



**Statement by Ambassador Oľga Algayerová
Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the International
Organizations in Vienna in response to the statement of the United States of
America at the OSCE Permanent Council
25 July 2013**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

We appreciate the US concerns about mentioned report of incident in Romani settlement in Moldava nad Bodvou in Slovakia on June 19, 2013.

Security situation in Moldava nad Bodvou has been deteriorating for longer time and increased incidence of criminal activities and offences is being recorded in this area. Consequently, there are higher numbers of police interventions here and persons from the Romani settlements are most frequently perpetrators of criminal offences including violation of public order. On June 19, 2013 the persons being searched as well as objects derived from criminal activity were supposed to be found in the concerned settlements.

After the police arrived on that day, persons living in these settlements behaved aggressively, didn't respect the repeated calls of the policemen and resisted to be lawfully brought to the police hearing. As the situation started to be divergent, coercive measures were executed pursuant to the respective Act on Police Corps. According the information available today the action was lawful and the use of force was proportionate and necessary.

The public order was finally restored, fifteen persons were arrested during the operation and one police officer was injured and he will need approximately 7 days to recover.

After the intervention, medical first aid was provided on request of the seized persons with conclusion that their injuries are not so serious to be further medically treated. The medical reports are available. Regarding injuries of mentioned one infant, the medical report is stating that the reasons for its hospitalization were not in any way related to the performed police operation.

In reaction on a 2009 case, let me underline that immediately after the incident 9 directly involved policemen were dismissed and 10 policemen were sentenced by prosecutor. This trial is still under procedure.

Dear colleagues,

Let me assure you that the Slovak government is taking systemic measures to ensure proper and effective investigation of all incidents and is also promoting good practices for building trust and tolerance between the communities and law enforcement officers.

We are also working in close contact with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its senior adviser on Roma and Sinti issues Mr. Andrzej Mirga.

In conclusion I would like to add that the Office of the Slovak government's Plenipotentiary for Roma communities is also closely monitoring these cases.

Thank you.