

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
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AT THE 977th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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**Regarding Human Rights Day**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 10 December the world community marked international Human Rights Day. This day was established by the United Nations following the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This year we are celebrating the 65th anniversary of that document. The principles proclaimed in the Declaration establish global standards and guidelines in the area of human rights for States and societies. They have been enshrined in legal systems at a universal, regional and national level.

Alongside the obvious successes achieved over the years, there are still quite a number of unresolved problems. These problems exist in all OSCE countries without exception, regardless of their political system, economic situation, history, traditions and other factors. They exist in Russia, and we recognize this. President Vladimir Putin spoke about this two days ago at a meeting with representatives of Russia's human rights community in Moscow.

A backwards trend with regard to human rights in countries with what are known as "mature" democratic systems is cause for particular concern. These include countries that push their model of human rights problem-solving on the rest of the world.

Serious systemic violations of the principles of the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and human rights are observed in the United States of America. The practice of arbitrary and indefinite detention of prisoners at the prison at Guantánamo and the use of inhumane torture against them continue there. The scandal regarding secret CIA prisons has not abated. The indiscriminate use of drones against persons suspected of terrorism, including on the territory of foreign States, continues. The kidnapping by United States services of citizens of other countries to be sent to the United States in circumvention of existing international legal standards is perturbing.

It is common knowledge that the United States intelligence agencies are actively involved in the systematic wiretapping of telephone calls and communications of ordinary citizens, companies and the mass media. Electronic communications using the Internet are

monitored. Furthermore, this concerns not only Americans but also citizens of other countries. This constitutes a direct violation of the right to privacy.

One of the most serious challenges remains trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation, including trafficking in children, and also for the purpose of removing organs, tissue and cells. In quite a number of countries, including the United States, digital exchanges for trafficking in human beings operate using the Internet. The use of social networks for the “resale” of adopted children is especially shocking. Among them have been 26 children from Russia.

If there is interest, we can continue with this list.

I wish to underscore that we shall fight to improve the human rights situation throughout the world, including the United States, where, for example, in the state of Texas the human rights situation is not consistent with OSCE commitments.

The rise in manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, especially in European Union countries, is extremely dangerous. I might add that the High Commissioner on National Minorities has also spoken about this today. Marches by Waffen-SS veterans, the glorification of the Nazis and their henchmen, the desecration and vandalizing of memorials to soldiers who fought against the fascists and to victims of the Holocaust, and of war graves and Jewish cemeteries show no sign of ending.

The entry of nationalistic parties into parliament also attests to the radicalization of views among some segments of European society.

In view of these truly dangerous trends, attempts to shift our Organization’s attention to narrow topics that are not of relevance to many OSCE participating States are rejected.

We believe that the OSCE participating States should focus on resolving the most pressing problems. First and foremost, this means combating racism and aggressive nationalism, protecting social, economic and cultural human rights at a time of financial crisis, protecting privacy, defending the rights of children, ensuring the rights of national minorities and reducing mass statelessness.

The only way of achieving stability, prosperity and the observance of human rights is to develop constructive co-operation between States and ensure the involvement of all interested parties in the process of drawing up and adopting decisions. This is the approach to which Russia is committed, systematically advocating strict observance of the rule of law in international affairs, including in the human rights sphere.

Thank you for your attention.