**“Sorry, you get a fine.”**

在这个国家，外出庆祝生日会收到罚单。

Firusa Khafizova is a pop star in the Democratic Republic of Tajikistan. Recently she got fined (罚款) 5,000 somoni ($530) for celebrating her birthday **in the company of** friends outside her home. She broke one of Tajikistan’s most special laws — “Regulation of Traditions and Customs in the Republic of Tajikistan”. According to the law people mustn’t celebrate their birthdays in public places. They can only celebrate them at home. It was reported that 648 people were fined for breaking this unusual law in 2018 alone and in total 3 million somoni ($325,000) was fined in these cases.

The law was introduced in 2007. It **sets** strict **limits on** the number of guests and dishes allowed at weddings, funerals (葬礼) and birthdays. Tajikistan is probably the only country in the world where celebrating a birthday outside the family home isn’t allowed.

It seems the special ban (禁令) is not welcome among the people who like to have a birthday party outside their homes. Many of them have used social media (网络社交媒体) to express their displeasure with the ban, thinking it interferes (干涉) in their private lives. However, the government doesn’t think so. In its eyes, banning public celebrations encourages people to spend their money on the needs of their families rather than on unnecessarily expensive birthday parties. Also it’s a useful way to stop families from going into debt (债务) to host huge events.

1. in the company of ... 在……的陪伴下          2. set limits on ... 对……加以限制