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## United States Mission to the OSCE

### Statement at Session II

As delivered by Chadwick R. Gore,  
U.S. Helsinki Commission  
to the Supplemental Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of the  
Media: Protection of Journalists and Access to Information  
July 14, 2006

There is so much to say in so little time. I've heard a lot yesterday and today that I'd like to react to, but I'd like to save the real substance of what I have to say for this afternoon, and I promise I won't be too long even then.

Mr. Dilem, I wanted to let you know that I actually work for the U.S. Helsinki Commission in Washington, and one of the functions of our Commission is that we pride ourselves in advocating protection of journalists, of the safety of journalists in any and all regimes, if they are being attacked for the content of their work. For example, Orhan Pamuk in Turkey, when he was under house arrest, we were one of the first government agencies to go directly to the Government of Turkey and ask for a review of his case. If we had known about your situation, while you were asking for an intervention from your friends across the Mediterranean, you might have had an intervention from your friends across the Atlantic, because we would surely be advocates for your right to publish whatever it was that you said was appropriate.

On a more direct point on the Danish cartoon issue: There have been numerous anti-terrorist, many of them Muslim, cartoons -- anti-Muslim terrorist cartoons -- and other types of satire published in the west for years. Movies, books, satirical editorial cartoons, cartoon strips in newspapers and so on. Some people would even consider some of the op-ed pieces that have been written in western newspapers to be satirical even though they were trying to make a point. And one of the things that struck some of us in Washington, when people went to the streets in the various countries that they did over these particular cartoons, is: Why these cartoons? Why at this time? And why in those states? As Mr. Dilem pointed out, if you are in his area of the world, these aren't the kinds of things that take place spontaneously, these are fairly controlled states. They take place with the leadership of the states usually in full knowledge that they are going to take place. So there is accountability for what took place in the streets. I am not sure the cartoonist is solely responsible for what took place in the streets, particularly under these regimes.