

3 May 2012

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Ukraine: Dnipropetrovsk Bombings – Selective Prosecutions

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 3, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the April 27 bombings in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. We stand with the people of Ukraine and offer our sympathy to the victims and their families. We join the Government of Ukraine in calling for justice for the victims of these bombings.

At the same time, we join others, including the European Union and the Russia Federation, in noting deep concern about the reported conditions of former Prime Minister Tymoshenko's incarceration and her access to medical treatment. We have received reports that Mrs. Tymoshenko is on a hunger strike and have seen the report of the Ukrainian Human Rights Ombudsman of possible mistreatment by prison authorities.

In addition to the cases of Mrs. Tymoshenko and former Interior Minister Lutsenko, former Environment Minister Heorhiy Filipchuk and former Acting Defense Minister Valery Ivashchenko have also recently been convicted in connection to allegations of abuse of office. In all, the former Prime Minister and thirteen senior officials from the previous government have been either convicted or charged in connection to allegations of abuse of office, misappropriation of funds, and other charges.

We continue to urge the Government of Ukraine to cease selective prosecutions, to free Mrs. Tymoshenko and the other senior officials of the previous government currently in detention, and to restore their full political and civil rights. This is especially critical as we look ahead to Ukraine's chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.