



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Russia and on the Situation in Kyrgyzstan

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Special Permanent Council, Vienna
April 8, 2010

First I'd like to ask your forbearance and take the opportunity to thank the Chair for taking time in the first session to pay tribute to the innocent victims of terrorism in Russia, and once again send our deepest condolences to the people of Russia after the terrible loss of life and injuries resulting from the bombings on the Moscow Metro and in Dagestan. And I'd like to reiterate that the American people stand united with the people of Russia in opposition to violent extremism and heinous terrorist acts that demonstrate such disregard for human life, and we condemn these outrageous acts.

Regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan the United States is deeply concerned about reports of civil disturbances and we deeply regret the loss of life in Kyrgyzstan. We hope there will be a full investigation and accountability in any incidents of death or mistreatment.

We have reached out to government and civil society leaders to urge calm, non-violence and respect for the rights of citizens especially under emergency situations.

I should also note, Mr. Chairman, that the United States Government has strongly endorsed the April 6 statement of Secretary General Ban calling for restraint and immediate dialogue aimed at lowering tensions. We also recognize and support the OSCE's important role in promoting security and stability throughout the OSCE region and encouraging all sides in Kyrgyzstan to exercise restraint, avoid violence, and protect the human rights of the Kyrgyz people.

To this end, we commend the Chair for their swift and decisive action to appoint a Special Representative, Mr. Karibzhanov, for the situation in Kyrgyzstan. As we have discussed in the Corfu Process, the CiO has a wide range of expertise to draw upon in the OSCE Secretariat and institutions, who can provide support for the Special Representative. We note that the OSCE Centre in Bishkek has been working effectively on the ground to monitor and provide very informative reports on the fast-breaking situation on the ground in Kyrgyzstan and helping facilitate a peaceful outcome.

We urge all parties to show respect for the rule of law and resolve differences in a peaceful, orderly, and legal manner. We steadfastly support the territorial integrity of the Kyrgyz Republic and continue our firm support for the people of Kyrgyzstan.