



United States Mission to the OSCE

Session 13: Rule of Law Right of Reply

As delivered by Ambassador Michael Kozak, Head of Delegation
at the 2017 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, September 19, 2017

The United States fully complied with all of its international and domestic legal obligations in the apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of both Mr. Yaroshenko and Mr. Bout. No evidence supports the claim that Mr. Yaroshenko was beaten or tortured, either during his detainment in Liberia or during his transfer to the United States. Yaroshenko, who speaks English, regularly sees doctors, and has voiced no complaints through official channels. Yaroshenko was tried in a court of law, in New York, in November 2011, and afforded due process.

Mr. Bout was convicted of conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and officials, attempting to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles, and of providing aid to a terrorist organization – the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In April 2012, he was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment and is currently in the U.S. Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois. His appeal was denied in 2013.

Regarding the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, we have already addressed these concerns at length.

Finally, Russian President Putin acknowledged in 2014 that Russian “service members” “in green uniform” were present in Crimea to create conditions for the referendum. That referendum was illegitimate and we reject its results.

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