

28 July 2011

ENGLISH only



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,  
AT THE 876<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**28 JULY 2011**

**RE: ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN OSLO AND UTØYA (NORWAY)**

Mister Chairperson,

I would like to read the Message of Condolence and Solidarity for the victims of the grave terrorist acts perpetrated last Friday in Norway, that Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Holy See's Secretary of State, sent, in the name of Pope Benedict XVI, to His Majesty the King of Norway, Harald V: *"Profoundly saddened by the news of the great loss of life caused by the acts of senseless violence perpetrated in Oslo and Utøya, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI offers fervent prayers for the victims and their families, invoking God's peace upon the dead and divine consolation upon those who suffer. At this time of national grief he prays that all Norwegians will be spiritually united in a determined resolve to reject the ways of hatred and conflict and to work together fearlessly in shaping a future of mutual respect, solidarity and freedom for coming generations."*

The Holy See would like to repeat its urgent appeal to all men and women of good-will to abandon once and for all the way of hatred and violence and to flee from the logic of evil.

Thank you, Mister Chairperson.