



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Closure of the Democratic Society Party in Turkey

As prepared for delivery by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Casey Christensen
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 17, 2009

Regarding the decision by the Constitutional Court of Turkey to close the Democratic Society Party and the violence that has occurred in its aftermath, the United States wishes to make the following points:

We believe that Turkey's democratic system should continue to advance political freedoms for all its citizens. Measures that limit or restrain these freedoms should be exercised with extreme caution.

We encourage the Government of Turkey to continue its commendable efforts to ensure that all Turkish citizens fully exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. We encourage all political actors in Turkey to pursue reconciliation, reflect democratic values, and refrain from the use or encouragement of violence.

Thank you Madam Chair.