

## KYRGYZSTAN

### Muslim

#### **Imam Rashod KAMALOV**

**Age:** 37 years

**Place of residence:** Kara-Suu

**Date and place of arrest:** On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Charges:** Inciting religious hatred and disseminating extremist materials

**Statement of defendant:** He denies the accusations.

**Articles of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Criminal Code Article 299 (Incitement of National, Racial, or Religious Enmity, [a] actions aimed at the incitement of national, racial, or religious enmity, abasement of human dignity, and also propaganda of exceptionality, superiority, or inferiority of individuals by their attitude to religion, national, or racial belonging, if these acts have been committed in public or with the use of mass media, shall be punishable by a fine in the amount of one hundred to five hundred minimum monthly wages or by arrest for a term of up to six months, or deprivation of liberty for a term of one to three years; [b] the same acts committed with the use of violence or the threat of violence, by a person through his official position, or by an organised group shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of three to five years)

**First court decision:** On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015, he was sentenced to five years in prison. On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015, the prosecutor of the Osh Region appealed the verdict and asked the court to consider a stricter punishment.

**Last court decision:** On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, he was sentenced to ten years in high security prison.

**Other information:** He is the Imam of Al-Sarahsiy Mosque in Kara-Suu. He gave a sermon, which was recorded and in which he talked about caliphates. The prosecution used it as evidence that Kamalov was trying to incite people to create a caliphate in Kyrgyzstan.

*Source:* <http://www.eurasianet.org/node/74671> , <http://enews.fergananews.com/articles/2945> , <http://enews.fergananews.com/articles/2909> , <http://enews.fergananews.com/news.php?id=3105> , <http://www.eurasianet.org/node/72116> , <http://bit.ly/2sf3rJy> , <http://bit.ly/2rUyd9F> , <https://globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/cases/case-of-imam-rashod-kamalov/> <http://enews.fergananews.com/articles/3020>