

**DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT – TAJIKISTAN  
(October, 2018)**

**Part I.**

**Name of Country:** Tajikistan

**Part II.**

**U.S. Embassy Information**

U.S. Embassy

Address: 109A Ismoili Somoni Avenue, 734019 Dushanbe, Tajikistan

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Consular Direct Line: +992-37-229-2300

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Embassy Website: <https://tj.usembassy.gov/>

[State Department Country Specific Information on Tajikistan](#)

[State Department Travel Information](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[Return of Remains of Deceased Americans](#)

**Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors**

Country Profile/Host Country Religions: Of ethnic groups, Tajik make 74%, Uzbek 23%, Russian and others 3%. Religions are Sunni Muslim 95%, Shi'a Muslim 3%, and other 2%.

Religious Activities for Visitors: Tajiks are mostly Muslim or nominally Muslim but there are Baptist, Adventist, Korean Pentecostal, Catholic, German-speaking Catholic, and Russian Orthodox churches in Dushanbe. There are also weekly Catholic, Protestant, and non-denominational Protestant services in English in Dushanbe.

**PART IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country**

**DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Dushanbe, Tajikistan assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers. The prices listed below are estimates only and are subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations.**

1) Dunyo Cargo LLC – Shipping Company  
Commercial Director –Jamshed Rizoiev  
Office: +992 44 6107002  
Cell: +992 90 0071900  
E-mail: Jamshed.Rizoiev@dunyo-llc.com  
Website: <http://www.dunyocargo.com/>

Dunyo Cargo is an accredited cargo agent to a number of airlines, which allows us to provide competitive rates and have cargo loading priority for the flights. Price list for services can be requested directly from a service provider.

2) "Hizmat Ritual" Funeral Company  
Address: 60, Druzhba Narodov St. (Russian & Jewish cemeteries)  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
Director's cell: +992-93-501-93-00

This is the office for arranging local interment in Tajikistan. Wide range of services including providing caskets, reserving a burial spot in the local cemetery, transportation services related to the funeral, arranging for the actual burial process. This firm can also provide zinc coffins for shipment. The company does not provide storage or embalming services. Languages: Russian and Tajik only.

3) Medgorodok Hospital Morgue (branch office for National Forensic Center)  
Address: Studencheskaya St. (near Medgorodok hospital), Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
Head Mortician: Svortsov, Vitaliy Nikolaevich  
Cell: +992-93- 402-27-12

The morgue serves Dushanbe and nearby districts. The morgue can also arrange for the zinc coffin and transportation crate and transportation to the airport but there is no set price for these services.

4) National Forensic Center  
Address: 79 I. Somoni Avenue, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 734025, Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
Director: Mahmasharif Sharifov  
Work: +992-37-236-9990,  
Cell: +992-900097333

This is a morgue of Qarabolo Hospital. However, there are no set prices for services at the morgue because it is mostly used for cold storage of remains for which forensic investigation is under way.

5) Qarabolo Hospital Morgue  
Address: Block 15, 59 I. Somoni Ave., Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
C/o head physician office phone: +992-37-236-15-10

Remains are normally transferred from Qarabolo hospital morgue to Medgorodok hospital morgue due to the shortage of space/refrigerators at Qarabolo. Services include storing (up to ten bodies), body washing, autopsies, embalming and transportation of body from other regions of Tajikistan to Dushanbe city (using local service vendors). The Hospital does not post service costs and needs to be contacted directly for information on charges for services.

## **PART V. Profile of services available in Tajikistan regarding preparation and shipment of remains.**

**(1) Maximum period Before Burial of Remains:** Tajik law does not specify the maximum time limit for disposition of remains. However, according to their internal instructions, due to the shortage of space and working refrigerators, the Republic of Tajikistan Forensic Center and most Tajik morgues keep unclaimed bodies for only a week before the burial has to take place in an especially assigned pauper's grave at the expense of the Tajik state. Identification numbers should be attached to each body so that it could be identified later if it becomes necessary. The Forensic Center keeps found separate unclaimed body parts until it is determined which person it was and find the entire body. If the case is under investigation, the office of judicial inquiry determines when the body can be buried. According to Muslim customs, deceased people are usually buried within one day (often taken to a cemetery directly from home without being taken to a morgue). For a fee, morgues can keep identified bodies for a longer period of time but after a period of about four days, the open casket funeral may hardly be possible.

**(2) Embalming:** embalming is not required under Tajik law either for burial or for exportation of remains, and, in accordance with the local customs, is generally not performed. In cases of violent death, which are under investigation, a body may not be embalmed. In any case, embalming may be performed only with the permission of the Chief of Forensic Center and investigation agencies (they need to be sure that the person didn't die of poisoning because embalming may make it impossible to find the poison in the body afterwards). Only one type of embalming (via injection of a solution of 50 percent formalin and 50 percent alcohol, which can preserve the body for maximum up to 10 days) is available at morgues, including those at "Medgorodok" hospital (Dushanbe City Hospital #5), and "Qarabolo" hospital (Dushanbe City hospital #3, Corpus 15).

Note: lack of supplies may make it difficult to obtain this service. Also, even after embalming, remains may be not in the condition for open casket funeral in the United States. Embalming is not a widespread practice in Tajikistan before most interments, so there are no fixed prices for embalming. Embalming is a required process if the body needs to be shipped out of the country.

**(3) Autopsy requirements:** an autopsy is required. An autopsy has to take place regardless of the relatives' wish if the cause of death was unknown or in case of violent death. An autopsy is normally not performed for elderly people over 80, who died of natural cause. In all other cases, if the cause of death is natural, a pathologist-anatomist does the autopsy and issues a medical certificate explaining the cause of death. In case of a violent death or death under unknown circumstances, the case is referred to the Prosecutor's office and forensic medical experts do the autopsy and issue the medical certificate. When remains are to be transported overseas, a Tajik customs official should be invited to the autopsy and to closing of the coffin so that they can issue a certificate confirming that there are no forbidden enclosures (e.g. narcotics) in the body or in the coffin.

**(4) Cremation:** while cremation is legal in Tajikistan, there are no facilities available in the country for this purpose. The body can be shipped directly to the United States for cremation or shipped to a third country, cremated and then shipped onwards to the United States.

**(5) Caskets and Containers:** when the remains of a deceased person are to be transported out of Tajikistan, the remains are placed in a zinc casket, which is welded shut. The zinc casket is then placed in a wooden coffin. It is also possible to place the remains in a wooden coffin and place the wooden coffin in a zinc casket. The wooden and zinc coffins should then be placed in a crate for shipment. Ready-made zinc caskets are not available at Tajik morgues or other Tajik facilities. Medgorodok hospital morgue, Dunyo Cargo LLC, or "Hizmat Ritual" companies listed above can try to arrange for a ready-made zinc casket and shipment crate; however, there is no set price (the price is to be agreed on when the casket provider is found). Zinc is scarce and it may be necessary to hire a private welder, who can construct the zinc casket. Private welders can be found at "Hizmat Ritual" company at the Russian/Jewish cemetery in Dushanbe.

**(6) Preparation/mortuary service/local interment costs:** Charges are based on the exchange rate of October 2018: \$1.00 = Tajik Somoni 9.50 (local currency). There is no fixed cost for burial. Plots of land need to be purchased for local burial (10\$ for a 2x2 meters land plot); all services (including digging the grave, installment of the fence around the grating around the plot, transportation to the cemetery, etc.) are paid for separately in addition to the cost of the land but the state authorities will bury destitute persons in a pauper's grave free of charge. There is no standard cost for retrieval of remains from an area in the countryside and transportation to Dushanbe. Large portions of Tajikistan are inaccessible from October to May in the best of times and bad conditions of roadways may make transportation of remains particularly difficult.

### **(7) Exportation of Remains**

Exportation of the body to the United States will be a costly process due to expensive air cargo tariffs. Before the body can be shipped, the set of documents listed below must be prepared. The wooden container in which a zinc coffin is placed must be sealed in an established order in the presence of a customs officer. A carpenter from a cemetery will need to be brought to the site to seal the box. The customs officer will then complete a document that the box contains only the body and nothing else. Airlines will not accept the box for shipment without such a document. The Consular Mortuary Certificate is a necessary document for this box to be allowed in the U.S. territory. The Consular Section completes this document. Necessary documents to arrange for the shipment of the body via air:

- 1) Certified copy of the deceased's passport.
- 2) Certified copy of the Local Death Certificate together with the translation
- 3) Letter from the Center of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision (original and translation)
- 4) Letter from the Bureau of Forensic Medical Expertise (original and translation)
- 5) Certificate (Act) from the Customs Official stating that only body (no other items) was placed and sealed in a zinc coffin (original and translation)
- 6) Certificate (Act) of embalming
- 7) Power of Attorney to the transportation company
- 8) Consular Mortuary Certificate

### **(8) Costs**

Tajikistan has few destinations which are routinely flown by planes large enough to carry a casket as cargo. Tajikistan does not have direct flights to the United States. Only three times a week (currently on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) there are Turkish Air flights to Istanbul. However, the casket will need to be transferred from one plane to another in Istanbul (Turkish Air asks to be notified of the shipment at least three days before the flight). From Dushanbe, there are also daily Tajik Air, Somon Air, and UT Air flights to Moscow; 3 times a week flights to Almaty by Somon Air and Air Astana; weekly Somon Air flights to Frankfurt, and two flights a week to Dubai by Somon Air and Fly Dubai; Cost may vary depending on weight, time of year and the company providing the services. Only a few private shipping companies in Tajikistan provide assistance in arranging the shipment of the body to the United States. According to information available to the Consular Section in October 2018, the cost of shipment of the body to the United States is approximately **USD4500**.

The prices for mortuary services vary and change often. The most accurate data may be obtained by contacting institutions listed in **Part IV** (above).

Approximate Mortuary services prices:

- Cold storage: from \$10/day
- Ablution, dressing: from \$10 to \$400 depending on whether sutures are put on wounds or head deformations are liquidated
- Formalin masque: 50\$
- Autopsy: from \$65 to \$350 depending on whether it was a natural or violent death or death of infectious disease
- Zinc Casket: from 450\$
- Wooden coffin: from 60\$

#### (9) Exhumation and Shipment

Local law does not place a time limit on exhumation (in theory, remains can be exhumed even after 10 or 20 years); however, the permission of the Tajik Prosecutor's office is required to exhume any remains and representatives of the prosecutor's office as well as a forensic expert must be present during the exhumation. The shipment of exhumed remains requires the documents and procedures listed in Section 7 above and the written approval of the Prosecutor's office. There is no established price for exhumation, as foreigners are not usually buried in Tajikistan and exhumations are generally undertaken only in connection with criminal investigations by the Prosecutor's office and the police.

#### (10) Autopsies

If infectious disease was a cause of death, autopsies are mandatory. Autopsies can also be done based on the decision of the district prosecutor's office. Usually the autopsies will be done in the following cases: if death occurred due to unnatural causes, including as a result of inflicted bodily harm or suicide, if death was untimely due to unknown reasons, if the body was found and if there is reason to suspect that death occurred as a result of medical malpractice. Family members can request autopsies in other cases and their written request will be required in order to complete an autopsy. National Forensic Center can perform autopsies. Tajik law requires that families contact the district police department when death occurs. If the family does not do this, the medical representative who is usually invited to document the fact of death will contact law enforcement authorities for them to determine that death occurred due to natural causes.

#### (11) Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

For the Muslim population, the death is announced immediately to neighbors, relatives and friends. All try to visit the grieving home the same day or the next day if death occurred late at night. The burial is almost always scheduled within 24 hours of death. A special prayer "Janoza" is attended by men. Only men go to the cemetery for the funeral. Relatives and friends keep visiting the family for the next three days to support them and to also recite short prayers in the memory of the deceased. These may vary by region.

The Christian population in Tajikistan may keep the body at home for more than a day but try to arrange for interment soon due to the weather conditions.

The local population rarely contacts commercial funeral services for assistance as it may be too costly. In most cases, all arrangements are made by relatives or the neighborhood committee employees.