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Delegation of Uzbekistan

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

29 July 2010

In response to the regular report by Ms. Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and gentlemen,

We have carefully studied the report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, on the work carried out during the past period.

On the whole, her report attests to the significant work accomplished within the framework of her mandate.

With regard to some individual cases, we should like to point out that the individuals mentioned in the report are serving sentences not in connection with their professional activity, but for committing specific criminal offences.

In particular, Hairullo Khamidov was convicted of possessing and distributing materials containing ideas of religious extremism, separatism and fundamentalism, as well as participating in activities of the illegal religious movement "Zhikhodchilar" and reading exhortations to "jihad", "hijrat" and the "advantages of an Islamic State"; Sali Abdurakhmanov was found guilty of illegal possession of large quantities of narcotic substances; and Dilmurod Saidov (Saiid), who has four earlier convictions, is serving a sentence for racketeering on an especially large scale, involving the manufacturing and counterfeiting of documents, stamps and seals.

Umida Akhmedova, who was sentenced by a court on 10 February 2010, was found guilty of committing crimes envisaged in Articles 139 and 140 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, but was exempted from serving the sentence on the basis of an act of amnesty of 28 August 2009.

The Uzbek side has repeatedly presented detailed information on the aforementioned individuals to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Distinguished colleagues,

Uzbekistan has established a legislative framework in the media sphere, and there are a number of non-governmental broadcast channels and print media.

Processes are under way in the country for the strengthening and development of civil society institutions and the development of independent media, which are the most important components of democratic reforms.

In recent years, there have been around 10 legislative enactments aimed directly at further democratizing and liberalizing the media, increasing their involvement in ensuring the transparency and openness of socio-political and socio-economic reforms, and introducing advanced information and communication technologies into the media sphere.

Thank you for your attention.