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Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY VORONETSKY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 December 2011

Regarding the events in the west of Kazakhstan

Mr. Chairperson,

We should first of all like to thank the delegation of Kazakhstan for the information it has provided today in a spirit of openness regarding the tragic events in the west of the country. The informal briefing for delegations organized by our Kazakh colleagues on Monday, 19 December, was also very useful in this regard.

We should like to express our sincere condolences to the families of those who perished as a result of the unrest on 16 and 17 December in the cities of Zhanaozen and Shetpe and to wish a speedy recovery to all those who were injured.

We are confident that as a result of the wide range of measures being taken by the Kazakh authorities it will be possible to prevent a further destabilization of the situation, to restore justice and to call to account those responsible for what happened.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.