



**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ISABELLE POUPART
ON THE SITUATION IN KAZAKHSTAN
1101st MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
25 MAY 2016**

Madame Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

We join others in noting with concern the detention and arrests of hundreds of peaceful protesters in cities across Kazakhstan in recent days, including representatives of respected national civil society organizations as well as more than a dozen journalists, leading the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to call for their release.

We recognize Kazakhstan's efforts towards reform in governance, and encourage the Government of Kazakhstan to consider in its reform initiatives that freedom of speech and assembly, and freedom of the press are fundamental tenets of democratic and prosperous societies, as well as key OSCE commitments based on a comprehensive approach to security.

Thank you.