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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1096th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 April 2016

**On the investigation into the tragic events on
the Maidan and in Odessa**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are glad that the distinguished representative of Ukraine has finally decided, following numerous reminders, to share information with us after all about the investigation into these two high-profile incidents which had a significant impact on the development of the crisis in Ukraine. We will check its accuracy carefully.

We note that the climate of impunity among the Ukrainian security forces and law enforcement authorities, which we mentioned at the last meeting, has even been reflected in the country report on Ukraine in the United States Department of State's Human Rights Reports. This is one issue on which we agree with our United States colleagues.

We share the conclusions in the Council of Europe International Advisory Panel report that the investigation lacked independence and that the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs did not manage to carry out the necessary legal proceedings to bring the perpetrators to justice. There are multiple shortcomings which cannot be justified on the grounds of the difficult investigation conditions. Many suspects were released.

We note that most of those involved are still in Ukraine and are quite comfortable there for the time being. We also know about the destruction or attempts to destroy a significant amount of incriminating evidence, in particular evidence which could have been used to pinpoint the precise location from which the shots were fired at the people on the Maidan.

We should also like to draw attention to the terminology used in the State Department report. The victims in Odessa are referred to as "those who supported autonomy", not "separatists". Those were in fact the exact words of those protesting in Donbas against the iniquity of the "Maidan victors".

In this connection we should like to note that apart from the incidents on the Maidan and in Odessa, there have also been cases of the murder of journalists, including Russians, the shooting in Mariupol on 9 May 2014, the air raid on Luhansk on 2 June 2014 and the shelling of towns and villages in Donbas. We will follow the progress of the case regarding the murder of Yury Grabovsky. We expect to receive information on these matters also.

In conclusion, we should like to call on our American colleagues to make more use of their ability to influence the Kyiv authorities to implement the Minsk agreements fully. Today's case proves that this is extremely effective.

Thank you for your attention.