



United States Mission to the OSCE

Right of Reply to Russia on Enforced Disappearances

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Courtney Austrian
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 2, 2021

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Since my country was mentioned, I would like to exercise my right of reply. First, the United States is a country where the rule of law is paramount and where we hold those who violate the law accountable. We will continue to pursue persons that have sought to harm the United States, including hackers and arms dealers whose ranks include Russian citizens, and to work with our international partners to bring criminals to justice.

Second, while my distinguished Russian colleague has the right within this forum to raise whatever issues she wants, she hasn’t raised anything relevant to my country on the topic at hand. With respect to Guantanamo detentions, there are visits, including regular visits by the ICRC. Moreover, President Biden has made clear his commitment to closing the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.