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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement
On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

as delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1162nd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
November 2, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the delegation of the Russian Federation and the delegation of Estonia on behalf of the European Union for raising this current issue. The commemoration of International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is very timely in the OSCE.

Armenia regularly raises the issue of ending impunity for crimes against journalists at the level of the Permanent Council, particularly in the context of decade long murder of the prominent Turkish Armenian journalist, intellectual, editor of "Agos" newspaper Hrant Dink.

We regret that so far it was not possible for the Turkish authorities to bring to justice the masterminds of this heinous crime, though there have been very strong revelation on the involvement of certain high level officials in this criminal case.

Freedom of expression and safety of journalists is essential prerequisite for realization of human rights and not least right to the truth and thus reconciliation within and between societies.

Impunity creates breeding ground for continued attack against independent mass media and the case of Hrant Dink exemplifies this in very clear manner.

Armenia looks forward to translate along with other participating states evolving willingness in the OSCE to combat impunity for crimes against journalists into clear cut commitments. The Vienna Ministerial Council and its draft decision on the Contribution of Free and Pluralistic Media to Security and Co-operation in the OSCE Region put forward by the Austrian Chairmanship provide important opportunity in this regard.

Thank you.