



United States Mission to the OSCE
**Statement on Release of Democratic
Choice of Kazakhstan Leader
Zhakiyanov**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 19, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States also would like to welcome the January 14 release from jail by the Government of Kazakhstan of Galymzhan Zhakiyanov, the leader of the recently disbanded Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan. Mr. Zhakiyanov was freed after serving just over half of his seven-year sentence.

We are also pleased to note that approximately 30 observers were granted access without delay to the hearing for Mr. Zhakiyanov.

We urge the Government of Kazakhstan to engage Mr. Zhakiyanov and other opposition leaders in a constructive dialogue on ways to move forward on furthering democratization and ensuring free speech in Kazakhstan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.