



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN THE OSCE REGION

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM),  
Working Session 4 on Rule of Law,  
Warsaw, 24 September 2014

Madam Moderator,

I speak on behalf of France, the Netherlands and Norway. This morning our delegations co-organized a side event on enforced disappearances in the OSCE region. The event was co-sponsored by Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the European Union, Iceland and Moldova.

We heard presentations by Professor Manfred Nowak, former UN Expert on Disappearances and former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or punishment, as well as by representatives of ODIHR and the Council of Europe.

We heard testimonies from victims of enforced disappearance from Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

This gave us a solid basis for reflection on the international instruments at our disposal in the fight against this inhuman practice, as well as on our international obligations in this regard.

The full text of our statement will be circulated in writing. Now I will limit myself to three points:

First, enforced disappearance continues to occur in our OSCE area. It often leads to torture and other ill-treatment. It not only affects the disappeared person, but also his or her family, friends and the society they live in. Such disappearances constitute serious violations of human rights and of OSCE commitments.

Second, in 1992 all OSCE participating states adopted the UN Declaration on the protection of All persons from enforced disappearance. We committed ourselves not to “practice, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances” and “to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance”. In addition, 33 OSCE participating states have signed the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

Third and final, the lack of specific OSCE commitments to prevent and combat enforced disappearances is a serious gap that should be addressed without delay. The topic of the prevention of torture which is on the agenda of the Ministerial Council this year is an opportunity to close this gap.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.