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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note verbale dated 20 September 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to enclose herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on the installation of monument to criminals from Latvian SS legion.

The Permanent Mission refers to paragraph 8 of the annex to resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 entitled, "Rules of Procedure concerning Languages", and rule 14 [47] of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, and requests that the information provided by the Government of Belarus be published as a document of the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 9 in all the official languages of the United Nations.

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in Relation to Installation of Monument to Criminals from Latvian SS Legion

Erection of the monument devoted to the Latvian SS Legion in the center of the Latvian town of Bauska fills us with indignation.

In the years of the Great Patriotic War the criminals of this division executed punitive actions on the territory of the Brest oblast of Belarus. Their hands are red with blood of Belarusian partisans and civilian residents.

We are particularly concerned by the fact that the monument was erected with condonation and participation of the local Latvian authorities.

Participation of underage school students at the opening ceremony is a sacrilege. This is an unprincipled propaganda of contemporary forms of racism and neo-Nazi politics among the young generation.

The Belarusian side resolutely condemns the erection of the monument to criminals, who fought on the side of Nazi Germany. It is an act of direct desecration of the memory of the dead and a challenge to common European historical values.
