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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1149th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 June 2017

On surveillance of journalists in the United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

We are concerned at the recent reports that the US Department of Justice has received an order regarding the electronic surveillance of a number of journalists as part of the investigation of leaks from the White House to the media. This is being reported by a source within the country, the US newspaper the *New York Post*.

In particular, it asserts that the journalists subject to electronic surveillance had allegedly received confidential information from an unknown official, thought to be a military administrator who used to occupy a high position in the US intelligence. It is also pointed out that the journalist surveillance order was issued to the Department of Justice by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

We note that this is not the first time that media workers have been subject to harassment. A similar incident took place in 2013 when, as reported by Associated Press, wiretaps were carried out on over 100 media workers, and also in 2012, when telephone calls by reporters were illegally intercepted by the police in Cleveland.

In that context, we should like to remind our US colleagues of the commitments undertaken in the OSCE, according to which “participating States will not discriminate against independent media with respect to affording access to information, material and facilities” and “will, in conformity with international standards regarding the freedom of expression, take no measures aimed at barring journalists from the legitimate exercise of their profession” (CSCE Moscow Document 1991).

We call on the US Government to desist from restricting freedom of speech and the press.

We expect the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to take account of this problem in its work.

Thank you for your attention.