



United States Mission to the OSCE
**On the Abduction, Detention, and
Sentencing of Ukrainian Citizens by the
Russian Federation**

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 14, 2016

The United States once again calls on the Russian Federation to release immediately all Ukrainian detainees held in Russia for political reasons.

We remain especially concerned about Nadiya Savchenko, and urge the Russian Federation to release her without delay. Today marks the ninth day of Ms. Savchenko's dry hunger strike. Ms. Savchenko's health and her very life are on the line -- we reiterate that Russia is responsible for her well-being.

We note there have been press reports that the Russian Ministry of Justice has initiated a process which would allow Oleg Sentsov, Gennady Afanasiev, Oleksander Kolchenko, and Yuri Soloshenko to be returned to Ukraine. We welcome this as a positive first step, and look to the Russian Federation to follow through on this process without delay.

Thank you, Madam Chair.