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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1467th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 April 2024

**On the occasion of the second anniversary of the arrest of Vladimir Kara-Murza**

Madam Chairperson,

We have long ceased to be surprised by the hypocritical approaches of the Western alliance countries to human rights issues, which they shamelessly use to interfere in States' internal affairs and to vilify their leadership. The "guilty verdicts" of NATO member countries against undesirable States are not subject to review, and no one is interested in the opinion of the "accused".

The United Kingdom is certainly at the forefront in this respect. Our comments on the case of Vladimir Kara-Murza will therefore be brief. This Russian citizen violated several articles of the Russian Criminal Code, was found guilty and is serving time for his offences. One such article was Article 275 of the Criminal Code on high treason. Incidentally, the United Kingdom is itself in the process of tightening its laws on high treason and espionage, also against the background of "the increased threat from Russia, China and Iran". This can be seen as yet another manifestation of neo-colonial approaches, whereby any measure is taken to safeguard one's own national interests, while other States are denied that right.

In addition, contrary to the slogans about its commitment to democratic values and the rule of law, the United Kingdom churns out politically motivated court decisions at home as and when required. It does not shy away from persecuting civil activists and independent reporters. The case of Julian Assange, which fully exposed the ineffectiveness and punitive nature of the British justice system, is indicative in this regard. From 2012, the independent investigative journalist was forced to hide from British pseudo-justice in the Embassy of Ecuador, where he essentially lived in conditions of torture – in a cramped room with no access to the outside world and under 24-hour surveillance. Following his arrest in 2019, the British authorities initiated years of legal proceedings, repeatedly delaying the adoption of a criminal procedural decision. However, they have not yet decided to extradite the human rights defender to the United States of America, where Mr. Assange faces a prison sentence of 175 years. Meanwhile, he has already spent more than 60 months in custody since his arrest, and has been deprived of his liberty for more than 13 years in total. According to his relatives, the health of this prisoner of conscience is deteriorating rapidly. What is this but a farce, a mockery of freedom of speech and of a man who dared to expose the underbelly of the criminal operations of the US and British intelligence services?

We regard as unacceptable the continuing attempts by Western alliance countries to interfere in Russia's internal affairs and to make an assessment on Russian justice. Once again, we recommend that the representatives of the Western alliance countries refrain from politicization and set about addressing their own problems. There are enough of them.

Thank you for your attention.