

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1042nd MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 March 2015

On the murder of Boris Nemtsov

Mr. Chairperson,

In the night from 27 to 28 February, the Russian politician, former Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and member of Yaroslavl City Duma, Boris Nemtsov, was murdered in Moscow. This is a truly tragic event for our country.

Boris Nemtsov occupied significant posts during a difficult period of transition in our country. He always openly and honestly voiced his views and stood up for what he believed in.

President Vladimir Putin stressed that “everything will be done to ensure that the organizers and perpetrators of this vile and cynical murder are properly punished”. This issue was discussed at the Ministry of Internal Affairs board.

At the President’s behest, an investigative team was set up immediately by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Federal Security Service. The heads of these departments are personally overseeing the investigation into this crime.

The Central Investigation Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation in Moscow has initiated criminal proceedings regarding the murder of Boris Nemtsov.

The investigation is working through a wide range of versions of the murder. At present, we can talk about a few most likely motives for the crime, including political and personal ones. The investigative team has already questioned a number of witnesses.

The Investigative Committee is offering a reward of 3 million roubles for valuable information that might help to solve the case.

Around 21,000 people participated in a march in memory of the murdered Russian politician. Friends and relatives, colleagues and political opponents, representatives of the Russian President and Government and representatives of embassies and civil society attended Boris Nemtsov's funeral. He was buried in Troyekurovsky cemetery in Moscow.

We believe that it is essential to avoid politicized and openly provocative interpretations of Boris Nemtsov's murder until the investigation is over. That would be the best tribute to the memory of this bright Russian politician, who always openly and honestly stood up for what he believed in.

Thank you for your attention.