

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

ENGLISH only

**AS DELIVERED**

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY YVES BEAULIEU, DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION  
CURRENT ISSUES: ON THE SITUATION IN KAZAKHSTAN  
900<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
2 FEBRUARY 2012**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to come back to an important point raised last week about the situation in Kazakhstan. You will recall that my delegation reserved its right to come back to this issue. We have noted then, with great appreciation, the detailed response offered by the distinguished Kazakh Ambassador

Canada joins others in expressing our concern over the arrests of Mr. Vladimir Kozlov, leader of the opposition Alga party and Igor Vinyavsky, editor of the newspaper Vzglyad over their alleged involvement in events in Zhanaosen.

It is unclear to us how these individuals were involved. We would like to highlight, and welcome, the fact that the Government of Kazakhstan pledged to conduct an open and transparent investigation of these events. We are looking forward to the results of this investigation.

Canada is also concerned about the arrest of members of the opposition Social Democrat Party, Messrs. Bolat Abilov, Amirzhan Kosanov and Amirbek Togusov, during a peaceful political rally protesting Kazakhstan's January 15th parliamentary elections.

Canada strongly supports freedoms of speech and assembly and opposes any and all efforts to suppress non-violent political and social expression.

We remind the Government of Kazakhstan that it has agreed, in the OSCE and other international organizations, to uphold these fundamental freedoms. We encourage the full implementation of these commitments and we urge Kazakhstan to cooperate fully with the OSCE Centre in Astana and ODIHR to achieve this end.

Thank you – Merci.