



## Country Report – Kazakhstan January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Overall rating	Sub-Ratings		1	2	3	4	5
	2  Moderate	Political situation	2				
Terrorism		3					
Crime		2					
Health / Natural Risks		2					
Risk Rating: 1: Low; 2: Moderate; 3: Significant; 4: High; 5: Very High							

### General situation

<b>Overall</b>	<b>President: Nursultan Nazarbayev (since April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1990)</b>
	<b>Capital town: Astana</b>
	<b>Total population: 17,544 million of residents in 2015</b>
	<b>Official language(s): Kazakh, Russian</b>
	<b>Time zone(s): UTC +5, +6</b>
	<b>International code: +7</b>
	<b>Emergency contacts: Police: 102 (mobile phone), 112 (landline) / Emergency: 103</b>
<b>Economic data</b>	<b>GDP: 184.388 billion USD in 2015</b>
	<b>Currency: Tenge (KZT)</b>
	<b>Exchange rate: 1 euro = 352,13 KZT at 2017/01/10</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Passport: Should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months</b>
	<b>Visa: Mandatory for stays exceeding 15 days.</b>
	<b>Vaccination: None specified</b>

### Political situation

At the head of a presidential regime, which is often described as authoritarian, President Nursultan Nazarbayev enjoys since 1990 authority mainly based on the concentration of powers and a firm stand against the opposition. During the April 3rd, 2011, early presidential election, Nursultan Nazarbayev was re-elected with more than 95% of the votes. However, all of the international organizations that monitored the election expressed strong criticism of the ballot. During the parliamentary elections of January 15th, 2012, the President's party won 83 out of 107 seats, and the latter was re-elected at the early elections in April 26th, 2015 with, according to the official count, 97.7% of the vote and a turnout of 95%.

- The coexistence between the Kazakh majority and the Russian minority (23% of the population), mainly concentrated in the north, remains a sensitive issue and a potential cause of social tensions....
- ...
- The country's economy strongly relies on revenues from the production of oil and gas, which account for about 30% of GDP. In fact, Kazakhstan is credited with the second unexploited oil potential in the world (after Iraq). Furthermore, the launching of the Kashagan project (in the northern part of the Caspian Sea) in September 2013 shows the willingness of the Kazakh state to further invest in the oil and gas sector. However, the launching of the project was much delayed from the following month because of technical and ecological problems....

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## Terrorism

The terrorist threat is not as acute in Kazakhstan as in other neighbouring Central Asian countries.

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- ....
- Since 2016, the country has been confronted with an increase of the incidents that are qualified of "terrorists" by the authorities. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, several attacks have targeted a base of the National Guard and arsenals in Aktobe (Oblys of Aktobe, West), during which 18 people were killed and among 30 were wounded. The 1<sup>st</sup> of July, security forces have led anti-terrorist operations in Balkhach and Goulchat, in the Oblys of Karagandy (centre), and prevented a terrorist attack against the Russian military base "Balkach-9". On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, an anti-terrorist operation was led in the centre of Almaty (Oblys of Almaty, Southeast), following an attack against police forces (5 dead, including 3 policemen, and several wounded), bringing the authorities to temporarily increase the level of anti-terrorist alert at its maximum (red).
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## Crime

The crime rate has increased throughout the country as the gap between the minority benefiting from the petrodollars and the rest of the population has widened since independence and the economic liberalization.

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## Calendar

### Major events

- **December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016:** Anti-terrorist operations in Almaty, Aqtobe and Atyrau: at least 16 persons arrested.

### Upcoming events

- **January 29<sup>th</sup> – February 8<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Winter Universiades in Almaty, reinforcement of security and counter-terrorist measures are to be expected.

## Regional situation

**Astana:** Central neighbourhoods are relatively safe, due to a consistent police presence. The new capital is mainly affected by petty crime, touristic sites being the most sensitive...

**Almaty:** ...

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### Legend

■ Bas

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■ Très élevé



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## Southern Kazakhstan: ...

Finally, several areas are restricted to foreigners and require a specific transit permit:

- A portion of the border between the provinces of Zhambyl and Almaty, more specifically between Kulzhabasy (about 10 km West of Otar) and Gvardeisky (Southwest);
- Bokeyordinsky and Zhangalinsky districts in the Western part of the country;
- Priozorsk and Gulshad cities in Karaganda Province (Centre);
- Baikonur city and the Karmakshinsky and Kazalinsk districts, in Kyzyl-Orda Province (South);
- More generally, some regions located along the border with China (East) are subject to restrictions regarding the presence of foreigners and travelling there is not recommended.

## Health/Natural Risks

### Health risks

The presence of several types of dangerous diseases warrants particular caution.

### Natural risks

Seismic risk is particularly high in Almaty, which is located on a seismic fault line. The last major earthquake, however, dates back to 1911.

## Recommendations

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