



Ressort: Politik

## OSCE and the situation in Kazakhstan

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OSCE Chairman-in Office Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau spoke yesterday on the phone with Acting Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi. Minister Rau expressed regrets about the many victims of violence over the last week and stressed the need to uphold OSCE commitments, including those relating to human rights. Kazakhstan has been an important OSCE participating State

for many years and an active partner in Central Asia. The OSCE Chair called on all parties to act with responsibility and restraint, and to refrain from actions that could further escalate or incite violence. He offered assistance and support to the authorities and people of Kazakhstan in continuing political reforms with full respect of the OSCE commitments, including through the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan. Minister Tileuberdi presented the current information on the situation in Kazakhstan referring also to the ongoing Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) mission. He expressed the President and government's commitment to respect and follow all international obligations, including regarding human rights and fundamental

freedoms.

In January 2022, Kazakhstan challenged the insurrection that broke out on 2nd of January due to the rise in fuel prices with the military intervention of the troops of the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty) invoked by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. At least four thousand people were arrested, the deaths in the clashes were an unknown number, as the police was ordered to shoot to kill. Even the internet had been obscured in the immense former Soviet republic, a treasure trove of mineral raw materials and a crossroads of the routes of the global market and the New Silk Road.

The unrest of 2022 was among the most violent since Kazakhstan's independence more than 30 years ago and its president described the protests as a "coup attempt" as Russia claimed victory in defending its neighbor in Central Asia. Speaking at an online meeting of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that order has been restored to the vast Central Asian nation, adding that security operations will continue "until the total defeat of the uprising".

Kárim Másimov, former Kazakh prime minister, was arrested for high treason: Másimov was accused by

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the regime of an alleged organized plan to unleash the uprising that swept the country with the complicity of foreign entities.

The airport of Almaty, the former capital, is currently controlled by the Russians who, with the allies of the CSTO, manage the airlift that feeds the contingent, while there has been the withdrawal of non-essential personnel from the US consulate.

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