



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 8, 2009

Dear Ms. Watters:

Thank you for your October 22 letter to Secretary Clinton regarding the conviction and imprisonment of Mr. Andrei Zatoka in Turkmenistan. I have been asked to respond on Secretary Clinton's behalf.

The United States is pleased with the November 6, 2009, release of Mr. Zatoka; however, we remain deeply concerned regarding due process and the long-term implications of this case for the development of a robust civil society in Turkmenistan. This administration shares the international community's concerns about the human rights situation and will continue to support the work of civil society in Turkmenistan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth K. Mayfield".

Elizabeth K. Mayfield
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Democracy,
Human Rights, and Labor

Ms. Kate Watters,
Executive Director,
Crude Accountability,
P.O. Box 2345,
Alexandria, VA 22301.