



**DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE  
at the 909th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
26 April 2012**

Excellencies,

The delegation of Kazakhstan carefully listened to the statements made by the delegation of Denmark on behalf of the European Union and the delegation of the United States and will bring their content to the attention of our authorities in Astana.

Let me briefly inform the Permanent Council about this attack.

Around 10 p.m. on 19 April 2012, Lukpan Akhmedyarov, a journalist for the *Uralskaya Nedelya* newspaper, was assaulted near his home in the city of Uralsk by unidentified assailants.

Mr. Akhmedyarov was hospitalized in the regional hospital, where he received the necessary emergency medical care. The medics determined that his assailants had inflicted eight knife wounds on him and had shot him twice with rubber bullets. Currently, Mr. Akhmedyarov's condition has stabilized, and he is expected to be transferred from the intensive care unit to the general ward.

Immediately following the attack, on 20 April 2012, the Department of Internal Affairs of Uralsk initiated a criminal case for the attempted murder of Mr. Akhmedyarov under Article 24, Part 3, and Article 96, Part 1, of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Control of the criminal investigation has been assumed by both the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office of the West Kazakhstan region.

Currently, an investigation team is carrying out operational and investigative measures aimed at finding the perpetrators and determining the circumstances of this incident.

Three young people aged between 18 and 20 years, of Asian appearance, are suspected in this crime. A photofit picture of one of the suspected criminals has been made.

Moreover, the police have guaranteed anonymity and a large monetary reward to anyone who can give information that can help to solve the crime against Mr. Akhmedyarov.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The attack on Mr. Akhmedyarov elicited a wide public resonance in Kazakh society. Top government officials and ordinary Kazakh people strongly condemned it.

The Minister of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan, Mr. Darkhan Mynbai, stated that the crime against Mr. Akhmedyarov is totally unacceptable. He wished him a quick recovery and expressed the hope that he would resume his journalistic activities soon.

For our part, we would like to encourage our colleagues to refrain from jumping to conclusions, casting aspersions on the Government and insinuating that the attack against Mr. Akhmedyarov was somehow related to his criticism of the Government.

In conclusion, let me assure you that the relevant law-enforcement bodies will spare no efforts to bring to justice the criminals responsible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.