



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Killing of Journalist in Kyrgyzstan

As delivered by Political Counselor, Samuel C. Laeuchli
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 1, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States condemns the brazen murder in the city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, of Alisher Saipov, a promising and brave young independent journalist. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife and child.

We welcome the Kyrgyz Republic's investigation into the murder and we trust that the authorities will pursue the investigation in a thorough manner. We call on other governments in the region to render all necessary cooperation to the Kyrgyz authorities to help track down those responsible for this killing and bring them to justice. We share the concerns of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media about the status of journalists in the region. Journalists and free media are essential to a democratic and open society. Any attempts to intimidate them or silence their voices cannot be tolerated. Resolute action is needed to protect the lives and safety of journalists throughout the OSCE area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.