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United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Russian Statement on Arrest of *Russia Today* Host

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 2, 2011

The United States thanks the Russian delegation for calling to our attention the arrest of a *Russia Today* television host in Washington, DC, on May 28. As is well known, the United States is a strong supporter of freedom of expression and, as always, we welcome discussion regarding that freedom in any participating State, including in the U.S.

According to press reports, National Park Police detained *Russia Today* television host and political activist Adam Kokesh, along with four other demonstrators, for failing to respond to police orders to halt an unauthorized dance performance inside the Jefferson National Memorial, protesting a recent U.S. court ruling upholding the National Park Police's regulation of a similar unauthorized demonstration inside the Jefferson Memorial. According to these reports, the National Park Police Chief has asked the Office of Professional Responsibility to investigate the circumstances of the arrest.

Thank you, Chair.