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Delegation of Uzbekistan

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

17 March 2011

**In response to the regular report by Ms. Dunja Mijatović,  
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Uzbek delegation has listened carefully to the report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, on ensuring the freedom of the media in the OSCE area.

We note with satisfaction that the section on Uzbekistan is relatively balanced.

We should like to reiterate that with regard to the first three convicted persons mentioned, that is Dilmurod Saiid, Sali Abdurahmanov and Khairullo Khamidov, the judicial authorities of Uzbekistan have pronounced their final verdicts, which are not subject to review, as the Permanent Council and the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media have been informed repeatedly.

We should like to point out that Khairullo Khamidov was convicted of possessing and disseminating materials promoting religious extremism, separatism and fundamentalism, of participating in the activities of the illegal religious movement Zhikhodchilar and of preaching on jihad, *hijrat* and the advantages of an Islamic State, Sali Abdurahmanov was found guilty of the illegal possession of large quantities of narcotics and Dilmurod Saidov (Saiid), who had four previous convictions, is serving a sentence for racketeering on a particularly large scale, involving manufacturing and falsifying documents, stamps and seals.

It is correct that the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan referred the case of Abdumalik Boboyev back to the Tashkent City Court to verify the arguments submitted and study the case material.

The Uzbek judicial authorities, just like those in other OSCE countries, are an independent branch of authority that the Government has no capacity to influence.

In this connection, we urge Ms. Mijatović to refrain from calling for the release of prisoners, which could be construed as pressure on the judicial authorities.

Turning to the initiatives by President Islam Karimov on the further expansion of democratic reforms and on building a civil society as mentioned in the Representative's report, I can inform you that the practical implementation of these is already under way.

Specifically, at the beginning of March 2011, the Oliy Majlis amended the Constitution so that from now on, the Head of Government, that is the Prime Minister, will be appointed by the political parties that obtained the highest number of seats in the lower house of Parliament.

The legislative assembly also has the right to summon the Head of Government to sessions related to the country's socio-economic development and to pass a vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister if required.

In April 2011, an international scientific and practical conference is planned to be held in Uzbekistan to discuss the further expansion of democratic reforms and the development of civil society in Uzbekistan.

Thank you for your attention.