



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Uzbek Refugee Lutfullo Shamsitdinov

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 14, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We welcome Kazakhstan's decision to allow Lutfullo Shamsitdinov and his family to travel to a third country.

The U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan worked closely with Kazakhstan officials to ensure Mr. Shamsitdinov and his family were granted protections due under international law.

Mr. Shamsitdinov is a well-known human rights defender from Andijon, Uzbekistan and was an eyewitness to the events that took place there on May 13.

Mr. Shamsitdinov was detained by Kazakh authorities at the request of the government of Uzbekistan on July 4, 2005 and placed in custodial detention.

The United States remains committed to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including free speech and public assembly, and supports those who avail themselves of these internationally protected freedoms.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.