Delegation of the Russian Federation

STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1136th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

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On hate crimes in the United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

We note the measures taken by the United States of America to combat hate crime. Nevertheless, the situation in that country remains grave.

In the United States, as such, there are no comprehensive, i.e. national statistics on such crimes. The corresponding database is allegedly available in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), but data for 2016 has not yet been made public. Furthermore, this database is incomplete, as it is compiled from information sent by local police departments on a voluntary basis.

We recall that in October 2016, at a hearing in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, FBI Director James Comey said that the Bureau did not have information about how many people in the country had been killed by the police the previous month or year. This is also reported by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Amnesty International, commenting on the plans of the US Department of Justice to create in 2017 a system to track such deaths in accordance with the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013. The NGO points out that since the programme will once again not be mandatory for law enforcement agencies, the collected data will be unable to reflect the total number of deaths.

The US media and NGOs are trying to compensate for the lack of statistics. According to the specialized website killedbypolice.net, in 2016, 1,152 people were killed by the police in the United States. This is somewhat less than the year before – 1,208 people, but the scale is still appalling: US police kill an average of three people a day.

This problem has other aspects. Racial, for example. According to *The Washington Post*, 24 per cent of the total number of people killed by the police are African American. Journalists have estimated that this is twice their percentage of the total population of the United States. About 25 per cent of those killed by police had mental disorders, and 46 per cent of those killed were unarmed.

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We should like to ask, does anyone answer before the law for excessive use of force with lethal consequences? Indicative in this regard are the results of the investigation of the police department of the city of Chicago that were published in January 2017. This investigation was conducted by the US Department of Justice and the Illinois Office of the United States Attorney (United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois). Thirty thousand complaints against the police over the past five years were reviewed. Of those, further action was taken in less than 2 per cent of cases. As indicated in the outcome document, the failure to adequately investigate the use of force by police directly contributed to the formation of a behaviour model in which police officers are accustomed to being unaccountable for their use of force. According to *The Washington Post*, at least 1,000 people are killed by the police in the United States each year, while in the period from 2005 to 2016, only 77 police officers in the country were charged with murder.

There is no complete information not only about victims of police brutality, but also in general for hate crimes. At the last meeting of the Permanent Council, we raised the issue of the surge in anti-Semitism in the United States. Meanwhile, according to New York City Police Commissioner James O'Neill, in this city, for example, the overall number of hate crimes rose by 31 per cent last year. At the same time, criminal acts against both Jews and Muslims increased.

The figures given are just the tip of the iceberg, and the US authorities still have a lot to do to solve this serious problem.

Thank you for your attention.