



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE**

**Joint Statement on recent widespread protests in the  
Russian Federation**

**Delivered by the Ambassador of Portugal at the OSCE Permanent Council**

**Vienna, 28 January 2021**

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and my own country Portugal.

We condemn the violent suppression of peaceful protests in cities all over the Russian Federation on Saturday, 23 January.

In the Paris Charter, as well as in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, we have reaffirmed that everyone has the right to peaceful assembly. Russian law enforcement authorities, however, have cracked down upon protests that were predominantly peaceful. In a number of instances, police applied disproportionate use of force and detained more than 3.800 individuals, including journalists and other media actors, as reported by independent observers

We support the call of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on the Russian Federation to guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and uphold the respect for human rights.



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Journalists and media actors should be able to do their job of reporting. The Union of Journalists and Media Workers has recorded over 50 cases of obstruction of journalists' professional activities, including violence, arbitrary detentions and intimidation. We support the call of the OSCE Representative of Freedom of the Media on the Russian Federation to investigate these incidents promptly. We urge the Russian Federation to respect the commitments we as OSCE Participating States have agreed on regarding the safety of journalists, including the OSCE Ministerial Council decision 3/18 on the Safety of Journalists.

We urge the Russian authorities to immediately release those who have been arbitrarily detained and reiterate our call to set Mr Navalny free.

Thank you.