



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Media Freedom in Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 29, 2010

The United States also wishes to voice its support for the statement issued by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic last week about the situation of the media in Ukraine.

We join with Ms. Mijatovic in her expression of support for the government's pledge to uphold media pluralism and to honor Ukraine's OSCE commitments on Media Freedom—including actively combating violence against journalists. Like the Representative on Media Freedom, we also hope that this renewed commitment will lead to the long overdue arrest and conviction of the mastermind behind the September 2000 murder of Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze. That murder took place more than ten years ago, but it is certainly not forgotten.

Like Ms. Mijatovic, we are also concerned about recent steps taken in Ukraine that have the potential to threaten media freedom. We welcome her reminder of the importance of preserving both the appearance and reality of impartiality in key positions such as the director of state television.

We welcome President Yanukovich's April 27 statement to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in which he spoke out forthrightly against any obstruction or intimidation of journalists in Ukraine, promised an investigation of any such incidents, and guaranteed the freedom of the media.

We call upon Ukraine to work with the Representative on Media Freedom in a way to ensure the development and protection of a robust and healthy media environment in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mister Chairman.