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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 984th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 February 2014

**Regarding the human rights situation in the United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

As we promised at a previous meeting of the Permanent Council, we will continue to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the United States of America.

Today, we should like to draw your attention to the horrific situation in United States prisons.

I shall provide a clear example from recent days. As we know, the Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko was unlawfully kidnapped by United States intelligence services on the territory of a third country in violation of all norms of international law. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment not for a crime he had committed, but merely for criminal intent. Now, he is being refused basic medical care in prison, in spite of a request from his lawyer and the demands of representatives of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation. Mr. Yaroshenko has been in a critical condition for over two weeks. He is suffering from dizziness, a high temperature, constant, sharp chest pains and high blood pressure. All of this is exacerbated by the poor ventilation in his cell: Mr. Yaroshenko is gasping for want of fresh air, and aside from fever tablets, has not received any medication. As a result, not only his health, but his life is in danger.

And Mr. Yaroshenko is far from the only such case. This is a consequence of systematic human rights violations in United States prisons. Clear evidence can be seen in last year's prison hunger strike by 30,000 Californian inmates who were angered by the practice of solitary confinement. Some of them had been held in such conditions for 30 years or more.

The situation in private prisons is also unsatisfactory. According to United States human rights activists, there is far more violence in such prisons than in State penitentiaries. Information from the Southern Poverty Law Center and American Civil Liberties Union regarding detention conditions in a privately run prison for inmates with psychiatric problems in the state of Mississippi is simply shocking. Because they were not given medical

assistance in time, some prisoners had to have limbs amputated. Guards pacified prisoners using tear gas. Young prisoners were required to perform sexual favours in exchange for food or the opportunity to phone relatives, and excessive physical force was used.

We are surprised by the lack of reaction on the part of the OSCE, not only to the ongoing use of the death penalty, but also to the use of new drugs that turn the death penalty into a terrible, excruciating form of torture. This is what happened to Edgar Tamayo, who was put to death in the state of Ohio. He died in horrific agony after half an hour.

Furthermore, according to figures from the Death Penalty Information Center, a non-governmental organization, since the reinstatement of capital punishment in 1976, at least 26 foreign nationals have been executed in the United States. However, only one was told about the right to consular assistance immediately after arrest.

In the same vein, we see the ongoing practice of detention without trial and the use of torture methods against such detainees. In spite of the efforts of the international community, the sinister Guantánamo Bay prison facility continues to operate.

We urge the United States to take immediate measures to address the aforementioned human rights violations in prisons and to provide urgent medical attention to the Russian citizen and pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko.

Thank you for your attention.