

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1061st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 July 2015

**Regarding the United States Department of State Country Reports on
Human Rights Practices for 2014**

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to the release by the United States Department of State of its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014, we should like to comment that the document suffers from the same shortcomings as its predecessors.

A statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out that “the report abounds with politicized evaluations and crude, ideological clichés. This document is yet another example of the manner in which the United States mentors and moralizes in the human rights sphere. It is based on the fallacious logic that the United States is infallible, while all other countries are ‘problematic’ in one way or another.”

We note that it is not always clear which sources form the basis of the arbitrary “ranking” of the level of democracy of the States. The authors do not shy away from openly equivocating and juggling with facts.

This applies fully to the section on the situation in Ukraine. Yet there is cynical silence regarding the significant gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Ukrainian security forces and armed neo-Nazi groups in Donbas. Once again, an attempt has been made to hide the fact that the current catastrophic state of human rights in Ukraine is a consequence of the unconstitutional *coup d'état* in Kyiv in February 2014. The United States authorities are associated most directly with the encouragement and organization of this coup.

Selective stereotyped evaluations and the active use of double standards apply not least to the section of the report on Russia.

We regard the attempts by the United States to concentrate its efforts on finding the mote in the eye of third countries as a stubborn unwillingness to see the beam in the human rights sphere at home. The situation seems, at the very least, cynical, given that this is a

country whose ranking on freedom of speech has fallen by dozens of places, a country that is one of the leaders of the developed States in the level of its corruption, yet lectures others on how to advance the freedom and pluralism of the media and on human rights. Not to mention the systemic problems in the United States in the area of democracy and the rule of law, including the use of capital punishment, including extrajudicial capital punishment, racial discrimination, the unprecedented scale of xenophobic ideas and activities of extremist organizations, impunity for inhuman treatment and torture in special CIA programmes, and the massive wiretapping of people in the United States and beyond its borders. Clearly, it is far more difficult to deal with matters at home such as investigating and punishing police arbitrariness, which is to blame for the deaths of thousands of people, improving the conditions of detention of prisoners, combating social inequality and economic segregation on racial and ethnic grounds, discrimination against immigrants and the harsh treatment of immigrant children by United States border guards than to mentor and indulge in lecturing those who do not need it.

Thank you for your attention.