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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1118th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 November 2016

**In response to the statement by the representative of the
United States of America on the case Ildar Dadin**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am forced to note that the statement by the distinguished representative of the United States of America is once again extremely one-sided and does not reflect the full picture. I hope that our information about the case of Ildar Dadin will help to clarify the situation.

Mr. Dadin is serving his sentence in a regular-regime correctional colony on the basis of a court verdict under Article 212.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation for repeated violation of the established procedure for organizing or conducting a meeting, rally, march or picketing. He was sentenced to two and a half years of imprisonment. The colony is in Karelia in the north-west of Russia.

Reports about the alleged use of torture on Mr. Dadin appeared on 1 November in various Russian media, citing his lawyer. I mention this, incidentally, in response to the question about freedom of speech in our country, which the representatives of the United States of America like so much to speculate about.

This information evoked a prompt reaction from the competent authorities and human rights organizations, notably the Federal Penitentiary Service, the Investigative Committee of Russia and the Public Prosecutor's Office in Karelia, and also the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation and the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights.

Local human rights defenders were also involved in the clarification of the situation. In particular, representatives of the Karelian Public Oversight Commission met with Mr. Dadin for two and a half hours. No signs of beating or torture were discovered on his body. According to them, he made no complaints about his health.

The official inquiry with the participation of members of the central office of the Federal Penitentiary Service found no violations and much less indications that Mr. Dadin

had been tortured. An independent three-person medical commission consisting of a general practitioner, psychiatrist and trauma surgeon was also invited to the colony. Following a two-hour examination they reported that Mr. Dadin's condition was satisfactory and that there were no signs of beating or earlier injuries on his body. Mr. Dadin also left the colony to visit the Petrozavodsk Municipal Hospital for further examinations including an electroencephalography. There are also plans to invite a further independent medical expert recommended by the human rights community to verify Mr. Dadin's state of health. Mr. Dadin's wife Anastasia Zotova also visited him yesterday.

And now a word about the Moscow office of Amnesty International. As so often, our US colleagues are attempting to make a mountain out of a molehill. The action taken was a result solely of this non-governmental organization's failure to pay its rent. The organization was given advance notice of this. It was requested to pay the rent arrears within a month otherwise the lease would be terminated with three months' notice. The warning was ignored by the tenant, as a result of which the Moscow Municipal Property Department decided to seal off the premises.

As far as we know, the rental agreement has now been reinstated in full and the staff of the Moscow office of Amnesty International will be able to resume work in the very near future, if they haven't already done so. This information is also confirmed by the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention.