

ENGLISH only



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Upholding of Yevgeniy Zhovtis' Conviction

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Casey Christensen
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 22, 2009

The United States notes with concern that on October 20 the Almaty Oblast Court upheld last month's troubling conviction and sentencing to four year's incarceration of Yevgeniy Zhovtis. Serious allegations of procedural irregularities and apparent lack of due process left the impression that the trial was tainted and the appeal has not corrected this impression.

We urge the Kazakhstani government to reassess the case consistent with Kazakhstani law and its commitment to international standards on rule of law. This case continues to be watched closely by the international community as Kazakhstan prepares to take over the chairmanship of the OSCE.

Thank you, Madam Chair.