



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on World Press Freedom Day

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 6, 2010

World Press Freedom Day was celebrated this week on May 3. On that date, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released a statement calling a free press “essential to an empowered citizenry, government accountability and responsible economic development.” She said that wherever independent media are under threat, accountable governance and human freedom are undermined.

The full text of Secretary Clinton’s statement will be issued by our delegation through the OSCE document delivery system, however we wish to particularly point out the Secretary’s remarks honoring those “courageous journalists across the globe who risk their freedom and their lives [to] provide independent information on government actions and their consequences; report the news from conflict zones; expose crime, corruption and wrongdoing; and reveal human rights violations – all despite efforts, in some cases, by governments and others, to control what people read, hear and think.”

We are fortunate in the OSCE to have jointly created the unique institution of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. Ms. Mijatovic works to strengthen the implementation of our shared principles and commitments while also serving an early warning function and as a so-called watchdog against cases of serious non-compliance. We take this opportunity, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, to thank her and her dedicated staff for the important service that they provide to all of us – and to Press Freedom throughout the OSCE – all 364 other days of the year as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.