

PC.DEL/1159/12  
14 December 2012

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 935th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 December 2012

**Regarding the assassination of the Kabardino-Balkariya television channel  
presenter Kazbek Gekkiyev**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform the participating States that on the evening of 5 December an incident occurred in Nalchik that shocked the Russian public with its brutality: Kazbek Gekkiyev, a presenter employed by the Kabardino-Balkariya regional State television and radio broadcasting company, was murdered as he returned home from work. The two attackers fired three shots and the journalist died at the scene.

This audacious murder has deeply shocked Russian society. It is being discussed on television and on the Internet. The investigation is under the special control of the Investigative Committee of Russia. The Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the crime and said that he was confident that the Russian law enforcement agencies would do everything to find and punish the criminals.

Criminal proceedings have been initiated for murder. The investigation has established that before pulling the trigger the criminals made certain that the man in front of them was indeed the Kabardino-Balkariya television presenter. Other journalists who have reported on the fight against the criminal underground received threats prior to this incident. The motive for the murder is believed to be connected with Kazbek Gekkiyev's professional activities.

The investigators have already managed to establish that Zeytun Boziyev, a member of an illegal armed group operating in Nalchik, was involved in the journalist's murder. According to initial information, Zeytun Boziyev has committed a number of crimes as part of this bandit group, including murders.

Steps are currently being taken to find and apprehend the suspect. The investigation of this crime is continuing.

In this connection, we should like to urge our OSCE partners to take an understanding view of the incident and to refrain from drawing hasty politically motivated conclusions. We shall inform you of the outcome of the investigation.

Thank you for your attention.