

Statement on the situation in Khorog

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, July 26, 2012 - The United States Embassy is deeply concerned by the recent violence and reported loss of life in the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan. We offer our sincere condolences for the loss of life and express our concern for the safety of civilians in the conduct of operations by Tajik authorities. We urge that all measures be taken to allow the safe evacuation of civilians from the combat zones, including foreigners currently trapped in the city of Khorugh.

Under these circumstances, we reiterate our call for Tajikistan to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the protection of freedom of expression and the free flow of information at all times. We strongly encourage Tajikistan to fulfill its international commitments by conducting transparent investigations of the incidents that have occurred in Khorugh, and guaranteeing the rights of any detainees, including access to legal counsel, humane treatment, and fair trial.

US Embassy in Dushanbe