

Vienna, November 1, 2018

His Excellency Mr. Alexander Lukashevich
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE
Erzherzog Karl Str. 182, 1220
Vienna, Austria

Dear Ambassador Lukashevich,

On August 30, we sent you a letter requesting concrete information under the OSCE Vienna (Human Dimension) Mechanism due to our concerns about credible reports of human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya. Your letter of September 4 unfortunately did not provide a substantive response to our questions.

This only deepens our concern that the Russian Federation is unwilling or unable to address the reports of serious human rights violations and abuses, which contributes to a climate of impunity for authorities in Chechnya. We believe that the reported violations and abuses reflect a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension. We therefore invoke paragraph 12 of the 1991 Moscow Document of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the OSCE (Moscow Mechanism) to establish a mission of experts to address the concerns outlined in our August 30 letter. Those concerns centered around allegations of impunity for reported human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya from January 2017 to the present, including, but not limited to, violations and abuses against persons based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as against human rights defenders, lawyers, independent media, civil society organizations, and others. Among the reported human rights violations and abuses were: allegations of harassment and persecution; arbitrary or unlawful arrests or detentions; torture; enforced disappearances; and extrajudicial executions.

In addition to establishing the facts and reporting on them, we encourage the mission of experts to give advice to the Russian Federation, to the OSCE, and to the international community on possible solutions to the questions raised.

We look forward to working with your government in the coming days on arrangements for the mission. An expert mission, one member of which may, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Moscow Document, be chosen by the government of the Russian Federation, should be able to give an objective and unbiased report and recommendations on these issues.

CC: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights



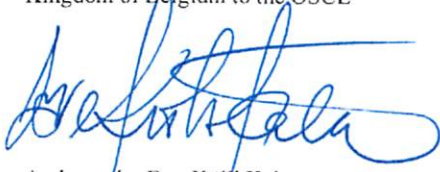
Ambassador Paul Huynen
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE



Ambassador Natasha Cayer
Permanent Representative of Canada
to the OSCE



Ambassador René Dinesen
Permanent Representative of
Denmark to the OSCE



Ambassador Eve-Külfi Kala
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Estonia to the OSCE



Ambassador Päivi Laivola de Rosière
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the OSCE



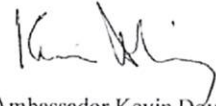
Ambassador Véronique Roger-Lacan
Permanent Representative of France
to the OSCE



Ambassador Eberhard Pohl
Permanent Representative of
Germany to the OSCE



Mr. Guðni Bragason
Minister Plenipotentiary and
Permanent Representative of
Iceland in Vienna



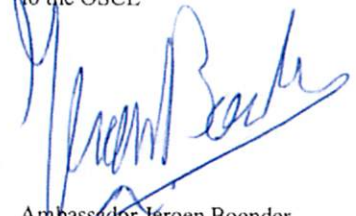
Ambassador Kevin Dowling
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the OSCE



Ambassador Janis Zlamets
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Latvia to the OSCE



Ambassador Aurimas Taurantas
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Lithuania to the
International Organizations in Vienna



Ambassador Jeroen Boender
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
OSCE



Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
Permanent Representative of Norway
to the OSCE



Ambassador Ulrika Funered
Permanent Representative of
Sweden to the OSCE



Ambassador Sian MacLeod
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the OSCE in
Vienna



Mr. Harry Kamian
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
United States Mission to the OSCE