



UN Special Meeting on Kidnapping for Ransom

24 November 2014

Side Event: “Facilitating Technical Assistance to Member States on Kidnapping for Ransom and Hostage-taking Committed by Terrorist Groups”

Contribution by Mr. Thomas Wuchte, Head on Anti-terrorism Issues, OSCE

“Kidnapping for Ransom - the OSCE as a Regional Approach”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Counter-terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and its Director, Jean-Paul Laborde, for offering the OSCE the opportunity to contribute to the discussion today on kidnapping for ransom. I would like to also acknowledge my panel



organizations throughout the OSCE region and beyond with whom we have an excellent co-operation history, having recently organized jointly several successful events at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. We certainly plan to continue such collaboration in the field of countering kidnapping for ransom, as we already did this fall with a workshop in Malta that I will discuss more in detail shortly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Beyond ratification, practical implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism for the OSCE means that its participating States undertake every effort to prevent kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking from happening. In other words: legislation, regulations and investigation techniques have to reflect a proactive and forward-looking approach, anticipating terrorist kidnapping trends and tactics, criminalizing and timely investigating preparatory acts, such as the preparation or acquisition of fake documents, weapons and explosive substances; recruitment training, and thwarting terrorist movements and terrorists' getting ransom payments for financing their criminal activities.

In this respect, the OSCE provides assistance to requesting participating States and organize training and capacity building activities for law enforcement and judicial officials; and workshops with the engagement of civil society. At this point let me bring to your attention

(intelligence, law enforcement, judiciary and others) to prevent, manage and investigate and prosecute kidnapping and hostage cases. Moreover States should establish preventive measures, engaging the civil society (for example, the media) and the business community.

It was repeatedly recommended to reinforce ~~specific~~ training for practitioners to investigate kidnappings, including negotiation techniques, ~~ensuring~~ financial flows from ransom, and operational techniques to safely release ~~hostages~~. Moreover, experts suggested organizing workshops and table top exercises to prepare government officials and other high risk

Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other Executive structures, in order to