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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1024th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 November 2014

On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the opinion that the new international day introduced on the initiative of the United Nations is an excellent occasion for drawing attention to the need to ensure conditions for journalists to practise their profession and measures for their protection. In the context of OSCE commitments, this has special significance for the protection of journalists on dangerous assignments, among other things, in situations of armed conflict.

In the twenty-first century, it is difficult to overestimate the influence of the mass media in shaping public opinion. This is precisely why the need arises to ensure the reliability of information, the responsible exercise of rights and freedoms and respect for the right to privacy. Enhancing the professionalism and objectivity of the mass media and of journalists plays an important role, both in promoting democratic values and in preserving social stability and public security.

We trust that, in the OSCE area, special attention will be paid to the work and protection of journalists on dangerous assignments and in situations of armed conflict. In this connection, we urge the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the security of the Russian journalists covering events in south-eastern Ukraine. We hope that all instances of attacks on journalists, as well as their deaths, will be thoroughly and impartially investigated and that the guilty parties will be punished.

The Russian Federation is ready to share best practices in providing assistance to and organizing special programmes for journalists who set out on dangerous assignments, based on their experience in working in various regions of the world.

Thank you for your attention.