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**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1117th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 November 2016

On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to reply briefly to the distinguished Ukrainian representative. I have before me an incomplete list of journalists who have been victims of crimes and persecution in Ukraine – 11 pages of closely written text. We will distribute this material today and urge colleagues to study it carefully. We are particularly interested in hearing the impartial judgement of the United States of America and the European Union.

Regarding the case of Roman Sushchenko, I would remind you that this Ukrainian citizen was detained on 30 September 2016 on suspicion of espionage. According to the investigation, he is a colonel in the Chief Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and collected secret information in Moscow about the activities of the Russian army and National Guard. He was in Russia as a private individual and was not performing any journalistic functions whatsoever. He had no accreditation, nor had he applied for it. While in detention he has been given access to a lawyer and the Ukrainian consul.

As for the questions raised by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United States of America regarding some headline-making affairs that took place a long time ago in Russia, we have already given explanations several times at Permanent Council meetings. The investigations continue and the culprits have been or will be punished according to the law.

Conversely, we would be interested to hear about the progress in the investigation of the deaths of a number of journalists in the United States of America, like Sandy Hume, who worked for the newspaper *The Hill*, or Tony Moser, who was run over by a car two days after having penned an article containing scathing criticisms of corruption in Little Rock, capital of Arkansas. What is known about the death of the correspondent for the *San Jose Mercury News* and Pulitzer Prize winner Gary Webb, who was investigating the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)? Has there been any clarification of the circumstances surrounding the death of Andrew Breitbart, who died suddenly just a few hours after publishing video material that

could have done serious damage to Barack Obama's election campaign in 2012? What really happened to the *Rolling Stone* journalist Michael Hastings, who was working before his death on an article about the CIA?

We hope that the distinguished representative of the United States of America will give us detailed explanations in the near future.

Thank you for your attention.