

Fugitive Kyrgyz Ex-Leader Gets Long Jail Term

By [The Moscow Times](#)

February 12, 2013

The  Moscow Times

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — A Kyrgyz court sentenced fugitive former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev to 24 years in prison for abuse of office and handed a life term to his brother for murder and other crimes.

The verdicts, announced Tuesday, give the authorities legal grounds to resume demanding the ex-president's extradition from Belarus.

Bakiyev was granted political asylum by Minsk after crowds seized his government headquarters in an April 2010 revolt in which about 90 people were killed when security forces opened fire on opposition protesters.

Belarus, run by the authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, has repeatedly rejected Kyrgyzstan's demands to extradite him.

The garrison military court of the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, which tried Bakiyev in absentia, said in a statement that he had been found guilty of abuse of office and inflicting grave damage to the state as a member of a criminal group. It gave no further details.

Bakiyev's brother Zhanysh, who headed his security service and has also been reported to be hiding in Belarus, was sentenced by the same court in absentia to life imprisonment for kidnapping, premeditated murder and other grave crimes.

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