



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Kazakhstan's Refusal to Review the Case of Yevgeniy Zhovtis**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
April 29, 2010

The United States was profoundly disappointed to learn on April 26 that the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan declined to review the case of noted human rights defender Yevgeniy Zhovtis.

The United States was dismayed when Mr. Zhovtis was sentenced to four years' imprisonment last September, after a trial marked by procedural anomalies and an apparent lack of due process.

We have repeatedly called upon Kazakhstan to provide a full and impartial review of the trial in Mr. Zhovtis' case, honoring both the letter and the spirit of our shared OSCE commitments. We were repeatedly assured here in Vienna, in Washington, and in Astana that Mr. Zhovtis' case would be handled justly and fairly. The Supreme Court's decision does not reassure us in this regard.

While Mr. Zhovtis' status as a well-known figure does not entitle him to special treatment, neither should it result in what can be perceived as unfair treatment, which some have interpreted as an effort to silence him.

We again call on Kazakhstan to carry out a fair and transparent procedural review of Mr. Zhovtis' case.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.