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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1096th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 April 2016

On policing in the United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished ambassador of the United States of America for the information which he has provided. It touches on an extremely serious issue in American society that we have also spoken about on numerous occasions here in the Permanent Council. I am referring to the dramatic events in a number of American towns and cities which triggered mass protests in the United States against police impunity for the killing of black citizens. What is more, peaceful protests by citizens against blatant racial discrimination and impunity have been brutally put down by the very same police force.

We welcome steps by the US Government to try to reduce the level of police brutality, which has been spiralling out of control for quite some time. That said, American non-governmental organizations claim that the killing of African Americans by white police officers in Ferguson, New York, North Charleston, Baltimore and other cities is only the tip of the iceberg. The statistics continue to offer little comfort: in the United States, two people die every day in police shootings. Of these, one half are African Americans. However, only 1 per cent of such cases result in criminal charges against law enforcement officers.

A recent survey by the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper found that in Baltimore, which is sadly notorious for the racism of its power structures, police use tasers against African Americans in 90 per cent of cases. Incidentally, in 98 per cent of cases, police officers themselves admitted that the suspects did not pose any threat. What motivated this brutality then?

In September 2014, police officers in the state of Delaware shot a black person in a wheelchair. We have spoken about this. The situation since then has not improved. In late March 2016, the Ruderman Family Foundation, which tackles the problems of anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, published a report suggesting that about one half of Americans who had suffered at the hands of the police had subsequently had health problems. The President of the Foundation, Jay Ruderman, had highlighted the fact that “disability cannot be used as the grounds for killing. Police must be more discerning about the fact that

persons with disabilities exist”. Essentially, police officers in the United States plain and simply do not learn how to deal with persons with disabilities.

We call on the United States to strictly comply with international standards and OSCE commitments, including with regard to policing. We trust that our American colleagues will continue to keep the Permanent Council up to date about investigations into such cases.

Why does the United States not propose that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Secretariat perform an analysis of these phenomena in American society, perhaps by sending a fact-finding mission, and assist with training law enforcement bodies about basic human rights standards?

Thank you for your attention.