

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED ACTIVISTS NEED URGENT MEDICAL CARE

19 members of Nagyz Atajurt, a human rights movement that documents abuse against ethnic Kazakhs and other Turkic minorities in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Republic (XUAR), were convicted in Kazakhstan on April 13, 2026 for participating in a peaceful protest near the Kazakhstan-China border. Eleven activists received five-year prison sentences, while eight others received noncustodial sentences and restrictions. Three imprisoned Atajurt members reportedly suffer from serious health conditions and require appropriate and urgent medical care.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 93.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Berik Nogayuly Assylov

14 Mangilik El Avenue, Astana

010000

Republic of Kazakhstan

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Embassy of Kazakhstan in the United States

Ambassador Yerzhan Ashikbayev

1401 16th Street, NW,

Washington DC 20036

Email: washington@mfa.kz

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am concerned about the criminal prosecution and imprisonment of **19 Nagyz Atajurt members** who were convicted and sentenced for participating in a peaceful protest in November 2025. The activists were calling for the release of a Kazakhstani citizen detained in China and exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Eleven activists received prison sentences, some of which were suspended, eight were handed non-custodial restrictions on their freedom, and all had three-year restrictions placed on political activities upon completion of their sentences.

The convictions of the Atajurt members send a chilling message to civil society in Kazakhstan and undermine the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

I am particularly concerned about several imprisoned Atajurt members whose health has reportedly deteriorated in detention. **Tursynbek Kabi** suffers from severe hearing loss and chronic pain, **Batyrbek Baigazy** has severe visual impairment and urgently requires eye surgery, and **Yerbol Nurlybayev** suffers from a serious kidney disease requiring specialist treatment.

I urge you to do everything within your power to ensure that the convictions and sentences of all 19 Atajurt members are overturned, and that those imprisoned are immediately released. Pending their release, I urge you to ensure that Tursynbek Kabi, Batyrbek Baigazy, and Yerbol Nurlybayev are provided with immediate and appropriate medical care. I also call on you to ensure that all restrictions imposed on the Atajurt members in Kazakhstan are lifted and that they can continue their peaceful human rights activities freely and without any reprisals.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Atajurt (also known as **Nagyz Atajurt - Real Fatherland**) is a human rights movement that documents and publicizes cases of human rights violations of ethnic Kazakhs, Uyghurs, and other Turkic minorities in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). The movement and its members have faced repeated pressure from the Kazakhstani authorities, including arrests, administrative detentions, and criminal prosecution.

This current case stems from a peaceful protest held on November 13, 2025 near the Kazakhstan-China border in the Almaty region. The protesters, many of whom were ethnic Kazakhs originally from XUAR, called for the release of a Kazakhstani citizen detained in China since July 2025. The activists were initially subjected to administrative sanctions, including fines and short-term detention. However, shortly afterwards, and following a diplomatic complaint from the Chinese consulate in Almaty, the authorities opened a criminal investigation against all 19 participants under Article 174 of Kazakhstan's Criminal Code for allegedly "inciting ethnic or national discord".

On April 13, 2026, the court in Taldykorgan found all 19 defendants guilty. Eleven activists received five-year prison sentences, while eight others were sentenced to "restriction of freedom", a non-custodial sentence that places individuals under state supervision and limits various aspects of their daily lives. All 19 activists were additionally prohibited from engaging in public or political activities for three years upon completion of their sentences. On June 9, 2026, the activists' convictions were upheld on appeal.

Several imprisoned activists' health has reportedly deteriorated while in detention. **Tursynbek Kabi** suffers from severe hearing loss caused by torture including beatings he experienced while detained in Xinjiang in 2018. He also experiences chronic pain, mobility problems, and requires hearing aids. Supporters have said that requests for his release from prison to house arrest on health grounds were rejected. **Batyrbek Baigazy** suffers from severe visual impairment and urgently requires ophthalmological surgery. **Yerbol Nurlybayev** suffers from a serious kidney disease affecting both kidneys and requires specialist medical treatment.

Two women defendants were spared immediate imprisonment because they have young children. One of them is **Nazigul Maksutkhan**, an Atajurt activist and human rights defender. During the proceedings, Nazigul was pregnant and was initially placed under house arrest. Following her conviction, her prison sentence of four years and eight months was deferred and changed to a non-custodial sentence to care for her child.

The prosecution of the Atajurt 19 has taken place against a broader backdrop of pressure on Atajurt members, supporters, and their relatives in Kazakhstan. In April 2026 the authorities had prevented relatives of imprisoned Atajurt members from traveling to the capital Astana for a meeting at the U.S. Embassy.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Kazakh, Russian, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: October 19, 2026

NAME AND PRONOUN: Tursynbek Kabi (he/him), Batyrbek Baigazy (he/him), Yerbol Nurlybayev (he/him)