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United States Mission to the OSCE

Opening Statement

Delivery by Political Officer Chris Sibilla
Victims of Terrorism Conference
September 13, 2007



Mr. Chairman,

The United States learned this morning that a reputable NGO, the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society, was not allowed to register and participate in today's conference. We have fought hard for the right of peaceful NGOs to participate in such meetings. For this reason we are outraged and greatly disappointed by this decision and hereby lodge a formal protest. This decision can in no way be viewed as a precedent for the HDIM or other conferences.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.