

PC.DEL/625/11
23 June 2011

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Uzbekistan

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE
OSCE AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2011

**In response to the statements by the European Union and the
United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 9 June 2011 the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan considered the civil case presented by the Ministry of Justice concerning the closure of the office of the international non-governmental organization (NGO) Human Rights Watch in Uzbekistan.

The NGO ignored the repeated demands by the court ordering an official representative to participate in the case. The defendant was represented in court by Mr. S. Mayorov from the lawyers' office Simay Kom.

The court hearing was attended by diplomats from the embassies of the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States of America and Switzerland accredited in Tashkent and by representatives of civil society and the mass media.

The application submitted to the Supreme Court by the Ministry of Justice was based on following violations of the law committed by the Human Rights Watch office in Uzbekistan:

- The account of the office's financial and economic activity violated the national law;
- The office failed to present to the Ministry of Justice the legalized and notarized statutes of the office or information about the activities of the parent organization in accordance with the established legal procedure;
- It uses a logo that is not properly registered in Uzbekistan;
- It failed to present accounts to the Ministry of Justice of its activities in 2008 and 2009.

These violations of the law by the Human Rights Watch office have not been rectified and the NGO is thus openly flouting Uzbek law. Repeated written and oral directives by the registration authorities have been ignored.

Considering the facts and guided by the requirements of the law, the court granted the application by the Ministry of Justice for the closure of the Human Rights Watch office in Uzbekistan and instructed the Ministry to deal with the liquidation in accordance with the established procedure.

Thank you for your attention.