

Disposition of Remains Report 2010 (Tajikistan)

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements.

Part I.

Republic of Tajikistan

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

109A Ismoil Somoni Avenue
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Telephone: +992-37-229-2000
Consular Direct Line: +992-37-229-2300

Facsimile: +992-37-229-2050
Emergency after hours: +992-98-580-1032; +992-37-229-29-50 or +992-98-580-50-04

E-mail: DushanbeConsular@state.gov

[Web-site](#)

[Country Specific Information](#)

[Register With the U.S. Embassy](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors.

Country Profile/Host Country Religions: Of ethnic groups, Tajik make 74%, Uzbek 23%, Russian and others 3%. Religions are Sunni Muslim 95%, Shi'a Muslim 3%, and other 2%. (From [Background Notes](#))

Religious Activities for Visitors: Tajiks are mostly Muslim or nominally Muslim but there are Baptist, Adventist, Korean Pentecostal, Catholic, German-speaking Catholic, and Russian Orthodox churches in Dushanbe. There are also weekly Catholic, Protestant, and non-denominational Protestant services in English in Dushanbe. (From [Post Reports On Line](#) (Intranet) :

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country:

Capacity of morgues and mortuary professionals: There is shortage of refrigerators and space at Tajik morgues and quality of morticians' services is significantly below those in the United States. For example, in the capital city of Dushanbe, remains are mostly taken to the Medgorodok hospital morgue, which serves both Dushanbe and nearest districts. Remains of only three persons maximum could be stored in Medgorodok morgue refrigerators and the space at the morgue is severely limited otherwise.

There are only two refrigerators at Dushanbe Qarabolo hospital morgue, which go out of order periodically; therefore, normally, remains are transferred to the Medgorodok morgue from Qarabolo hospital after a day. There are also four refrigerators at the Republican forensic center in Dushanbe, which are normally used only for the bodies for which a forensic investigation is being conducted at the forensic center. The morgue of the Russian military hospital, which the embassy used in the past, has been relocated from the Russian military hospital to the building of the Tajik Ministry of Defense hospital in the 46th district of Dushanbe (behind Sultoni Qobir market). The pathologist working on a contract basis for the Russian military hospital and the Tajik Ministry of Defense morgue has one refrigerator, in which remains of two persons could be stored. He has agreed to provide services, including embalming, in case of emergency.

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Dushanbe, Tajikistan assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers. The prices listed below are estimates only and are subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations

DUSHANBE CITY MORGUES/MORTICIANS/FUNERAL COMPANIES:

Medgorodok hospital Morgue, Studencheskaya St. (near Medgorodok hospital), Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Head: Tamara Sergeevna,
Work: 992-37-224-22-98;
Cell: 992-93- 402-27-12

Mortuary services prices:

Cold storage:	from TS10 (\$3)/day
Ablution, dressing:	TS150 (\$35)
Formalin masque	TS50 (\$12)
Wooden coffin	TS350 (\$81)

The morgue serves Dushanbe and nearby districts. The morgue can also arrange for the zinc coffin and transportation crate and transportation to the airport but there is no set price for these services.

Qarabolo hospital Morgue, Block 15, 59 I. Somoni Ave., Dushanbe, Tajikistan

C/o head physician: Abdullo Pirovich Pirov,
Work: 992-37-236-15-10

Remains are normally transferred from Qarabolo hospital morgue to Medgorodoh hospital morgue due to the shortage of space/refrigerators at Qarabolo.

Republican forensic center, 17 Chapaev St.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Director: Islom Manonovich Khalimov,

Work: 992-37-227-55-03,

Cell: 992-918-68-38-37.

There is a morgue with four refrigerators at the center. However, there are no set prices for services at the morgue because it is mostly used for cold storage of remains for which forensic investigation is under way.

Russian military hospital/Tajik Ministry of Defense Morgue,

1, 40 Let Pobedy St.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Expert: Vladimir Alexandrovich Agafonov,

Cell: 992-918-62-78-48

Mortuary services prices:

Cold storage: from TS43 (\$10)/day

Ablution, dressing: from TS44 to TS1,625 (from \$10 to \$372) depending on whether sutures are put on wounds or head deformations are liquidated;

Embalming: TS707 (\$162)

Autopsy: from TS284 to TS1,415 (from \$65 to \$324) depending on whether it was a natural or violent death or death of infectious disease)

“Hizmat Ritual” funeral company, 60, Druzhba Narodov St. (Russian & Jewish cemeteries)

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Director’s cell: 992-93-501-93-00

The company does not provide storage or embalming services. This is the office for arranging local interment. It can also arrange for transportation from a morgue to Dushanbe airport and for a zinc casket and crate.

Part V. Profile of services available in Tajikistan regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

(1) Maximum period Before Burial of Remains: Tajik law does not specify the maximum time limit for disposition of remains. However, according to their internal instructions, due to the shortage of space and working refrigerators, the Republic of Tajikistan Forensic Center and most Tajik morgues keep unclaimed bodies for only a week before the burial has to take place in an especially assigned pauper’s grave at the expense of the Tajik state. Identification numbers should be attached to each body so that it could be identified later if it

becomes necessary. The Forensic Center keeps found separate unclaimed body parts until it is determined which person it was and find the entire body. If the case is under investigation, the office of judicial inquiry determines when the body can be buried. According to Moslem customs, deceased people are usually buried within one day (often taken to a cemetery directly from home without being taken to a morgue). For a fee, morgues can keep identified bodies for a longer period of time but after a period of about four days, the open casket funeral may hardly be possible;

(2) Embalming: embalming is not required under Tajik law either for burial or for exportation of remains, and, in accordance with the local customs, is generally not performed. In cases of violent death, which are under investigation, a body may not be embalmed. In any case, embalming may be performed only with the permission of the Chief of Forensic Center and investigation agencies (they need to be sure that the person didn't die of poisoning because embalming may make it impossible to find the poison in the body afterwards). Only one type of embalming (via injection of a solution of 50 percent formalin and 50 percent alcohol, which can preserve the body for maximum up to 10 days) is available at morgues, including those at "Medgorodok" hospital (Dushanbe City Hospital #5), "Qarabolo" hospital (Dushanbe City hospital #3, Corpus 15), and the Tajik Ministry of Defense hospital. Note: lack of supplies may make it difficult to obtain this service. Also, even after embalming, remains may be not in the condition for open casket funeral in the United States then. There are no fixed prices for embalming (the prices in Para 6 are based on the price list provided by the Russian military hospital in Dushanbe).

(3) Autopsy requirements: an autopsy is required; however, forensic experts may take the deceased's relatives' wish into consideration. An autopsy has to take place regardless of the relatives' wish if the cause of death was unknown or in case of violent death. An autopsy is normally not performed for elderly people over 80, who died of natural cause. In all other cases, if the cause of death is natural, a pathologist-anatomist does the autopsy and issues a medical certificate explaining the cause of death. In case of a violent death or death under unknown circumstances, the case is referred to the Prosecutor's office and forensic medical experts do the autopsy and issue the medical certificate. When remains are to be transported overseas, a Tajik customs official should be invited to the autopsy and to closing of the coffin so that they can issue a certificate confirming that there are no forbidden enclosures (e.g. narcotics) in the body or in the coffin.

(4) Cremation: while cremation is legal in Tajikistan, there are no facilities available in the country for this purpose;

(5) Caskets and Containers: when the remains of a deceased person are to be transported out of Tajikistan, the remains are placed in a zinc casket, which is welded shut. The zinc casket is then placed in a wooden coffin. It is also possible to place the remains in a

wooden coffin and place the wooden coffin in a zinc casket. The wooden and zinc coffins should then be placed in a crate for shipment.

Ask a morgue employee for the coffin dimensions when remains are taken to the morgue. The maximum dimensions for the shipment crate for a bigger TU-154 plane are length 220 cm, width 100 cm, and height 80 cm. For a smaller TU-134 plane they are: length 200cm, width 65 cm, and height 60 (the general rule is that the smaller the crate is the better because the size of a TU-134 plane door itself is just height 97 cm, width 75 cm and of TU-154 plane is height 145 cm and width 135 cm). Ready-made zinc caskets are not always available at Tajik morgues or other Tajik facilities. Medgorodok hospital morgue or “Hizmat Ritual” company can try to arrange for a ready-made zinc casket and shipment crate; however, there is no set price (the price is to be agreed on when the casket provider is found). Zinc is scarce and it may be necessary to hire a private welder, who can construct the zinc casket. Private welders can be found at “Hizmat Ritual” company at the Russian/Jewish cemetery in Dushanbe: **“Hizmat Ritual” funeral company, 60, Druzhba Narodov St. (Russian & Jewish cemeteries) Dushanbe, Tajikistan**
Director’s cell: 992-93-501-93-00

(6) Preparation/mortuary service/local interment costs: Charges are based on the exchange rate of May 14, 2010: \$1.00 = T.S.4,3682 (local currency).

There is no fixed cost for burial. Plots of land need to be purchased for local burial (15 Somoni for a 2x2 meters land plot); all services (including digging the grave, installment of the fence around the grating around the plot, transportation to the cemetery, etc.) are paid for separately in addition to the cost of the land but the state authorities will bury destitute persons in a pauper’s grave free of charge. There is no standard cost for retrieval of remains from an area in the countryside and transportation to Dushanbe. Large portions of Tajikistan are inaccessible from October to May in the best of times and bad conditions of roadways may make transportation of remains particular difficult.

Approx.

Type of service	Cost in Somoni (local currency)	Cost in Dollars	Service provider
Transportation of a body to the morgue	TS40	\$10	Tajik ambulance
Acceptance of remains at the morgue	TS10	\$3	Medgorodok hospital morgue
Cold storage/keeping remains in morgue	TS10	\$3	Medgorodok morgue

refrigerator (per day)	R300/TS43	\$10	Russian military/Tajik Ministry of Defense morgue
Autopsy/forensic examination of remains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - natural death; - violent death; - infectious disease; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R2,000/TS284; - R4,000/TS568; - R10,000/TS1,415; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$65; - \$130; - \$324; 	Russian military/Tajik Ministry of Defense morgue
Embalming	R5,000/TS707	\$162	Russian military/Tajik Defense Ministry morgue
Formalin masque (to preserve face)	TS50	\$12	Medgorodok morgue
Ablution (washing) and dressing of the body	TS150	\$35	Medgorodok morgue
	from R300 to R11,500/ from TS44 to TS1,625	From \$10 to \$372 (depending on whether sutures are put on wounds on face or head deformations are liquidated)	Russian military/Tajik Ministry of Defense morgue
Wooden coffin	TS300	\$69	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
Zinc coffin	TS1,311	\$300	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery

Wooden coffin and shipment crate	TS857	\$196	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
Welding of zinc coffin	TS437	\$100	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
Total for wooden and zinc coffins and shipment crates	TS2,604	\$596	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
	- Price to be agreed on	Price to be agreed on	Medgorodok morgue
Transportation (car) from morgue to the cemetery	TS150	\$35	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery invites a private driver
Transportation (car) from morgue to the airport	TS219	\$50	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery or morgue can invite a private driver
Digging of grave at the cemetery and land plot	TS400	\$92	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
Funeral wreath (each)	TS70	\$16	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
Monument/identification sign at cemetery (made of iron)	TS150	\$35	“Hizmat Ritual” company/Russian cemetery
Tajik death certificate	TS2.60	\$0.6	ZAGS (Civil registry office)
Authentication of death certificate by Tajik MFA	TS43.7	\$10 (10 working days)	Tajik MFA
	TS87.4	\$20 (up to 3 working days)	

Local burial of remains (max. approx.): **\$1,075.**

Preparation of remains for shipment (max. approx.): **\$1,617.**

(7) Exportation of Human Remains:

Tajikistan has few destinations, which are routinely flown by planes large enough to carry a casket as cargo. Tajikistan does not have direct flights to the United States. Only twice a week (currently on Mondays and Thursdays), there are Turkish Air flights to New York and Chicago via Istanbul; however, the casket will need to be transferred from one plane to another in Istanbul (Turkish Air asks to be notified of the shipment at least three days before the flight). From Dushanbe, there are also daily Tajik Air flights to Moscow; to Almaty five times a week; weekly Somon Air flights to Frankfurt and to Dubai; and Baltic Air flights to Riga twice a week.

Dushanbe airport Commercial Warehouse (Chief: Tojiddin Yusufovich Khojiev, tel. 992-37-226-80-33 or 449-42-71) should be contacted in advance to obtain the airway bill and invite a Tajik customs representative. A casket is usually brought to the airport commercial warehouse five hours before the flight. Tajik Air requires that an escort accompany the casket on the flight out of Tajikistan (the escort must purchase his own ticket); under very limited extreme circumstances, Tajik authorities might allow to send the shipment without an escort when they are certain that the casket will be met upon arrival of the flight from Tajikistan.

For the exportation of remains, Tajik law requires the following documents and procedures:

a) Enclosure of the remains in a zinc casket and wooden coffin;

b) Death certificate issued by the Tajik ZAGS (State Civil Registration Office) and authenticated by the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Department (Note: ZAGS death certificate is issued on the basis of the medical findings of the doctor (if a person died in a hospital, the chief of hospital department or head physician signs the medical death certificate; if a person didn't die at a hospital and a hospital cannot provide a medical death certificate explaining the cause of death, forensic experts investigate the cause of death and issue the document on the basis of the deceased person's passport. In case of an accident or a violent death, a document from the prosecutor's office of the district where the death occurred may be also necessary). Please note that the ZAGS death certificate should be also submitted to the Consular Section for issuance of the Consular Report of Death.

Tajik MFA Consular Department, 12 Bohtar St. (behind VEFA Center), Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Authentication Unit tel: 992-37-221-43-77

Shohmansur District ZAGS, 1 Dehlavi St.
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
tel: 992-37-221-89-74; 992-37-227-07-27

Firdavsi District ZAGS, 1 N. Qaraboev St.
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
tel: 992-37-234-39-26; 992-37-233-94-76

Sino District ZAGS
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
tel: 992-37-237-35-46

Sughd Region ZAGS, 45 Nabiev St., Khujand
tel: 992-3422-6-04-49

Khorog (GBAO) ZAGS
tel: 992-3522-246-93

c) Passport of the deceased;

d) Transit permit, i.e. a certificate from the Sanitation-Epidemic station of the district where death occurred or from the Republican Sanitation-Epidemic station confirming that the deceased was not infected with a contagious disease (Head physician of the **Republican Sanitation-Epidemic station**, Samariddin Partoevich Aliev, tel. 992-37-227-49-47 or 227-82-13);

e) Tajik customs officials' clearance: a Tajik customs official must be invited to the morgue when the casket is being closed and welded. The customs official must note on the airway bill that the casket contains only the remains and there are no other enclosures in the body or in the coffin. Contact/go to **Dushanbe airport Commercial Warehouse** (Chief: Tojiddin Yusufovich Khojiev, tel. 992-37-226-80-33, 449-42-71) to invite a customs representative.

f) Transit label affixed to the outer container (gives pertinent info on the diseased, contacts in the United States and shipment details);

g) Letter addressed to Customs and Immigration officials at transit point(s) to explain that the remains are being sent via their country due to the lack of direct flight connections between Tajikistan and the United States; **plus, according to the U.S. entry and exit requirements for remains, the following documents must be also attached:**

h) Consular Mortuary Certificate (to facilitate U.S. Customs Clearance),

i) Affidavit by the Local Funeral Director (to confirm that the casket contains only the remains of the diseased and the necessary clothing; may also contain a

statement that no forbidden enclosures were made when the autopsy and embalming were done),

j) Although not required by the Tajik law, an embalming certificate from the morgue/mortician must be attached if required by transit countries and by the United States (according to 7 FAM 259.1, when religious beliefs or other circumstances prohibit embalming, U.S. Customs will generally permit the entry of un-embalmed remains in a hermetically sealed container only if the cause of death was not from a *quarantined* disease). All of the above-mentioned documents will be attached to an airway bill and sent with the remains.

(8) Shipment (air freight) costs: Charges are based on the exchange rate of May 14, 2010: \$1.00 = T.S.4,3682 (local currency) and €1.00=T.S.5,5232. Remains are transported as cargo. The approximate weight of remains and casket is 200 kg. The airport charges fees for shipment according to the diseased person's age: for children under 12, the fee is charged for 100 kg; for adults for 200 kg of weight. For cost of transportation of remains of a child under 12, the numbers in the table below should be divided by two. The payment is made at the airport cashier's or airlines' office.

Dushanbe to	Rate/kg	Total dollars (adults)	Total Somoni (adults)	Total Euro (adults)	Flights available	Airlines
Moscow	€1.2/TS6.63	\$304	TS1,326	€240	daily	Tajik Air
Almaty	€1/TS5.52	\$253	TS1,104	€200	5 times a week	Tajik Air
Istanbul	€7.2/TS39.77	\$1,821	TS7,954	€1,440	twice a week	Turkish Air
New York/JFK (via Istanbul)	€10.4/TS57.44	\$2,630	TS11,488	€2,080	-	Turkish Air
Chicago (via Istanbul)	€10.4/TS57.44	\$2,630	TS11,488	€2,080	-	Turkish Air
Frankfurt	€2.2	\$556	TS2,430	€440	once a week	Somon Air
Dubai	€1.5	\$380	TS1,657	€300	once a week	Somon Air

Riga	250% of ticket cost	\$1,140			twice a week	Baltic Air
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Approximate total cost of preparation and shipment:

- from Dushanbe **to the East Coast via Moscow: up to \$7,900;**
- from Dushanbe **to the East Coast via Almaty: up to \$4,000;**
- from Dushanbe **to New York or Chicago via Istanbul: \$4,247.**

Please refer to the disposition of remains reports of the U.S. embassies in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Germany, UAE, and Latvia for further information. Prices can increase if remains are transported within Tajikistan. For example, the cost of transporting remains from Khujand to Dushanbe is \$130 (\$0.65per 1 kg of weight). For transportation of remains from Khorog to Dushanbe, a special flight is requested (a request for the plane should be submitted to the head of Tajik Airlines).

AIRPORT AND AIRLINES CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dushanbe airport cashier

tel: 449-47-33

Dushanbe airport flight information

tel: 449-42-33, 449-42-06, 221-19-66

Tajik Airlines

Director General Alimurod Mahmataliev

tel: 992-37-221-32-83; 221-69-56; 221-22-47

Somon Air

tel: 640-40-59; 640-40-50; 640-40-52

Turkish Air

Chief Abdulla Ateshoglu

tel: 441-07-99; 441-07-20; 441-07-21; 701-15-01

Baltic Air

tel: 992-37-227-10-55; 227-94-44

(9) Exportation of Human Remains/Ashes: There is no crematorium in Tajikistan.

(10) Exhumation: Local law does not place a time limit on exhumation (in theory, remains can be exhumed even after 10 or 20 years); however, the permission of the Tajik Prosecutor's office is required to exhume any remains and representatives of the prosecutor's office as well as a forensic expert must be present during the exhumation. The shipment of exhumed remains requires

the documents and procedures listed in Para 7 above and the written approval of the Prosecutor's office. There is no established price for exhumation, as foreigners are not usually buried in Tajikistan and exhumations are generally undertaken only in connection with criminal investigations by the Prosecutor's office and the police.

(11) Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, and Memorial Services: Cases of non-natural deaths or deaths under unknown circumstances are reported to the police and are normally subject to autopsy performed by forensic experts. If a person died at a hospital, the hospital department chief or head physician provide a medical certificate explaining the course of the death. If a person didn't die at a hospital, forensic experts investigate the cause of the death and issue a medical certificate on the basis of the deceased's person's passport; depending on the circumstances, the case may be also referred to the police and a statement of the police may be required for the morgue to pick up the remains. In case of an accident or a violent death, a document from the prosecutor's office of the district where the death occurred may be also necessary. On the basis of the hospital medical certificate or forensic experts' medical certificate and the deceased person's passport, a Tajik ZAGS (Civil Registry Office) issues the actual Tajikistan death certificate required for shipment of remains from Tajikistan.

Republican forensic center, 17 Chapaev St.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Director: Islom Manonovich Khalimov,

work: 992-37-227-55-03,

cell: 992-918-68-38-37

In Tajikistan a burial in a grave is the most common way of disposition of remains. Since the majority of the population is comprised of Muslims, deceased people are usually buried within one day. As a rule, a funeral procedure includes a burial and a wake according to the local religious traditions.