

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**On Abduction and Illegal Detention of**  
**Ukrainian Citizens by the Russian Federation**  
**Working Session 10, Treatment of Citizens of other States**  
*(Warsaw, 28 September 2015)*

**Distinguished participants,**

Today is a Global #FreeSavchenko Day – a worldwide campaign to protest against the illegal detention in the Russian Federation of the Ukrainian citizens Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and other Ukrainian citizens, abducted from the territory of Ukraine and illegally detained on trumped-up charges in Russia.

We reiterate that these citizens are political prisoners in Russia, who had been illegally detained for openly expressing their protest against Russian aggression and illegal occupation of Crimea.

We call upon participating States and all HDIM participants to support Global #FreeSavchenko Day on-line and off-line and send a clear message that it must be no political prisoners in the OSCE region.

We recall that when signing the Minsk agreements the Russian Federation undertook commitment to release all hostages and illegally detained persons. The cases of abducted Ukrainians fall under the provision of para 6 of the "Package of measures" of 12 February 2015. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation continues to hold them hostage.

We reiterate that the verdicts announced by the Russian authorities against illegally detained Ukrainian citizens Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko are unlawful and inhumane. They represent another proof of Russia's contempt to the norms of international law, the OSCE principles and commitments, and the Minsk agreements.

We deplore that the Russian authorities continue to ignore with determination the ample and irrefutable evidence on Savchenko's innocence provided by her defense lawyers, as well as her diplomatic immunities as PACE member, in violation of the Russia's obligations within the Council of Europe.

We urge the Russian authorities to undertake effective investigation of information on torture and other ill-treatment of Oleg Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko, Henady Afanasyev, Stanislav Klyh and others. We call on Russia to invite OSCE representatives to this investigation and court trials.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

Let me recall that in grave breach of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations Ukrainian consular officers have not been admitted to Sentsov, Kolchenko, Klyh and Karpyuk since their illegal detention for over one year now. Mr. Mykola Karpyuk, illegally detained in March 2014, didn't even have a lawyer until recently.

We urge Russia to immediately grant consular access to all Ukrainian citizens kept in custody on the territory of the Russian Federation.

**Distinguished participants,**

The Ukrainian side has repeatedly expressed its concern over the growing number of cases of arbitrary detention of Ukrainian citizens in the territory of the Russian Federation, the inhumane actions of the Russian law-enforcement officials towards Ukrainians, including practice of physical intimidation and psychological pressure.

We reiterate that unacceptable discriminatory policy towards Ukrainians in Russia has become systemic and raises a serious concern over Russia's failure to observe its OSCE commitments and international obligations.

We are deeply alarmed that the violent manifestations of extremism, xenophobia, and ethnic intolerance increasingly target Ukrainian citizens in the Russian Federation. Anti-Ukrainian sentiments and propaganda, actively fuelled by Russian media, are everyday realities in Russia, endangering the safety of Ukrainians.

There is an ever growing number of cases of flagrant discrimination, intolerance and hate crimes in Crimea under the Russian illegal occupation.

We urge Russia to take all necessary measures to prevent any acts of violence or intolerance based on ethnicity or any other biases in line with its OSCE commitments.

We see it as a matter of utmost importance that the OSCE Institutions find the tools to address the above alarming trends within their respective mandates.

Thank you.