



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 812th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 JUNE 2010

RE: MURDER OF BISHOP LUIGI PADOVESE

Thank you, Mister Chair.

The Holy See Delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Permanent Representative of Turkey, as well as to the other members of the Turkish Delegation, for their expressions of sadness and condolences over the murder on June 3 of Roman Catholic Bishop Luigi Padovese, the Apostolic Vicar of Anatolia.

We also want to thank the President of Turkey, H.E. Abdullah Gül, and the Government for their condemnation of this brutal murder.

The Turkish Authorities acted swiftly in this case, arresting a suspect. The Holy See is confident that the Turkish Authorities will continue their investigations in this case.

In recalling the late Bishop Luigi Padovese, who was also President of the Turkish Catholic Bishops Conference, Pope Benedict XVI said: *“News of his unforeseen and tragic death last Thursday surprised and shocked all of us. I entrust his soul to the mercy of almighty God, mindful of how committed he was, especially as a bishop, to interreligious and cultural understanding, and to dialogue between the Churches. His death is a sobering reminder of the vocation that all Christians share, to be courageous witnesses in every circumstance to what is good, noble and just.”*

Thank you, Mister Chair.