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**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1245th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 October 2019

**On the continuing provocations by the Kosovo authorities**

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the concern of our Serbian colleagues over the continuing acts of provocation by the interim authorities of Kosovo against Serbs, in violation of their fundamental human rights obligations.

We are incensed at the most recent incursion by the Kosovo special forces into the Serb-populated north of Kosovo and Metohija on 16 October, under the cynical pretext of investigating the murder of Kosovo Serb politician Oliver Ivanović. As confirmed by the OSCE mission in the territory, on this occasion around 100 armed security force personnel and 25 vehicles, including armoured vehicles, were involved in the arrest of two Serbian police officers. At the same time, one of the people sought by the police was not found; his son was taken in his place. As usual, the international Kosovo Force, which has the necessary mandate from the United Nations Security Council to ensure peace and security in the territory, and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo preferred to turn a blind eye to this.

The high-handedness of the Kosovo authorities is evidence of a hypocritical scenario, the purpose of which is to expose Serbs as criminals, intimidate them and squeeze them out of the territory. At the same time, there is also a connection with the renewed failure of the Kosovo authorities to secure the territory's membership of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). As you know, the Kosovo authorities were previously forced to withdraw their application when again faced with the prospect of failure at a meeting of the INTERPOL General Assembly.

The attempt to create a scandal over allegedly poisoned ballots received in Priština from the central part of Serbia during the election to the so-called Kosovo parliament on 6 October 2019 is also manifestly provocative. The Kosovo authorities apparently sought to use this to cast doubt on the results achieved by the Serb List party, which received all ten seats allocated to the Serbs in the local assembly.

We consider the provocations of the Kosovo administration to be a continuation of the blatant policy aimed at exacerbating inter-ethnic relations in the territory, which threatens to undermine stability in the Balkan region. What is happening is another vivid illustration of the failure of Kosovo's so-called statehood.

Thank you for your attention.