

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



ENGLISH only
Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY FREDERICKA GREGORY, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
747TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
22 JANUARY 2009**

Madame Chair,

Canada is deeply concerned by the brutal murders of Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova last Monday in downtown Moscow in broad daylight. This is a despicable crime. We strongly condemn the murders of these and all other human rights defenders. Canada extends its full support to those within Russia who are selflessly advocating for positive change.

Mr. Markelov, Director of Human Rights Institute in Moscow and a lawyer who defended Anna Politkovskaya, and Ms. Baburova, a journalist, worked tirelessly to further the universal rights of all Russians and our deepest sympathies go out to their family and friends.

We call on Russian authorities to conduct a full and timely investigation and to spare no effort in bringing the responsible parties to justice. Unfortunately, this is not the first time human rights defenders have been the target of a fatal attack. Tragedies such as the murders of Mr. Markelov and Ms. Baburova have become a grim reality of life in some OSCE participating States.

All OSCE participating States have committed themselves to upholding media freedom, freedom of expression and a strong rule of law and we urge them to implement their commitments to the fullest extent.

Thank you - Merci