



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Recent Attack in the Chechen Republic, Russia, against Elena Milashina and Marina Dubrovina

As delivered by Ambassador James S. Gilmore III
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 13, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The United States condemns the malicious attack that occurred on February 6 in Grozny, Chechnya, directed against human rights lawyer Marina Dubrovina and investigative journalist Elena Milashina, who also happens to be the winner of the Department of State's 2013 *International Woman of Courage Award*. This appalling act aims to silence the few remaining voices willing to speak the truth about the human rights crisis in Chechnya. We call on Russian authorities to conduct a credible, federal-level investigation into this incident and to hold the perpetrators to account. To end the climate of impunity in Chechnya, Russia should honor its international human rights obligations and commitments, implement the recommendations of the 2018 *OSCE Moscow Mechanism* rapporteur on Chechnya, and ensure that journalists and human rights defenders are able to operate without threat of reprisal throughout all of Russia.

Further, we respectfully request that Russia provide an update to the Permanent Council and the *Representative on Freedom of the Media* on the progress of investigations into this incident, preferably by our next meeting on February 27.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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