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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1181st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 April 2018

**On the situation of human rights defenders in Russia**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me begin with “Memorial”. There were indeed reports that an unknown assailant attacked Sirazhutdin Datsiyev, director of the “Memorial” office in Makhachkala, Dagestan Republic, on 28 March. The victim was able to make his own way home and was later hospitalized.

Some media outlets immediately seized on these reports and stated with no evidence to back up their claims that the attack was linked to Sirazhutdin Datsiyev’s professional activities.

A criminal case was opened into the attack under Article 115, Part 2, paragraph (a) of the Russian Federation Criminal Code (Premeditated infliction of light harm to health for motives of hooliganism). The law enforcement agencies are establishing the circumstances of what took place. It is not professional or proper to give any assessments until the investigation is complete.

As for Yury Dmitriyev, there was no political motivation behind the accusations, as some here try to claim. He was charged with perversion and producing child pornography. The Petrozavodsk City Court passed its verdict on 5 April 2018, clearing Yury Dmitriyev of the charges against him but finding him guilty of unlawful possession of weapons. He was given a sentence of two and a half years’ imprisonment, but considering the time that he has already spent in pre-trial detention, the actual sentence will be just three months.

Now, regarding the United States think tank the German Marshall Fund of the United States, it is true that on 21 March, the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice added this Fund to the list of foreign organizations whose activities are considered undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation.

This procedure was carried out in accordance with the federal law on measures against persons involved in violating basic human rights and freedoms and the rights and

freedoms of the citizens of the Russian Federation. Under this law, any foreign or international non-governmental organization recognized as a threat to the Russian Federation's constitutional foundations and national defence or security can be declared undesirable.

We have given clarifications on this matter on several occasions in the past.

As for the situation with Russian civil society in general, I direct you to our statement in the Permanent Council on 22 March, which presents detailed figures on this matter, including regarding the substantial increase in recent years in the number of non-profit organizations in our country.

Thank you for your attention.