S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson on the sentencing of demonstrators involved in the Bolotnaya Square events

"We are concerned about the conviction on 18 August and on 24 July by Moscow Courts of six activists involved in the Bolotnaya Square events of 6 May 2012.

As we have repeatedly pointed out, such sentences not only seem disproportionate, in the light of the nature of the events and the offences these activists are accused of, but also curtail the exercise of freedom of expression and of assembly in Russia.

We therefore call on Russia to honour its international human rights obligations, in particular the right to a fair trial and the respect of freedoms of expression, assembly and association."

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