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<http://www.rsf.org/independent-newspaper-editor-held-26-01-2012,41769.html>

Europe/Ex-USSR - Kazakhstan

Media harassment

Independent newspaper editor held by security agency

26 January 2012

Reporters Without Borders is outraged by the detention of **Igor Vinyavsky (Игорь Винявский)**, the editor of the independent newspaper *Vzglyad*, since 23 January and calls for his immediate release.

Arrested in Almaty at the end of a series of raids on the offices of several independent news media, Vinyavsky has been charged under article 170 of the criminal code with distributing leaflets calling for the government's overthrow. The charge carries a possible five-year jail sentence.

Mikhail Sizov, the editor of *Alga*, an opposition newspaper that was also searched, was questioned for the entire day on 23 January by the Committee for State Security (KNB) before being released.

Vzglyad has not been able to publish since the raids because all of its computers were seized. Vinyavsky's personal computers were also seized during a search of his home on the evening of 23 January. An Almaty court is due to decide tomorrow whether he is to remain in custody.

Harassment of independent journalists has been mounting since a violent crackdown on [rioting oil workers in the western city of Zhanaozen](#) on 16 December. Members of a crew working for *Stan TV*, an independent TV station, were detained for an hour in Zhanaozen on 11 January. Two days later, 15 *Stan TV* employees – almost all of the station's staff – were summoned to KNB headquarters for interrogation.

They were questioned about their coverage of the Zhanaozen riot although none of *Stan TV*'s staff were in the city on the day it took place. The station was however one of the first news outlets to broadcast video footage filmed by netizens showing the police using violence against demonstrators.
