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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1112th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 September 2016

On the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances

Mr. Chairperson,

Our European Union colleagues have raised an important issue. Unfortunately, they are once again directing their criticism away from themselves and their allies. Let us consider the matter objectively.

For example, the Guantánamo Bay detention camp continues to operate, a graphic illustration of the United States policy of double standards with regard to human rights. The order to close it in just under a year was one of President Barack Obama's first official decisions after taking office. Many years have passed, yet this promise is still on paper. Dozens remain in the prison as before, and the majority of the detainees are being held without any charges or submission of their cases to court. This American style "justice" has also not left Russian citizens unscathed. Meanwhile, those responsible for the torture and enforced disappearances during deployments and secret detentions continue to evade being penalized with the full force of the law.

We should mention the unpleasant situation of the Russian citizen Konstantin Yaroshenko who is in prison in the United States. He was kidnapped by US agents in Liberia six years ago.

The European Union is in no hurry to deal with either the problem of torture or enforced disappearances on its own turf. As recently as last year, Amnesty International accused a number of European Union countries (the United Kingdom, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Romania) of establishing and maintaining secret CIA prisons in collaboration with the United States. We hear nothing here from those countries' representatives about the progress of the investigation or whether the perpetrators have been penalized.

Today we have already mentioned that the practice of prolonged and arbitrary, and sometimes even secret detention of civilians, including women, has become routine in Ukraine. This is highlighted by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which issued a joint report this summer entitled "You Don't Exist". Civilians who are being secretly

and illegally held at Ukrainian Security Service facilities are subjected to torture and inhuman and degrading treatment (including beatings, use of electric shocks, threats of rape, and shootings and reprisals against family members). They are also denied access to medical and legal assistance and are cut off from contact with relatives and the outside world. The kidnappings by the Ukrainian security forces and mercenary battalions have also been documented in reports by the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

Enforced disappearances are a global problem, which must be resolved on a depoliticized, constructive basis, above all renouncing mentorship and double standards.

Thank you for your attention.