



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO THE UN,  
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Latvia, Ambassador Janis  
Zlamets  
on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Permanent Council No.1221,  
Vienna, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Mr Chairman,

In addition to the statement of the EU, I would like to add couple of points in my national capacity. Mainly in mood of exercising my right to reply to our Russian colleague.

But before I do that, I would like to thank the United States for rising this important issue. As no country can be immune from it.

Mr Chairman,

Statement of our distinguished Russian colleague contained number of hints towards our direction. I remind that we spoke about this topic extensively two weeks ago. As expected - no glorification of Nazism has been observed in Latvia in connection with events that took place on March 16. As well as not on any other day before and after. About two months ago we spoke on remembrance of Holocaust. I paid attention to interventions of other colleagues. I recall our Belarus colleagues saying then and repeating in respective conference in Bratislava that there are more than 500 Holocaust remembrance sites in Belarus. That resonated for me with statement of our Russian colleague that they have 65 sites. Pay attention – 500 in Belarus and only 65 next door in Russia.

Our Russian colleague today and then was extensive in describing current situation all-around of OSCE area. The time of intervention was limited and he apparently skipped the part on situation in Russia itself as it would be expected according to common practice on this kind of current issues.

I can help – according to public reports of Russian police and courts – in year 2018 at least four people were killed and at least 52 injured in racially motivated attacks and at least 21 acts of vandalism took place.

Four people dead, 52 injured in a year and only 65 sites of Holocaust remembrance!

Thank you, Chairman.