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## Press release

### Kyrgyzstan: Civil Conflict

**100,000 refugees in Uzbekistan - 300,000 internally displaced people in Kyrgyzstan**

**TSF deploys a team to Kyrgyzstan**

**TSF's international Headquarters, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 -**

TSF deploys an emergency telecoms team to Kyrgyzstan to assist in the response. Within the framework of its partnership with the United Nations, the team is travelling today from TSF Headquarters to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to provide emergency ICT services to the humanitarian community in support of the current humanitarian relief operations. The objective is also to provide calling services to the displaced populations who have fled the conflict.

The official death toll in southern Kyrgyzstan rose to 179, mainly in Osh and Jalal-Abad Provinces. There are over 1,870 people injured.

It is unclear what has sparked the violence. The unrest - which broke out in the city of Osh in the evening of 10 June between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks - is the worst ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan in 20 years. The south of Kyrgyzstan is home to an ethnic Uzbek minority of almost one million.

Sporadic violence continues in pockets in southern Kyrgyzstan.



Escalating ethnic clashes have prompted tens of thousands of ethnic Uzbeks to flee the country. **An estimated 100,000 refugees from southern Kyrgyzstan have been admitted into Uzbekistan.** The Uzbekistan authorities closed the border in the evening of 14 June but reopened it on June 15 to allow passage. Some 9,000 refugees arrived from Kyrgyzstan on the 16 June.

The refugee influx has been mainly to the Uzbek provinces of Andijan, Fergana and Namangan. The highest numbers of refugees are concentrated in 48 temporary refugee camps in Andijan region. Local authorities are also opening new camps. The vast majority of the refugees are women, children and elderly people, but also men with gunshot wounds have been entering Uzbekistan.

The Government of Uzbekistan has requested international assistance.

**There are 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) in Kyrgyzstan** with 40,000 requiring shelter assistance and several concentrations of internally displaced ethnic Uzbeks in the border areas with Uzbekistan, particularly in Jalal-Abad province.

TSF deployed in 2001 to Uzbekistan to provide support during the conflict with Afghanistan.

### About Télécoms Sans Frontières

Télécoms Sans Frontières: the leading humanitarian NGO specialised in emergency telecommunications

With its 24-hour monitoring centre and relying on its operational bases in Europe, Central America and Asia, Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) crews of IT and telecoms specialists can intervene anywhere in the world in less than 24 hours. After a sudden onset disaster or conflict, they can set up in a matter of minutes a satellite-based telecoms centre offering broadband Internet, phone and fax lines. These centres enable emergency NGOs, the United Nations and local authorities to communicate right at the heart of a crisis. They also facilitate the coordination of aid efforts. In parallel, TSF runs humanitarian calling operation to offer support and assistance to affected civilians, giving them a link with the outside world from which they would be otherwise completely cut off.

Beyond emergencies, TSF is also involved in long term prevention and development projects that offer sustainable solutions to benefit local associations and structures in the most isolated and vulnerable communities.

Since its creation in 1998, TSF deployed to nearly 60 countries and assisted almost 500 relief organisations and millions of victims. In 2006, TSF became a partner of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). TSF is First Responder of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).

Télécoms Sans Frontières is also a working group member of the United Nations emergency telecoms body (WGET). TSF is a partner of the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) and a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

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