
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Popular Unrest in Kazakhstan
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Kazakh government accused of violating human rights during January protests

The Human Rights Watch has accused the Kazakh government of violating the human rights of protesters during the January protests. The 26 JAN report detailed the use of excessive force by Kazakh security forces that resulted in fatalities on at least four occasions. The Human Rights Watch attributed many of the fatalities to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's 07 JAN order to "shoot to kill without warning". Additional reports by the Human Rights Watch also detailed the use of torture, such as electric shocks and physical beatings on protesters, by government forces. On 13 FEB, Kazakh opposition groups organized an unsanctioned protest in the city of Almaty. The protesters demanded the arrest of government officials involved in the government crackdown and even the arrest of former president Nazarbayev. END

CMCD Note

After multiple reports of human rights violations following the Kazakh protests of last January, it is likely that the government of Kazakhstan will see a high turnover of government officials. Multiple deaths of protestors by law enforcement were deemed unjustified and have caused further unrest within the country. We can assess with high confidence that protests will continue throughout Kazakhstan until more arrests of government officials are made and the abusers are held accountable for the violations.

Sources

EuroNews, Kazakhstan protesters were tortured after unrest, says Human Rights Watch
<https://www.euronews.com/2022/02/02/kazakhstan-protesters-were-tortured-after-unrest-says-human-rights-watch>

Human Rights Watch, Kazakhstan: Killings, Excessive Use of Force in Almaty
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/26/kazakhstan-killings-excessive-use-force-almaty#>

Human Rights Watch, Kazakhstan: Protesters Arbitrarily Arrested, Beaten
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/01/kazakhstan-protesters-arbitrarily-arrested-beaten>

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty, Kazakh Protesters Demand Justice For Crackdown Victims
<https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-protest-after-crackdown/31701578.html>