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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1067th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 September 2015

**On the harassment of Russian journalists in Moldova and restrictions on  
their activities in Latvia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are disgusted by the actions taken by the Moldovan authorities against people from the Russian media who went to report on the ongoing mass protests in the Republic of Moldova.

On 7 September, a film crew from Lifenews television channel was detained under a vague pretext at Chişinău airport. After being searched, threatened and humiliated for eight hours, their right to entry was revoked and they were expelled from the country. On the same day, Aleksey Amelyushkin, a producer from television channel Russia Today's video agency, was deported and his equipment was seized.

According to the authoritative media congress "Commonwealth of Journalists", such moves by the Moldovan authorities violate the main principle of freedom of speech, according to which a reporter from any country has the right to perform his or her professional duties.

In fact, such steps by Chişinău contravene a whole range of OSCE commitments, such as freedom of expression, freedom of the media, freedom of movement, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention and others.

It seems that certain powers in Moldova really do not want there to be any objective coverage of the ongoing protests.

The Latvian authorities too are using crude methods to oppose freedom of speech. After lengthy delays, they recently refused to register the international news agency Russia Today. The official reason for this refusal was stated quite frankly: the journalists' activities may be contrary to the national security interests of Latvia, as well as the common policies of NATO and the European Union. Thus, despite its human rights commitments, Riga has no qualms about censoring the media on the sole basis of nationality.

We call on the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, to pay particular attention to these events and respond in accordance with her mandate.

Thank you for your attention.