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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (15 June – 22 June)

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Reiterates Call for Andijan Investigation

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel has reiterated his call for an international investigation into the events in the Uzbek city of Andijan after the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) issued a report on the matter. The ODIHR report, issued on 20 June, presents preliminary findings on events in Andijan on 13 May, based on 44 interviews conducted with residents who fled to Kyrgyzstan in the wake of the turmoil. The report concludes that indiscriminate and disproportionate force was used repeatedly against unarmed civilians. An estimate based on the information given by the refugees would indicate that 300-500 people may have been killed. "However, as long as there is no international investigation, with access to Andijan, we do not have the full picture of what took place on 13 May," OSCE Chairman-in-Office Rupel stressed.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Concerned Over Uzbek Asylum Seekers

LONDON - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel voiced concern on 14 June about four Uzbek asylum seekers who have been sent back to Uzbekistan by the Kyrgyz authorities. Rupel called on the international community to demand information from the Uzbek authorities whether the four persons were awaiting trial. In case they are facing long-term imprisonment, the OSCE mission in Tashkent should be allowed to be present at the trial, Rupel said in London.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and British Foreign Secretary on OSCE Activities

LONDON - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel met British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on 14 June. Reviewing the OSCE's role in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Rupel and Straw agreed on the necessity to conduct an independent investigation of the events in Andijan. Touching on Kosovo, Rupel welcomed the report on conditions in the province by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, which was discussed at the council of EU foreign ministers on 13 June in Brussels. Rupel concluded his visit with a speech on the role of the OSCE in Central Asia at the Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office: Security Depends on Effective Multilateralism

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel stressed the role of effective multilateralism in dealing with global security threats as he addressed the students of advanced security studies at the George C. Marshall Centre for European Security Studies on 15 June. He stressed that "the provision of national security depends on cooperation with other countries and particularly on the efficiency of international organisations". He added that while the OSCE was the largest regional security organisation under the UN Charter, it was only one of the players in the security network. He therefore believes its relevance depends on its "ability to adapt and find niches for contributing to international security".

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Welcomes Pledged Donations for Kyrgyz Police Programme

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel on 16 June welcomed pledges by four OSCE members to provide rapid support for the organisation's police assistance programme in Kyrgyzstan. The US, Norway, Belgium and France said they would make available EUR 670,000 to support the programme, which is aimed at ensuring stability in the Central Asian state, especially in the run-up to the presidential election scheduled for 10 July.

Stability in Kyrgyzstan only Superficial, Says Peterle

LJUBLJANA - Stability in Kyrgyzstan is only superficial, Alojz Peterle, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia, said on 17 June after returning from the region. However, he is hopeful that the 10 July presidential election will be calm and fair despite the tensions. Speaking to the press in Ljubljana, Peterle expressed his belief that the candidates would respect the "gentleman's agreement" concluded on 13 June with OSCE mediation that commits the candidates to a fair election campaign.