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**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 December 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

We shall certainly convey to our capital the concerns that have been raised by a number of delegations.

For our part, we should like to recall the tragic events that took place in the south of my country in June of last year and the fact that Mr. Azimzhan Askarov was detained on 16 June 2010 and was officially charged on 17 June with organizing mass disturbances, calling for the overthrow of the government, inciting ethnic hatred and killing a member of the internal affairs authorities.

The Bazar-Korgon District Court sentenced Mr. Askarov to life imprisonment. The Dzhahalal-Abad Regional Court, meeting following an appeal by the defendants, on 10 November 2010 upheld the sentence of the lower court. A guilty sentence was handed down against seven other accused in addition to Mr. Askarov.

The lawyers for the accused appealed the decision to a higher court. However, at the request of Askarov's defence attorney the trial was postponed on 8 February 2011. Under a ruling by the court, a commission was formed, which again carefully studied the conditions under which the prisoners and those under investigation were held in temporary solitary confinement in the Dzhahalal-Abad region of the country. In this connection, delegations of representatives from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights were granted direct access to the place where Mr. Askarov was being held.

On 20 September 2011 a meeting was held by the judicial chamber for criminal cases and administrative infractions of the Kyrgyz Supreme Court. Having listened to the arguments put forward by the participants in the trial and after carefully studying the relevant materials, the judicial chamber of the Supreme Court upheld the rulings of the lower courts.

It should be noted that the judicial process took place in an open fashion, with the participation of representatives of international and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of Kyrgyz and foreign media. Specifically, the trial was attended by international observers from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights, the OSCE, the United Nations Development Programme, Freedom House, the embassy of the United States of America, the European Union, and the International Commission of Jurists. The trial was covered by Radio Azattyk (the Kyrgyz service of Radio Liberty), the BBC and the Ferghana Information Agency. The non-governmental sector was represented by representatives of the “Voice of Freedom” public foundation, the human rights centre “Citizens against Corruption” and the “Kylym Shamy” public foundation.

In conclusion, we should like to draw attention to the fact that rulings by the Supreme Court are final and not subject to appeal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.