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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1135th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 March 2017

On the release of Ildar Dadin

Mr. Chairperson,

Our colleagues have repeatedly raised the issue of the situation with Ildar Dadin. In turn, we have given detailed explanations on this matter. Ildar Dadin was recently released by a court decision, so I should like to once again highlight this topic.

We recall that Ildar Dadin was convicted of repeated violations of the established procedure for holding rallies and pickets. It is interesting, but are there representatives of countries here where such activities are not regulated? Even in the most liberal society, sanctions are provided for violating the rules. Naturally, this should respect the right of citizens to freedom of assembly. This right is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Ildar Dadin has been detained four times for violating the procedure for holding pickets. Each time he has been held administratively liable. According to Russian legislation (Article 212.1 of the Criminal Code), repeated (more than two) offences, for which administrative liability is provided, may lead to criminal prosecution. Here it is a question of an offence that has been committed four times. As a result, in December 2015 Ildar Dadin was convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to three years in prison. Laws must be enforced. *Dura lex, sed lex.* Does someone follow a different legal principle? Incidentally, in March 2016 the appellate court reduced this term to two and a half years.

In February 2017, the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation examined the appeal of Ildar Dadin and ruled that the earlier court decisions in relation to this citizen made under Article 212.1 of the Criminal Code should be reviewed. Thus, the Court had appeals only against the interpretation of this provision of the criminal law in this case. This Article of the Code is not recognized as being contradictory to Russia's Constitution.

As a result, on 22 February the Presidium of Russia's Supreme Court ordered that the criminal case against Ildar Dadin be halted and that he be released from custody, and also recognized his right to rehabilitation.

The order was executed on 26 February. Ildar Dadin was released. A normal democratic process. The judicial system resolved the legal conflict.

As for the allegations of torture to which Ildar Dadin was allegedly subjected, no evidence of this could be found in the course of thorough examinations.

Thank you for your attention.