

PC.DEL/1137/15  
4 September 2015

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1066th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 September 2015

**On the cases of Mr. Oleg Sentsov, Mr. Oleksander Kolchenko and  
Ms. Nadiya Savchenko**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 25 August at the North Caucasus district military court, hearings took place in full compliance with Russian legislation on the criminal case of Oleg Sentsov and Oleksander Kolchenko, who are accused of creating a terrorist group, setting fire to the office of the non-governmental organization Russian Community of Crimea, setting fire to the office of the Simferopol local city branch of the all-Russian political party United Russia and planning an explosion on 9 May 2014, the day of celebration of Victory Day, in Simferopol.

According to the verdict, Mr. Sentsov was found guilty and sentenced to a partly cumulative sentence of 20 years' imprisonment in a strict regime correctional colony.

Mr. Kolchenko was also found guilty and sentenced to a partly cumulative sentence of ten years' imprisonment in a strict regime correctional colony.

In light of the constant attempts to politicize this matter, we should like to highlight that the sentenced persons were provided with all the necessary legal and procedural safeguards, in full compliance with Russian legislation and international law. They can appeal against sentences that have not entered into force. This is not detention without a trial like in Guantánamo or the so-called secret prisons of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

We categorically deny the accusations against Russian courts and consider such attacks to show disregard for the principles of the separation of powers and the rule of law and to be an attempt to exert pressure on Russian judges.

Furthermore, the claims that the sentences handed down supposedly contravene the Minsk agreements have no bearing in reality. Oleg Sentsov and Oleksander Kolchenko clearly are not "hostages and illegally detained persons", the releasing of whom is provided for by the Minsk Package of Measures.

It is also relevant to recall that in Ukraine more than 4,000 criminal cases have been initiated on such charges as supporting separatism or campaigning against conscription. More than 700 people are in prison. Moreover, this is only according to data from public sources. The real figures could be significantly higher.

At the same time, none of the guilty persons involved in the violence at the Maidan, including the snipers affair, the mass murder in Odessa at the trade union building on 2 May 2014 and the incidents in Mariupol on 9 May, not to mention those guilty of shelling towns in Donbas and murdering civilians and journalists, have been brought to justice yet.

Now to Ms. Savchenko who is accused of involvement in the murder of the Russian journalists Anton Voloshin and Igor Kornelyuk, the attempted murder of other civilians and illegally crossing the border of the Russian Federation. On 2 July 2015, Ms. Savchenko and her defence counsel finished reviewing the criminal case files. On 16 July, the indictment was approved by the public prosecutor and submitted for the consideration of the Donetsk city court in the Rostov region. During the preliminary hearings of the Savchenko case on 30 July, her defence requested for the trial to be transferred to Moscow. In its decision of 21 August, the Rostov region court refused to transfer the case. A further announcement will be made about the holding of the next court session.

The facts of Ms. Savchenko being elected to the Verkhovna Rada and appointed a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during her imprisonment have no legal merit. They only serve to discredit those structures and are in no way proof of Ms. Savchenko's innocence.

Thank you for your attention.