



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

ENGLISH only

Statement
on the Preliminary Findings of the ODIHR
on the Events of 13 May 2005, in Andijan, Uzbekistan
delivered by Ambassador Jivan Tabibian
at the 560th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
June 23, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This is a very touchy subject to get into; we will avoid it, because it is one more instance of the way various standards and measures are applied or applicable depending to whom it is convenient. I only know that when a camera from a journalist is forcefully taken away during a demonstration in Armenia, we get a lot of flack. This is the OSCE.

But what I have to say has nothing to do with that. If we are sincerely worried about the fate of those asylum-seekers, refugees, people on the other side of the border, we ought not to leave Kyrgyzstan in a delicate situation, where they are caught as the phrase goes "between a rock and a hard place". They have to live with Uzbekistan next door; Uzbekistan has its own ways of pressuring them; we and the international community want to pressure Kyrgyzstan to act according to certain standards.

So, we should not really put them in a delicate position, where they are damned if they do and they are damned if they do not. If we are intrinsically worried about the fate of those people, the refugees, I recommend the countries that have the capacity to offer them asylum and to remove this irritant, or impediment, or difficulty.

But then again, first I have to be convinced that they are not being instrumentalized to put pressure here and there. If their fate is important, let's extend them real protection and relieve that pressure from Kyrgyzstan, which just happens to be, unfortunately for it, at this moment just a neighbor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.