperson of the State Service for the Execution of Punishments. “With this strategy we confirm our resolve to develop our legislation in full conformity with international standards and to provide better living and working conditions in places of detention”, he added.

The nearly two-year long consultations were facilitated by the European Union/UNODC project “Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic”. This project aims to assist the Kyrgyz Government to reform its penitentiary system at legislative, policy and management levels, so as to improve the treatment of prisoners and contribute to their social reintegration. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Kyrgyzstan.

The strategy will be presented and discussed during a press conference, which will take place on 29 May 2012 at 14:00pm at press club “Kabar”.

*For additional information, please contact:*  
*Vera Tkachenko, International Project Manager*  
*European Union/UNODC project “Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic*  
*tel. 32 17 32 m.0555 5787912*  
*E-mail [vera.tkachenko@unodc.org](mailto:vera.tkachenko@unodc.org)*

