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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 948th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 April 2013

**Regarding the development of the situation in the Guantánamo Bay
detention camp**

Madam Chairperson,

At the last meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council we already raised the question of the disquieting situation in the United States detention camp in Guantánamo and provided detailed information on the facts giving rise to concern to Russia. Unfortunately, subsequent incidents in this detention camp only confirm the validity of our assessments.

According to our information, the latest mass hunger strike announced by the prisoners in the detention camp as a result of the inhuman conditions in which they are being detained has led to a further escalation of the situation, in the form of clashes between the detainees and the prison guards, who used arms.

At the same time, evidence has been leaked to the media of mistreatment of participants in the hunger strike. In particular, in a letter published in the *New York Times*, the Yemeni prisoner Samir Naji describes in detail how he was bound and force-fed by the prison guards against his will, causing unbearable pain, how they humiliated and abused him in every way and would not allow him to pray.

In view of the disturbances in Guantánamo, a group of 25 influential non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty International, have demanded that President Obama and the United States Department of Defense intervene and settle the situation in the interests of the detainees. Human rights advocates point out the unacceptability of the fact that the majority of the participants in the protests have been detained without trial or investigation for more than 11 years. They say that it is illegal to detain suspected terrorists indefinitely and without trial.

This situation is giving rise to serious concern in Moscow, not least considering that the Russian citizen Ravil Mingazov has been detained in this prison for more than ten years without trial or investigation. His legal rights and interests need to be strictly observed.

These events once again bear witness to the fact that the existence of the detention camp in Guantánamo contravenes basic human rights norms and standards, whose observance our American colleagues demand so energetically on international platforms.

Once again we call upon the United States of America finally to take effective measures to close the detention camp in Guantánamo as rapidly as possible in accordance with the many urgent recommendations by international human rights bodies.

We also hope that the OSCE and its executive structures will attentively monitor the situation in Guantánamo and take the necessary steps to safeguard the rights of the detainees.

Thank you for your attention.