

Delegation of Georgia
2006 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
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A Reply to the Statement of the Russian Federation
Submitted at the Working Session #17
“Promotion of Tolerance, Non-Discrimination and Mutual Respect and
Understanding: the Implementation of OSCE Commitments (continued)”
(October 12, 2006)

Mr. Chairman

Let me thank the Distinguished Delegation of the Russian Federation for the continuous concerns over the Georgian Government's treatment of its nationals. We do appreciate the level of attention to this matter to the degree which does not allow our Honorable Russian colleagues not to refer to some bits of it at all times, including the session related to the topic in relation to which the Russian Government's record is more than alarming.

Not to mention again the highest degree of intolerance and discrimination exercised in unimaginable degree by the Russian Federation Government against *any* ethnic Georgian in Russia let me try to supply precise and correct information to our Honorable neighbors, so that they are better equipped with accurate information when trying to protect our own nationals from us next time.

Before proceeding with this, let me ask the Russian Delegation, what is usual response of the Russian State to acts of extortion and contempt on court?

The question is relevant, as the two cases of detention, aptly mentioned by the respectful Russian Delegation relate to these acts.

Mr. Kakabadze, together with other members of the Equality Institute was subjected to 30 days-long administrative detention this summer. The judge made this decision due to necessity to conduct court hearings without interruption and in order to avoid contempt on court.

This administrative detention was served in compliance with law and information on state of detainees was constantly broadcasted as the state of detainees was put under thorough public scrutiny.

This happened *in summer*. Mr. Kakabadze was fined to GEL 15, which equals to USD 8 on September 27; he was not imprisoned on that day, as inaccurately mentioned by the Distinguished Russian Delegate.

As for Mr. Ramishvili, he was sentenced by the court as a result of his attempt of money extortion. His case was as follows: Mr. Ramishvili decided to blackmail one of the then Member of the Georgian Parliament and required USD 100,000

from him. Mr. Ramishvili was detained by the Georgian law enforcers with USD 30,000 of the amount exorted.

I bag pardon to the Honorable Audience for these details, however, let me ask once again: are there no other issues on which the Russian and Georgian Governments need to talk at the session, discussion topic of which is *promotion of tolerance, non-discrimination and mutual respect*?

The question is especially important to me in the light of yesterday's statement of the Russian Delegation, which aptly explained that the ethnic Georgians are subjected to intolerant and utmost discriminatory practice of the Russian Government *because of the "Saakashvili regime" politics*.

To conclude let me ask, in the 21st century and for the civilized Government can this be a justification for intolerant policy and repressively discriminatory practice which does not seem to have an end, and to which the ethnic Georgians are exposed by the Russian Federation?

Thank you.