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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

ENGLISH only

Statement
On the Occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against
Journalists
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1117th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
November 3, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

November 2 marked the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, which is a sad reminder of continued violence and killing of journalists in the OSCE area but also manifestation of our determination to fight this phenomenon.

Protection of journalists and combating impunity of crimes against them is a priority for Armenia. We firmly believe that failure to address intimidation, violence and killing of journalists, community leaders, and intellectuals creates a climate of impunity, thus encouraging intolerance and towards any idea which runs counter to official narratives. It is worth noting that the crimes against freedom of expression usually take place in the environment of other serious human rights violations including hate crimes.

We took note of the press-release of the distinguished OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatovic and we share her concerns on the problem of impunity of murders of journalists and the need to bring all perpetrators to justice. The press-release reflected also the case of Hrant Dink, prominent Armenian-Turkish intellectual, chief editor of the Turkish Armenian newspaper Agos, who was killed almost a decade ago.

The Delegation of Armenia has regularly raised this issue at the Permanent Council throughout last years. In response, we had been advised by the Turkish Delegation to wait for the results of legal proceedings. There have been certain revelations on this case including involvement of various state representatives.

We are encouraged by the strong voices of large portion of the Turkish society calling to bring to justice all masterminds of the Hrant Dink assassination.

Hrant Dink's assassination had not been an isolated attempt to silence free media in Turkey. The recent and continued deterioration in freedom of expression which triggered wide international reactions indicate that impunity is something which cannot and should not be tolerated.

Thank You.