



**DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE  
at the 915th meeting of the Permanent Council  
7 June 2012**

**Any other business**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like briefly inform you on two events that in our opinion deserve the attention of the Permanent Council.

1. The **Fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions took place on May 30-31 in Astana**. The forum which was held under the theme “Peace and concord, as the choice of mankind” was attended by some 90 delegations from 40 countries, including religious leaders, public figures, and international organizations. The OSCE was represented by Ambassador Adil Akhmetov, Rabbi Andrew Baker and Judge Ms.Catherine McGuinness, 3 Personal Representatives of the CiO on tolerance issue as well as by Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, the ODIHR Director and his team.

The Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions established at the initiative of President of Kazakhstan has become a platform to exchange views on developments in global interfaith dialogue and turned into an effective tool uniting representatives of different religions.

The Congress concluded with an appeal emphasizing the role of dialogue among religions and cultures aimed at enhancing mutual respect, understanding and co-operation among believers of different religions, peoples and states for the common good of humanity. The text of the appeal was distributed under the reference number SEC.DEL/167/12 on 1 June 2012.

2. Furthermore, I would like to brief the Permanent Council on the **recent trials related to the disturbances in Zhanaozen**.

Let me underline, that the Office of the Prosecutor-General conducted a thorough and methodical investigation, interviewing 1,149 potential witnesses and gathering 2,277 witness reports. Investigators have reviewed hours of footage and first hand reports and more than 200 forensic tests have been conducted to establish a full

account of events. The materials of the relevant criminal proceedings consist of 93 volumes, while the indictment comprises 391 pages.

In order to ensure the transparency and openness of the trials of the suspected rioters and officials, as well as comprehensive and objective consideration, the court provided special facilities, including an anteroom with a live video feed of the proceedings, to allow additional space for interested parties, including relatives of the victims and defendants, representatives of human rights organizations and international observers. The court also provided briefings of the proceedings following each day's event.

37 people were charged with organizing and participating in violent disturbances in Zhanaozen. 45 witnesses gave testimonies. A total of 100 people (owners of buildings and cars) were recorded as victims.

On 4 June, the Aktau City Court announced the following verdicts for 37 defendants: three people acquitted; five - were; sixteen received suspended sentences; thirteen received real sentences from 3 to 7 years of imprisonment.

As you might have seen from the previous spot-report, on May 28, the Aktau Interregional Criminal Court sentenced five high-ranking police officers to five to seven years of imprisonment for exceeding their authority and using weapons which led to grave consequences during the disturbances in Zhanaozen on 16 December 2011.

Also, on 26 May, the Zhanaozen Court convicted three former managers of the Kazmunaigaz and Munai Ecology state companies to seven and eight years of imprisonment with the confiscation of property for the embezzlement of funds.

Currently, a jury trial of Zhanaozen's former mayor who is charged with the abuse of power and corruption is still continuing in Aktau.

All defendants have the right to appeal from the judgement or lodge a protest within 15 days to the appeal board of the Mangistau Regional Court.

The Kazakh official authorities made every possible effort for the trials to be held in an open and transparent manner. The trials were observed by domestic and international observers, including diplomatic corps, as well as by representatives of non-governmental organizations, mass media and public experts.

Thank you for your attention.