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Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 March 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

We shall naturally pass on the concerns expressed by a number of delegations to our capital.

For our part, we should like to point out that for the last few years Kyrgyzstan has been in the process of post-conflict rehabilitation. The Government has been doing a considerable amount to maintain the stability and security of the inhabitants of Kyrgyzstan, regardless of their ethnic affiliation. There has been a systematic reconstruction of economic and social life in the south of the Republic, measures have been taken to maintain and strengthen peace and harmony in society, State bodies are being reformed and the work of the public monitoring councils as independent observers of the human rights situation in the country's law enforcement agencies is being improved.

The Republic has been transformed to a parliamentary form of government. At the end of 2011 a peaceful transfer of authority took place for the first time in 20 years with the election of a new president and the formation of a coalition government.

Major judicial reform has been commenced. The judiciary has been substantially renewed, from the judges of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court to those of the regional courts. The judicial reform is proceeding comprehensively with improved transparency and accountability to society of the law enforcement and security services as a whole.

Citizens are given the opportunity to influence the work of the public monitoring councils of the law enforcement authorities and to monitor the progress of the reforms. Human rights workers have access to pre-trial detention centres so as to ensure that detainees are not tortured, and video cameras are being installed in these establishments.

With the measures that are being taken, the incitement of inter-ethnic or inter-religious dissension or defamation and the discrediting of a particular ethnic group is completely unacceptable. Any attempt to destroy the fragile peace that has been achieved at such an incredible expense is inadmissible for my society. In this connection, I should like to

draw attention to the publication in this difficult period for all sides by the Internet site www.fergana.ru, of material criticizing the Kyrgyz people, its national particularities, culture and identity. This conclusion was reached by the parliamentary commission created specially to investigate the causes of the events of April and June 2010 on the basis of a thorough analysis of all aspects before, during and immediately after the events in June. It should be noted that other sites refrained from distributing material of this nature. The material published by the site exacerbated a situation inflamed by provocateurs that was already difficult enough without it.

Under the circumstances, Parliament recommended to the Government to take measures to temporarily block the site in Kyrgyzstan.

As instructed by Parliament, the Government carefully analysed the question and arrived at this decision in order to maintain the stability in the country that had been achieved with such difficulty.

It should also be mentioned that this question is still being attended to by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and remains on the Parliament's agenda.

The press secretary of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic issued the following statement about the situation: "The decision by the deputies to block Fergana raises questions. It does not resolve the problems it was intended to solve. It merely deprives people of access to the site. President Atambayev himself reads and sometimes quotes from the site. Even if we do not permit access to the site, it does not mean that the information does not exist. That is not the right method and could be considered a restriction of the freedom of speech. The President does not consider this to be correct."

If the further blocking of the site is not expedient it is naturally possible that the decision will be reversed. It is important to add in this regard that the decisions adopted by Parliament are guided by the opinion of the people who elected it. That being the case, the Government cannot ignore Parliament's decisions. The [fergana.ru](http://www.fergana.ru) site has only been blocked by Kyrgyz Telecom and it is generally accessible throughout the country to users of other providers.

At the same time, we must continue to work together to ensure that inter-ethnic harmony, peace and order prevail in Kyrgyzstan. This is also the key to the stable and constructive development of the country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.