



United States Mission to the OSCE

Russia's Detention of OSCE Officials as part of its War of Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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For 27 months, the Russian Federation has detained three OSCE officials, Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov. It has subjected these OSCE officials and their families to years of distress, pain, and suffering. Russia detained them as they carried out a mission mandated by every participating State in this room, including the Russian Federation.

Russia has now given all three harsh prison sentences. We join Chair-in-Office Foreign Minister Borg and Secretary General Schmid in condemning Russia's sentencing of Vadym Golda to 14 years in prison on July 12. We call on the Russian Federation to release immediately and unconditionally Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov.

Russia must also provide the Permanent Council with information on these individuals' whereabouts and wellbeing. Russia's ongoing detention of these OSCE officials continues to raise fundamental questions about the safety and security of all international organization personnel operating in Russia and any territory it occupies.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Foreign Minister Borg, Secretary General Schmid, and the Delegation of Ukraine for their tireless efforts to secure the release of our SMM colleagues. Russia must be held to account for its detention of OSCE personnel and for its continued defiance of our shared OSCE commitments.

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