

Sughd court rejects appeal for changing the restraint measure imposed on him

The Sughd regional court has upheld the decision of the Sughd prosecutor's office to arrest the head of the Khujand KVN team Khairullo Mirsaidov.

"The Sughd regional court has rejected our appeal for changing the measure of restraint imposed on Khairullo and releasing him from custody for the period of the investigation," Mirsaidov's relatives told *Asia-Plus* in an interview.

Khairullo Mirsaidov, was put under custody on December 8. The Sughd prosecutor's office has instituted criminal proceedings against him under the provisions of four articles of Tajikistan's Penal Code.

According to the press center of the Sughd prosecutor's office, Mirsaidov face charges of embezzlement or misappropriation of state funds (Article 245, Part 4), inciting national racial, regional or religious enmity (Article 189, Part 2), document forgery (Article 340, Part 1) and false denunciation (Article 346, Part 2).

The charges brought against Mirsaidov carry up to a total of 21 years in prison under Tajikistan's Penal Code.

Khairullo Mirsaidov last month applied to the President of Tajikistan, Prosecutor-General Yusuf Rahmon and Sughd Governor Abdurahmon Qodiri, asking them to pay attention to problems facing the Khujand-based KVN team because of some corrupt officials in the Sughd province.

KVN (a Russian abbreviation for the Club of the Funny and Inventive People) is a Russian-speaking humor TV show and competition where teams compete by giving funny answers to questions and showing prepared sketches, that originated in the Soviet Union. The program was first aired by the First Soviet Channel on November 8, 1961. Eleven years later, in 1972, when few programs were being broadcast live, Soviet censors found the students' impromptu jokes offensive and anti-Soviet and banned KVN. The show was revived fourteen years later during the Perestroika era in 1986, with Alexander Maslyakov as its host. It is one of the longest-running TV programs on Russian Television.

During the Perestroika era, KVN spread to Russian expatriate communities around the world. In 1992 the Israel team tested the waters playing against the CIS team. The game was an unquestionable success and more international games on a highest level followed: the CIS team visited Israel, Germany and USA. The culmination was in 1994 with the First KVN World Festival in Israel with 4 teams (USA, Israel, CIS and Germany).

<https://news.tj/en/news/tajikistan/laworder/20171219/sughd-court-rejects-appeal-for-changing-the-restraint-measure-imposed-on-him>