



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Kyrgyzstan

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 2, 2010

We regret that, after a lengthy summer break, we have made little actual progress on deploying the Police Advisory Group. We are grateful for the updates provided today by Ambassador Salber and Ambassador Imanalieva, which help clarify the existing challenges and offer some thoughts on how to proceed. We continue to support the PAG as envisioned in our PC Decision last month and hope the Kyrgyz authorities will move expeditiously to sign the pending Memorandum of Understanding as proposed by the CPC.

We also appreciate the hard work by Markus Mueller, the head of the PAG, and we look forward to hearing further updates on his current round of consultations in Bishkek and Osh. We know he is ably backed up by the OSCE Center in Bishkek and the Strategic Police Matters Unit. Along those lines, we are also pleased in this connection to welcome Mr. Knut Dreyer, the new head of the SPMU, and we look forward to continuing our close collaboration with him and his team.

The United States remains deeply concerned about the ongoing tension between ethnic groups in the South (Osh and Jalal-Abad) and the government's response to those tensions. We are actively working with the Government and non-governmental actors in the Kyrgyz Republic to ease tensions and enable rebuilding and a return to normal life. However, we note with concern an item in the most recent Bishkek Spot Report that said a group of Uzbek residents in Osh were summarily informed by the local authorities, without warning, that they must demolish their houses in the next three weeks, at their own expense, to make way for a new road. The Spot Report speculates that this could aggravate what is an already tense and fragile security situation. Such dislocations would also add to the area's significant humanitarian needs just before the onset of winter. We urge the government in Bishkek and the local authorities in Osh to work urgently to avoid further provocations and displacements, especially in the coming weeks leading to Parliamentary elections in early October.

The United States continues to urge a full and transparent investigation into the violent events in Osh and Jalal-Abad in June, complemented by an international inquiry by a credible international body. We studied with great interest the August report by Human Rights Watch. We appreciate the continued work -- of great importance to Kyrgyzstan and elsewhere -- by HRW and other professional NGOs examining human rights issues, and we believe thorough Kyrgyz and international investigations are a necessary and timely follow-up to their efforts.

We continue to anticipate eventual full deployment of the Police Advisory Group, although we understand it is unlikely to occur prior to October's Parliamentary elections. We hope, however, that the national and local authorities will be prepared to proceed expeditiously following those elections. We strongly believe the original mandate of the PAG is essential to stability and safety in the South. In addition, we remain supportive of ways in which the work of the OSCE Center in Bishkek can be further strengthened to respond to additional requirements. We believe it is essential that the OSCE continue to look creatively for ways in which it can offer the utmost of assistance and support to the people of Kyrgyzstan.