Asanaliev Maksat Kubatovich General Prosecutor A.Toktonalieva Street, 139 Bishkek 720040 Kyrgyz Republic E-mail: statement@prokuror.kg

February 2025

Dear General Prosecutor,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the guilty verdicts handed down on 10 October 2024 against "Temirov Live" journalists: **Makhabat Tazhibek-kyzy, Azamat Ishenbekov, Aike Beishekeeva and Aktilek Kaparov.**

They were found guilty of "calling for active disobedience and mass riots, as well as calls for violence against citizens" based on a video published on social media that accused government officials of corruption. The journalists deny the charges. I am concerned that these charges have been brought to punish the journalists for their criticism of the authorities, in violation of the right to freedom of expression.

I urge you to ensure that **Makhabat Tazhibek-kyzy and Azamat Ishenbekov** are released immediately, and that all charges against all four convicted journalists are dropped.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,