



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Attack on Armenian Journalist

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 7, 2009

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

We share the EU's concerns about the safety of journalists and the need for vigilance by the governments of participating States to defend media workers from violence and intimidation were underscored again last week. In this instance, we have the report from Armenia of an attack and severe beating on April 30 of journalist Argishti Kiviryan, coordinator of the Armenia Today information portal. The Representative on Freedom of the Media took note of this case and of other troubling cases that preceded it.

The United States urges the government of Armenia to redouble its efforts to protect media workers and to do all in its power to investigate, apprehend, and prosecute the perpetrators of this assault and of the other still unsolved cases Mr. Haraszti cited in his press release about this incident. We would welcome progress reports from the Armenian delegation about Armenia's handling of all these cases, and hope that arrests and indictments will be forthcoming in all of them.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.