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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1092nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 March 2016

On the case of Nadiya Savchenko

Mr. Chairperson,

We already informed the Permanent Council in detail last week about the state of the investigation into the case of Nadiya Savchenko.

I should like to add that Russia has taken steps in response to the request by the Ukrainian doctors to visit Ms. Savchenko exceptionally for humanitarian reasons. The judge of the Donetsk municipal court where the case against Ms. Savchenko is being heard already agreed on 9 March to grant access to the defendant by the Ukrainian doctors. However, the provocative behaviour of Ms. Savchenko during the court hearing that same day and her insulting remarks to the court changed the situation and made it impossible for the visit to take place. I should explain that Ms. Savchenko issued a stream of gross abuse in court. Those wishing to can see on the Internet this “example of dignified behaviour” by the so-called deputy of the Verkhovna Rada to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

As a result, the judge was obliged to cancel all visits to the defendant until her sentencing on 21 March. As for Ms. Savchenko’s health, which is being talked about so much here, it gives no grounds for concern. She feels normal, gets exercise and is under permanent medical supervision.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, informed his Ukrainian counterpart, Mr. Pavlo Klimkin, to this effect yesterday by telephone.

We would once again advise those who care about this person, who is accused of serious crimes, that they are attempting to interfere with judicial processes taking place in our country in strict compliance with Russian law. Threats and meddlesome demands for her release put direct pressure on the court, which runs counter to the democratic principles of the rule of law, the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. Regarding the court proceedings, we find the comments on the merits of the case to be unacceptable, particularly when Ukrainian and Western colleagues resort to speculation, manipulation of

the facts and filling the media with all kinds of fragments relating to the case taken out of context.

Moreover, we believe that many colleagues who have spoken about the case of Ms. Savchenko today do not have the moral – and I stress moral not formal – right to do so. After all, for some reason Washington is not releasing the Russian citizens Viktor Bout and Konstantin Yaroshenko, who were practically kidnapped, and is providing them with urgently required medical treatment only after persistent requests to do so by Russia – not to mention the prisoners in Guantánamo, who are being detained outside the legal boundaries of the United States of America and have been subjected to torture. It might also be worth recalling the kidnapping of dozens of persons and their transport on Central Intelligence Agency rendition flights with the active assistance of a number of European Union countries.

Why do Washington and Brussels fail to ask Kyiv about the murder of the Russian journalists Igor Kornelyuk and Anton Voloshin? Why do they not demand that the Ukrainian authorities release thousands of political prisoners?

The answer is obvious. It is not the fate of Ms. Savchenko that interests politicians and diplomats posing on social media with posters with her name on them, but self-promotion and a desire to curry political favour.

Thank you for your attention.