
**KYRGYZSTAN'S FIRST PRESIDENT AKAYEV ASKS FOR FORGIVENESS OVER KUMTOR,
FLIES BACK TO RUSSIA**

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After a week in Kyrgyzstan, the countrys first (and first ousted) president returned to Russia. Askar Akayev, who ruled Kyrgyzstan from 1990 to 2005, made a surprise return to the country in early August for the first time since being overthrown. Akayev flew from Moscow to Bishkek on August 2 to cooperate with the Kyrgyz governments investigation into the Kumtor Gold Mine.

In early July, the head of Kyrgyzstans State Committee for National Security (SCNS), Kamchybek Tashiev, said that the government had added Akayev and Kyrgyzstans other exiled ousted president, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, to the growing list of wanted persons in connection to corruption at mine.

Akayev issued a video statement on August 8 in which he asked the Kyrgyz people for forgiveness.

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