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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1015th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 September 2014

**Regarding the statement by the United States of America  
on the events in Ferguson**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened with interest to the statement by the representative of the United States of America about the events in Ferguson. And as one would expect, when protests take place in the United States of America itself, the subject of the absolute priority accorded to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly is no longer raised by it.

And yet, the United States of America consistently takes a different line when assessing similar events on the Eurasian continent. For example, we have heard more than once that participants in so-called peaceful protests on Bolotnaya Square or the Maidan have a legal right to fight for their civil liberties against the ruling regimes. Not only did the United States of America fail to condemn the use by the opposition protesters of Molotov cocktails, incendiary mixtures and firearms, it also insistently called on the authorities to refrain from using force. The Russian law enforcement officers and, for that matter, the Ukrainian Berkut force on the Maidan were deprived of the right to self-defence.

But then, today, we heard once again that the disproportionate use by the United States police of tear gas, stun grenades and rubber bullets in Ferguson is an absolutely normal practice in the maintenance of order. Moreover, the Missouri National Guard was called out to subdue the protesters. On 18 August alone, 31 people were arrested and two protesters suffered gunshot wounds. Getty Images photographer Scott Olson and two German journalists, Ansgar Graw and Frank Hermann, were put behind bars for a few hours. And this is by no means the first time that United States law enforcement officers have taken the law into their own hands with regard to the press. A few days earlier, two correspondents from the Washington-based newspapers *The Huffington Post* and *The Washington Post*, Ryan J. Reilly and Wesley Lowery, were detained. Both were released without any explanations.

The international organization Human Rights Watch expressed concern about the high-handedness of the police in Missouri. In the United States of America, 48 media agencies and organizations for the defence of freedom of the press signed a letter to the

authorities in St. Louis saying that the behaviour by the police was “anathema to the First Amendment” guaranteeing civil liberties.

The United States Congressman Emanuel Cleaver compared the streets of Ferguson with Fallujah in Iraq. The non-governmental organization (NGO) American Civil Liberties Union sounded the alarm in connection with the increasingly frequent cases of the disproportionate use of force by the police. Apart from the victims in Ferguson, a further five Afro-Americans have been killed in the United States of America since April.

The events in Ferguson have shown that the deep-seated reasons for social and ethnic tension in the United States of America have not been eradicated. Experts in the United States reckon that the reason for the civil unrest is the overlaying of new economic problems and a sharp decline in the standard of living on top of existing social conflicts and racial segregation.

The Greater St. Louis region has always been notable for its very high level of racial segregation. While Ferguson was an 85 per cent “white city” in 1980, today 70 per cent of the population are Afro-American. Since 2000 unemployment has increased almost threefold while per capita income has declined by a third. Interracial problems are also exacerbated by the predominance of whites in the administration (five out six members of the city council) and police (53 of the 56 officers).

According to United States NGOs, the policy of political correctness, in particular the raising of social standards of the black population to the average level has been a failure. Afro-Americans are still the most marginalized social group in the United States of America. The level of unemployment (11.4 per cent) and part-time working (20.5 per cent) is twice as high as among whites. Only 63 per cent of Afro-American juveniles graduate from high school. Criminality among Afro-Americans is six times as high as it is among whites.

Thank you for your attention.