

# Kyrgyzstan to Reopen Case of Murdered Journalist

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BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Kyrgyzstan's highest court has overturned a murder conviction in the case of a prominent journalist who was shot in 2007, and it ordered a new investigation in the killing.

Supreme Court spokesman Baktybek Rysaliyev said Monday that the verdict that led to the sentencing of a drug trafficker for the murder of Alisher Saipov had been overturned.

Rysaliyev said the case will be sent for review to a court in Osh, where Saipov was killed.

Saipov, who was 26 at the time of his death, edited a newspaper that harshly criticized neighboring Uzbekistan's authoritarian policies.

He also worked for U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Voice of America.

Many analysts and activists believe that Saipov was targeted by Uzbek security services.

Saipov was a member of Kyrgyzstan's sizable ethnic Uzbek minority.

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