

OSCE Human Implementation Meeting
(Warsaw, 29 September – 10 October 2008)
Working Session: 2

Delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria

Statement in the exercise of the right to reply

The brutal attack on the editor of the investigative website *Frognews* Mr. Ognyan Stefanov, known for his series of articles on organised crime, was resolutely and unequivocally condemned within Bulgarian society.

In particular, the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted the following **Declaration** on 25 September 2008:

"On September 22nd in Sofia journalist Ognyan Stefanov was brutally beaten. The journalist has suffered disabling injuries and is in critical condition. In connection with this violent and ferocious act the National Assembly of Bulgaria has adopted the following Declaration:

1. The National Assembly denounces decisively this brutal assault upon a Bulgarian journalist and condemns all violations of the freedom of speech regardless of their guise.

2. Expresses its will to exercise the power entrusted to the National Assembly in order to rebuff by all possible means any attempts to undermine the groundwork of democracy and rule of law in the country.

3. Insists that the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for National Security should undertake urgent measures for the fastest detection of the masterminds and perpetrators of the crime. It also urges the two institutions to inform the National Assembly about the results of the investigation within a week.

4. The National Assembly expresses its full solidarity with the whole journalistic community and appeals to them to oppose in concert any attempts on the freedom of speech in our country."

A preliminary investigation has been opened, with the aim of swiftly identifying and bringing to justice both the perpetrators and the instigators of this heinous crime.

The Office of the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media will be duly informed of the course of the investigation.

30 September 2008