



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Shooting of Presidential Candidate Paruyr Hayrikyan in Armenia

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Gary Robbins
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 7, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

The United States condemns the shooting of Armenian presidential candidate Paruyr Hayrikyan on January 31. We are pleased to learn, however, that he is responding well to treatment and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

The government of Armenia also has condemned the attack and promised a full investigation.

Mr. Hayrikyan had the possibility to ask for a fifteen day postponement of the election, which he declined to pursue. We will follow the details of the case as it develops, and we encourage Armenia to continue to build an electoral environment conducive to peaceful, transparent, fair, and democratic elections which meet international standards.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.