



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Belarus on the Treatment of Detainees in the United States

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 17, 2011

We would like to thank the delegation of Belarus for raising concern over the treatment of detainees in the United States, in particular, that of Private Manning, currently in pre-trial custody in the military brig in Quantico, Virginia.

We take all allegations of “torture” and “inhumane treatment” seriously.

In Athens, we, along with the other 55 participating States, “pledge[d] to uphold the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as set forth in the Convention [against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment], to implement fully and in good faith its provisions, and to act in full conformity with all its principles” and to “consider it important to co-operate fully to this end with the applicable international intergovernmental bodies.” In this vein, we welcome international attention to these allegations, and as suggested by the Belarusian delegation, ODIHR, among other international observers, would be welcome to examine Private Manning’s future judicial proceedings.

Regarding specific allegations in the Belarus statement, we reserve the Right of Reply.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.