



**ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ** ENGLISH only  
**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement of Condolences to the Russian Federation  
on the Tragic Events in Beslan  
delivered by Ambassador J. Tabibian at the  
524th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
9 September 2004**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

There are times when words are inadequate to express feelings and feelings of horror. But, unfortunately, we are always reduced to words and the events of last week have to be, one way or another, described and, one way or another regretted, pained, sorrowed. My Government and our country have already expressed their dismay and conveyed their grief. Here my delegation would like to try to do the same, and address the Russian people, its Government, the whole country and the delegation here. Our sympathies, condolences and sorrow are extremely sincere. Our empathy, like any people that have suffered and survived, is authentic because these are hard experiences to overcome. Our compassion is inclusive. That means that our feelings go towards all, who have one way or another suffered the direct or indirect consequences of such tragedies. In many ways, we are all losers and our compassion is directed at all of us humans who feel this way their humanity diminished. Finally, I would like to say that our solidarity is unconditional.

I would have been somewhat reluctant to reflect further if I had not been encouraged by the latest speech of President Putin who in the middle of all that pain allowed himself some reflection and certain determination. That is the kind of courage in the middle of tragedy, the ability to reflect on the conditions, preconditions, the consequences and the means to combat terrorism. Saying that, what I would like to say is that these events are occurring very frequently. Very recently this is the third in Russia, but not the third in the long series that began several years ago. We are all getting used to this long list of cities spanning the geography of the world: New York, and then Bali, and then Moscow, and then Madrid and now Beslan. One can make that list longer because it really spans the world. What we need to resist is a temptation to create a comparative scale of the bigger or the lower number. Inhumanity and horror cannot be put on a scale and they are equally abhorrent when there are innocent victims. Even though, we are particularly sensitive, and we ought to be, to the deliberate, callous, cold-blooded targeting of innocent children. The sad comment may very well be that when we thought it had gone away, barbarity has returned to Europe. In that sense we should all join our forces to make sure it does not get deeper and worse. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to all humanity. The solutions may not be easy, but the determination must remain unshaken.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.