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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  
UNDER "CURRENT ISSUES": STATEMENT ON NGO PARTICIPATION IN  
THE OSCE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON VICTIMS OF TERRORISM,  
SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2007  
680<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007**

Canada was surprised to learn the morning of the High Level Conference on the Victims of Terrorism held on 13-14 September that the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society had been denied access to the Conference. This development had an important impact on the Conference. Canada, as well as many other participating States, has long supported the principle of independent participation of civil society and NGOs in OSCE meetings, as provided for in the 1992 Helsinki Document. 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 particular NGO has attended and participated in previous OSCE meetings. Canada, like other participating States which have raised concerns, would therefore be interested in further clarification from the Chairmanship-in-Office on this issue, as well as on the intention of the Chairmanship regarding access of this reputable NGO at the upcoming Human Dimension Meeting which will open in Warsaw next week.