



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement on the Murder of Russian Tolerance Expert Nikolay Girenko**

As delivered by Acting Deputy Representative James Cox  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 8, 2004

Thank you yet again, Mr. Chairman.

The United States condemns the recent tragic killing of Russian tolerance expert Nikolay Girenko and expresses our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Mr. Girenko was considered by many to be Russia's leading expert on tolerance. He was an active participant in the work of Regional Tolerance Councils in Russia. The project brings together local religious communities, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement and government officials and others to promote tolerance -- combating xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism.

Mr. Girenko also provided expert assistance to Russian officials. His methodology of classifying hate crimes, now used by Russian prosecutors and investigators, is an important legacy.

We urge Russian law enforcement officials to find the killers and bring them to justice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.