



DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 5: Humanitarian Issues and other Commitments

(Warsaw, 4 October 2006)

RIGHT OF REPLY

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform that Ukraine aligned itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union on the topic of today's discussion.

My Delegation requested the floor to respond to the interventions of the distinguished representatives of the Delegation of the United States of America, 'Veritas' Youth Human Movement and 'The International Association of Independent Democrats against the Authoritarian Regimes' in which the issue of the expulsion on February 14th this year of the Uzbek citizens from Ukraine was raised.

For the sake of further clarification of the situation I would like to reemphasize on the following elements.

1. The Department of Migration Service in the AR Crimea took a decision to decline processing of refugee status documents following careful examination of the submitted applications because they were groundless and did not meet the provisions of the Law of Ukraine on Refugees. It is worth mentioning that the Uzbek nationals during their stay in the territory of Ukraine were engaged in unlawful activity.

2. In accordance with the legislation of Ukraine and relevant provisions of the international law the Uzbek nationals had been granted the right of appeal that was rejected by them in written form. It is only after this that the relevant district court of Simferopol city took the decision on expulsion of these individuals.

3. The situation is not about extradition, but the substantiated and justified refusal of granting the refugee status and expulsion from Ukraine.

Taking into account the abovementioned points I want to stress that the appropriate authorities of Ukraine had been acting in accordance with the national legislation of Ukraine, which is in conformity with Ukraine's obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Additional Protocol thereto.

Mr. Moderator,

Following the concerns raised by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, ODIHR, UNHCR, EU and other partners on the expulsion of the citizens of Uzbekistan, Ukraine has on numerous occasions provided the relevant explanations both in Kyiv and elsewhere.

I would like to reiterate the readiness of the Government of Ukraine to continue to maintain constructive dialogue on this issue with our partners, particularly in the field of refugee legislation within the framework of assistance offered by Ambassador Strohal of ODIHR, and are ready to enhance our cooperation with the ODIHR in this and other areas.

Thank you Mr. Moderator.