



United States Mission to the OSCE

Intervention on Uzbekistan

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 22, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This morning we would like to join the European Union in expressing our concern about the deaths in custody of Mr. Kamalodin Djumaniyozov and Mr. Nodirgon Zamonov.

We understand that Uzbek authorities have launched an investigation into the events surrounding these deaths. We look forward to receiving more information on these cases.

We welcome the initial actions that the government of Uzbekistan has taken in response to these events; open, thorough, independent investigation where those responsible are held accountable is in our view, the best way to proceed.

We also welcome the recent amnesty of prisoners, but at the same time urge the government to issue a list of prisoners released. We note our disappointment that independent journalist Ruslan Sharipov was not included in the amnesty, nor has there been a credible investigation into allegations of torture during his trial.

As the representative of the European Union presidency has already noted, we all very much welcomed last year the Uzbek invitation to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture.

We strongly urge Uzbekistan now to adopt a final Action Plan on preventing torture with concrete steps to be enacted in a stepped-up timetable to be monitored by a high-level government official. We support the efforts of the OSCE Center in Tashkent to assist the Government of Uzbekistan's in addressing this serious issue. The United States too, stands ready to assist Uzbekistan in carrying out the recommendations of the Rapporteur.

Full implementation of those recommendations, and prompt appropriate responses by the government to other cases of deaths in custody, will send a signal about Uzbekistan's seriousness in addressing the issue of torture.

Thank you.