



**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**Statement on the Russian Federation:  
Freedom of Peaceful Assembly**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 10, 2012

The United States is troubled by the violence in Moscow during the protests on May 6 and by the arrests that have been carried out over the past four days. We are disturbed by images of the police mistreatment of peaceful protesters both during the protests and in custody. As Secretary Clinton said on Tuesday, we want Russia to fulfill its own potential and that means giving people the chance to express themselves peacefully.

At the same time we are also concerned by reports of violence perpetrated against law enforcement by a small number of protesters on May 6. We call on all parties to refrain from violence, and strongly urge the authorities to respect the fundamental freedoms of assembly and expression

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.