

Slain Kyrgyz Journalist's Family Takes OSCE-Appointed Lawyer

The family of Kyrgyz journalist Gennady Pavlyuk has a new lawyer recommended to them by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service reports.

Akmat Alagushev, the head of the nongovernmental Media Commissioner Institute in Kyrgyzstan, has agreed to represent Pavlyuk's family following a complaint to the OSCE from Pavlyuk's wife, Olga, about lawyer Galina Dadabaeva.

Pavlyuk, 51, died in hospital on December 22, six days after he fell from a high building in Almaty with his hands and feet bound.

Some Kazakh media quoted police sources saying there were indications that three Kyrgyz secret service officers were involved in his death. But Kyrgyz secret service officials have accused the Kazakh media of disseminating false information.

Kyrgyz Interior Minister Moldomusa Kongantiev said today that the involvement of Kyrgyz citizens in Pavlyuk's murder has not been confirmed. He added that Kazakh investigators who came to Kyrgyzstan to investigate the case last week returned on January 23.

Meanwhile, the head of the NGO Citizens Against Corruption, Tolekan Ismailova, told RFE/RL that Pavlyuk's family and friends will mark 40 days since his death on January 30.

Pavlyuk, an ethnic Russian, was the founder of the "White Steamer" newspaper and website and had worked for the newspaper "Vecherny Bishkek" and the Russian weekly "Argumenty i fakty."

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