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**PRESS RELEASE**

**OSCE Chairperson-in-Office strongly condemns Copenhagen attacks and calls for stepped-up efforts to protect tolerance and democracy**

BELGRADE, 16 February 2015 - The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić, on Sunday strongly condemned the attacks on participants of the event “Art, freedom of speech and blasphemy” and on a synagogue in Copenhagen, that resulted in the death of two civilians and injury of five policemen, and offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

“This is yet another violent attack not only against freedom of expression, but against the core values of OSCE participating States. Multicultural societies are the foundation of countries across the OSCE region and more than ever, we need to stand up for tolerance and mutual respect of our differences,” said Dačić.

The Chairperson-in-Office called on all participating States to step up efforts aimed at advancing tolerance and protecting democratic values.

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