

STATEMENT REGARDING ACCESS TO INTERNET NEWS SITES AND YOUTUBE

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, August 1, 2012 - The U.S. Embassy is deeply concerned over continued blockage of several Internet news sites and Youtube.

The United States believes that the right of individuals to express their views freely is universal, whether exercised in a public square or on the Internet. We support freedom of expression for people everywhere and call on other nations to do the same. When ideas are blocked, information deleted, conversations stifled, and people constrained in their choices, the free flow of information and the value of the Internet is diminished for all of us. We have and will continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Tajikistan.

We urge the Government of Tajikistan to respect individual rights to freedom of expression and lift its restrictions on the blocked news sites and Youtube.

<http://du107w.dub107.mail.live.com/default.aspx?n=737290612&fid=1&fav=1#n=430339853&fid=1&fav=1&mid=>