

# NOT IN OUR NAME

Project Bios

*Project of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty*

## NOAH TUCKER

Noah Tucker, Executive Editor for Not In Our Name, is Senior Editor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Uzbek Service, known locally as Radio Ozodlik, and an associate at George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs Central Asia Program. He was previously Managing Editor at Registan.net and a researcher for the multi-year Harvard/Carnegie Islam in Eurasia Project. He has worked on collaborative projects to identify the way social and religious groups affect political and security outcomes, and headed a team that tracks social media use by Uzbek violent extremist organizations and their effect on the Uzbek-language internet. His most recent publications include *Islam, Society and Politics in Central Asia*, edited by Pauline Jones (University of Pittsburgh Press 2017) and "The Evolution of the Uzbek Jihad" in *Constructing the Uzbek State: Narratives of Post-Soviet Years*, edited by Marlene Laruelle (Lexington 2017). Noah has an MA from Harvard in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, and has spent a total of five years living and working in the region, primarily in Uzbekistan.  
[paperlab.kz](http://paperlab.kz)

## SERIK BEISEMBAYEV

Serik Beisembayev, Lead Project Moderator and Design Consultant for Not In Our Name, is a PhD candidate in sociology at Astana's Eurasian National University, focusing on issues of violent extremism, nationalism and public policy in Kazakhstan. In 2015-2016, he completed an internship in the Central Asia Program at George Washington University. He has worked as a sociologist and analyst for the independent social and political research group Strategy in Astana, in addition to conducting years of sociological fieldwork, including dozens of in-depth prison interviews with convicts imprisoned on extremism charges. He is a co-founder of the expert discussion platform "PaperLab: Public Policy Research," which is dedicated to facilitating exchanges between young regional specialists on critical social and political issues.

## SUSAN JACKSON

Susan Jackson, Executive Producer for Not In Our Name, is the Director of TV and Video Production for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). She joined the company in January 2015 to launch the Russian-language TV and digital network Current Time after spending six years at VOA as an Executive Producer at the Persian News Network and the East Asia and Pacific Division. Susan joined CNN six months before the network launch, working to build the newsgathering operation. She also served as CNN Bureau Chief in Dallas, Texas and Seoul, South Korea. In addition to numerous domestic U.S. postings, she has worked and lived in Cairo and Hong Kong.

## ASEL MURZAKULOVA

Asel Murzakulova, Deputy Editor and Producer for Not In Our Name, is a sociologist focusing on Central Eurasia, with extensive career experience in academic, government, international, media and nongovernment organizations in the region. Asel is currently a senior research associate at the University of Central Asia in Bishkek. She was previously a visiting research fellow at the Davis Center at Harvard University, and completed a research fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. She has received a Diderot FMSH IFEAC Scholarship for postdoctoral studies at France's National Center for Scientific Research, and the Medal of the Polish National Education Commission for her contribution to the development of civic education. Asel is the founder of Mongu, a media project hosted by AKI Press, devoted to the discussion of new research related to critical social issues in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.  
[mongu.akipress.org](http://mongu.akipress.org)

## MOHAMMAD TAHIR

Muhammad Tahir is the Media Relations Manager for Central Asia for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), based in Washington, D.C. He is the host and editor of RFE/RL's acclaimed weekly podcast about Central Asia, Majlis, and the bi-weekly podcast, AfPak File, produced in cooperation with the Wilson Center. He was previously the director of RFE/RL's Turkmen Service, known locally as Radio Azatlyk, and bureau chief in Afghanistan and Pakistan for Turkey's IHA Television news agency. He holds a Master's degree in Communications from LaSalle University, and is fluent in most of the regional languages in South and Central Asia.

## JOANNA LEVISON

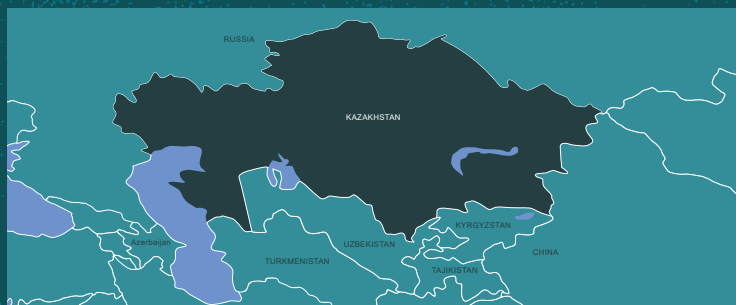
Joanna Levison is Director of Media and Public Affairs for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), with over 25 years of experience in international media relations and democracy promotion. Based in the company's Prague headquarters in the Czech Republic, she is responsible for media promotion, public outreach, journalists' advocacy, and fellowship programs. Before joining RFE/RL in 2009, Joanna worked as a foreign policy officer for Iraq and the Middle East in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State. She previously worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, managing programs in the former Soviet Union, and consulted for the International Republican Institute. She has an M.A. in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



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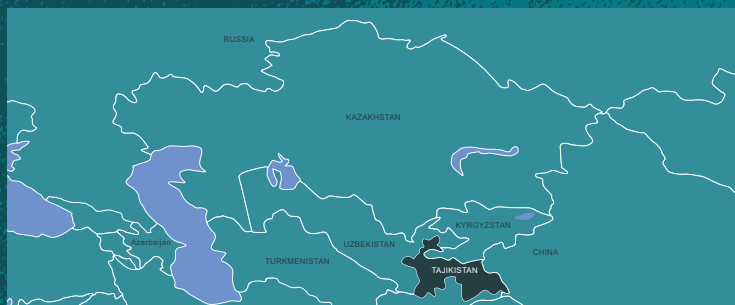
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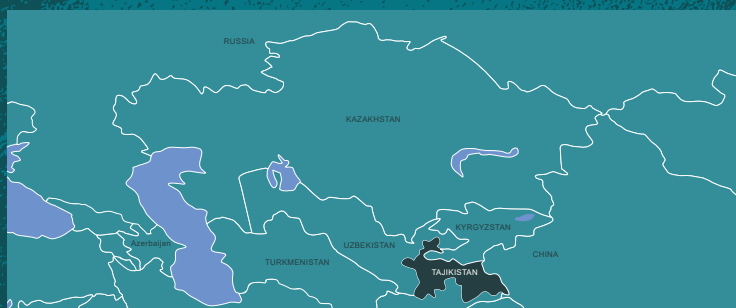
## | KAZAKHSTAN PRODUCER

**Zhuldyz Tuleuova** joined RFE/RL's Central Asia News Wire as the Kazakhstan editor in 2016. After starting her journalistic career in 2000, she has worked for the Kazakh international newspaper *Turkestan*, and private Channel 31. She was the editor of the video portal *Stan KZ*, and a Kazakh language producer for the privately-owned regional channel *K-Plus*. In 2014, she was awarded a grant from the Soros Foundation multimedia school's "Imedia Project," to support independent reporting in Kazakhstan. Tuleuova writes about current socio-economic and political issues in Kazakhstan. She is a graduate of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and is pursuing continuing education programs in traditional cultures and psychoanalysis.



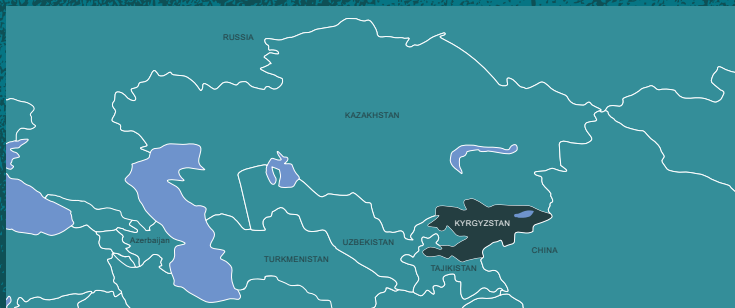
## | TAJIKISTAN PRODUCER

**Lola Olimova** is the Program Manager/Senior Editor for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting's (IWPR) Tajikistan office. Olimova is a professional journalist with many years of experience in the field. She began her journalistic career as a broadcaster on Tajik National TV, and worked as chief editor of the Russian service of the *Khovar* State News Agency. Before joining IWPR in what year? , Olimova was editor-in-chief of the socio-political weekly publication *Business and Politics*. She was chair of the Department of International Relations of the Russian-Tajik Slavic University in Dushanbe from 2005 – 2006, and specializes in journalism and skills training for media professionals. (<https://cabar.asia/en/>)



## | TAJIKISTAN ASSISTANT PRODUCER/MODERATOR

**Orzu Karim Bedimogov** is a correspondent for RFE/RL's Tajik Service based in Tajikistan's southern Khatlon province near the border with Afghanistan; he joined the company in 2015 after working for the BBC. He also has worked for Tajikistan's national television and radio service, and the Iranian state radio station, *Sadoi Khuroson*. Over the course of a 10-year career, Bedimogov has focused on challenges to the country's development, reporting on women's lives, radicalism and other sensitive topics. In 2014, he won the Institute for War and Peace Reporting's national journalism competition for his reporting on the role of the media as an instrument of democratization in Tajikistan. Bedimogov is a member of the National Association of Mass Media in Khatlon and is the organizer and chair of Tajikistan's first media workers' union.



## | SOUTHERN KYRGYZSTAN PRODUCER/MODERATOR

**Ikbolzhon Isakov** is an independent consultant for international organizations in the Ferghana Valley with more than 10 years of experience in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social, business and media projects. He is widely consulted for projects promoting alternative and counter narratives to radicalism and violent extremism on social networks and has worked to implement programs sponsored by Search for Common Ground, International Alert, UNICEF and George Washington University's Central Asia Program among others. He lives in Aravan, Kyrgyzstan and works throughout the southern Batken and Osh regions. His current activities are focused on the creation and promotion of media products to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in Central Asian countries.