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**ADDITIONAL REMARKS BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1324th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 July 2021

**On human rights violations in Estonia**

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to respond to some of the points made by my Estonian colleague.

In particular, he noted that he had “already heard” many of the topics mentioned in our statement. That is precisely the problem, because these subjects are constantly being brought up in our discussions – the reason being that no progress is ever made. It is therefore likely that the Estonian Government will not stop hearing about these issues. We will raise them on a regular basis.

I do not wish to take up the precious time of those assembled here by responding to each and every point made by our Estonian colleague (although we have something to say, and what is more on matters of substance). I will dwell on only a few topics.

Notably, we heard the argument that there are supposedly no “non-citizens” in Estonia. So, you no longer consider these people to be “non-citizens”? There are 69,000 such people – 5 per cent of the population of your country.

Despite claims that this section of the population enjoys basic rights, their rights are in fact very limited. For example, their right to free movement, because their passport is not recognized by a number of countries. They are not covered by the privileges of Estonia’s membership in the European Union. For example, “non-citizens” cannot elect members of the European Parliament. What kind of democracy is that?

As for the case of Sergey Seredenko, it is being dragged out deliberately by the Estonian justice system. During his four months in custody, the human rights defender was never proven guilty of the charges brought by the national security services. Moreover, the Prosecutor’s Office does not consider it possible to disclose detailed information about the allegations against him. This attitude of the authorities merely confirms the human rights defender’s innocence.

The educational policy of the Estonian authorities is the topic of a separate discussion. Yes, Russian-language schools still operate in the country. But they are rapidly decreasing in number. And the fact that these educational institutions will no longer receive funding from 2035 because of the alleged lack

of funds highlights the blatant hypocrisy of the Estonian authorities. It turns out that the Estonian Government is able to find funds for the development of civil society in Ukraine, as the United States Embassy in Estonia boasted, but not for the education of children from ethnic minorities.

Thank you for your attention.