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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1180th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 March 2018

**On racism and police violence in the United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

We listened attentively to the statement by the representative of the United States of America following the issue we raised on 15 February of arbitrariness and impunity of US law enforcement personnel for the murders of citizens of African-American and Latin American origin.

We thank you for the clarifications. We are talking here about the fates of specific individuals and also about a systemic problem, which continues to worsen.

Let me recall just a few of the recent headline-grabbing cases related to this issue. On 12 February in Homestead (Florida) police officers shot an 84-year-old disabled man, a Korean War veteran, Raymond Bishop, who by irony of fate had been threatening to kill himself because the local authorities were going to evict him from his home. Another example: on 15 February a New York police sergeant, Hugh Barry, was acquitted for the 2016 premeditated murder of a 66-year-old mentally ill African-American woman. The motive for shooting her was that at the moment when the police officer attacked her, the elderly woman was holding a baseball bat. On 18 February in Darby (Pennsylvania) the police arrested an 11-year-old African-American girl for a dispute on a school bus. She was handcuffed and put in a police car. Sadly the list does not stop here. What all of these cases have in common is arbitrariness, a sense of impunity and disproportionate action by US law enforcement personnel.

These sad statistics continue to grow. According to information on the human rights site Killedbypolice.net, which we cited earlier, over the first two months of this year the number of cases of police violence with a lethal outcome increased to 193. This further demonstrates the biased treatment of members of racial and ethnic minorities and the impunity of US police officers for the murder of unarmed citizens.

Human rights defenders are also sounding the alarm over tragic incidents involving firearms. For example, following the mass murder on 14 February at Marjory Stoneman

Douglas school in Parkland (Florida) the American branch of Amnesty International (Amnesty USA Media) urged the US authorities to reform the gun control laws and said that “when people can’t go to school, or to work, or attend a concert without fearing that they will be shot, this is a human rights crisis.”

We hope that the relevant OSCE structures will give these incidents due attention. We again urge the United States to respect in full its international obligations.

Thank you for your attention.