

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1049th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 April 2015

**On the events in Baltimore**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the statement by the representative of the United States of America.

The riots in Baltimore, provoked by the latest horrendous case of the killing of an African-American by a police officer, arouse serious concern. In the light of similar events in a number of other American cities and states, a worrying tendency can be discerned in the manifestations of police brutality against the country's dark-skinned population.

In the opinion of American non-governmental organizations, the recent killings of African-Americans by white police officers in Ferguson, New York, North Charleston, and now also in Baltimore are merely the "tip of the iceberg". According to their data, more than 1,000 people die every year at the hands of law enforcement officials in the United States. What especially worries American human rights activists is that the authorities do not even keep comprehensive statistics in this regard. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Annual Supplementary Homicide Report, law enforcement officers "justifiably" use lethal force against 400 people on average each year.

According to the website "killedbypolice.net", however, these figures are much higher. During an 18-month period in 2013 and 2014, 1,450 people died at the hands of police – in 85 per cent of the cases, furthermore, as a result of the use of firearms.

According to an investigation by the *Washington Post*, only 54 police officers have appeared in court since 2005. Nearly all of those whom they killed were unarmed, and in half of the cases, shot in the back. The courts exonerate police officers twice as often as they convict them. All too frequently, juries have only the police officer's word to rely on. Of the 54 incidents that went to trial, only 18 were captured by video cameras.

We urge the United States to adhere strictly to the relevant international standards and OSCE commitments, among other things, in the context of police activities. We trust that the

United States authorities will conduct a thorough and impartial investigation, hold the guilty accountable and inform the Permanent Council of the results.

We also consider it appropriate to request the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Secretariat to conduct an analysis of these phenomena in American society, including the possibility of sending a fact-finding mission and preparing the respective recommendations, as well as helping to train United States law enforcement agencies in basic human rights standards.

Thank you for your attention.