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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Conviction of Ilie Cazac

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 17, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States has closely followed the case of Ilie Cazac, who was convicted of high treason by a Transnistrian court and sentenced to 14 years in prison, as announced February 9. We remain concerned about the lack of transparency and due process in Mr. Cazac's case.

We have raised similar concerns about the handling of the case against journalist Ernest Vardanean, who was convicted of high treason December 16 and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Both trials fell far short of meeting international standards and failed to demonstrate local authorities' respect for transparency and the rule of law. We urge the relevant authorities to review both cases in a manner consistent with OSCE and international standards.

We look to the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue to follow these cases and to encourage respect for the human rights of all individuals and for due process under the law.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.