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Delegation of Uzbekistan

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 March 2011

**In response to the statement by the delegation of the
United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

According to the Supreme Court, on 11 March 2011, the Human Rights Watch office in Uzbekistan was sent a summons to the Court on 15 March 2011. A representative of the Supreme Court also informed the manager of the Human Rights Watch office, Ms. E. Vasileva, by telephone.

On 15 March 2011, a lawyer from the firm Simay Kom, Mr. S. A. Mayorov, submitted a letter to the Supreme Court and requested a warrant of attorney to represent the interests and conduct the case of the Human Rights Watch office. The letter contained a request to postpone the court investigation and to provide him with the opportunity to familiarize himself with the civil case files.

The civil case is currently under review by the Supreme Court. At the end of the review, the lawyer will be given the opportunity to familiarize himself with the case files. Once he has done this, the specific date and location for the consideration of the civil case will be established.

A Ministry of Justice representation to the Supreme Court does not mean that the Human Rights Watch office will automatically be closed. The civil case files will be reviewed in accordance with the legislation. The Court will be guided in this by the principles of openness, objectivity and fairness.

According to the Supreme Court, a meeting was arranged with Mr. Mayorov at 3 p.m. on 15 March 2011 to give him the above information, which he did not however attend.

It is strange that a lawyer should at first ask the court to familiarize him with the case files, and then fail to turn up for a meeting after the main points were explained to him. This can only be interpreted as a desire to artificially stir up trouble around this issue and politicize a purely legal matter.

Thank you for your attention.