
TAJIK NATIONALS HELD IN MOSCOW AIRPORTS AS RUSSIA TIGHTENS BORDER CONTROLS

- 29.04.2024

The Times of Central Asia (29 April 2024)

More than a thousand Tajik citizens are being held in detention facilities at Moscow airports in unsanitary conditions and without access to hot meals, Tajikistan said on Sunday, a day after the government urged its nationals to temporarily refrain from traveling to Russia unless absolutely necessary.

Over the weekend, Russia disputed Tajik claims that it is targeting people from Tajikistan, saying it is intensifying anti-terrorism measures and that more rigorous checks of foreign citizens seeking entry are carried out regardless of the nationality of the persons.

The diplomatic back-and-forth, a rare show of discord between Russia and Tajikistan, comes amid a surge in suspicion and harassment among some Russians toward Tajik citizens after gunmen attacked the Crocus City Hall on March 22, killing more than 140 people.

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