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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY MS. KARINE ASSELIN, COUNSELLOR
OSCE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON VICTIMS OF TERRORISM
SEPTEMBER 13, 2007**

Canada was surprised to learn this morning that the Chechen Friendship Society could have been refused access to this Conference. This development has an important impact on this meeting. Canada, as well as many other participating States, has long supported the principle of independent participation of civil society and NGOs in OSCE meetings. This principle was the object of numerous discussions during the long process leading to the adoption of this Conference's agenda. We understand that this NGO has attended and participated in previous OSCE meetings. Canada would therefore be interested in clarification from the Chairmanship-in-Office on this issue.