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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1392nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 October 2022

**On the flouting by a Western alliance of OSCE participating States and its proxies in
Ukraine of the right of peoples to self-determination, and the ongoing crimes by the
Kyiv regime against the civilian population**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 4 October, the President of the Russian Federation signed federal constitutional laws on the admission to the Russian Federation of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. This decision completes the constitutional process for the recognition of the direct and free expression of the will of the residents of the territories liberated from Ukrainian armed formations in the referendums of 23 to 27 September. The expression of will took place in full compliance with the norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, as confirmed by independent international observers. The decisions taken in referendums by the inhabitants of the territories in question are their response to the excesses of the Kyiv regime, which for many years has relied on neo-Nazi paramilitary formations and has effectively aligned itself with their ideology and proclaimed goals and tasks.

In recent years, with the full support of its Western sponsors, the aggressive totalitarian regime in Ukraine has in fact been actively forming up, militarizing and preparing for a war with its own people and its neighbours. At its instigation, discriminatory laws have been imposed in the country, a forcible change of identity has been embarked on and massive and gross violations of human rights have taken place, including harassment and persecution on the basis of language, culture, religion and political opinion.

Russophobia has been encouraged and then even adopted as State policy. The green light has been given to manifestations of ethnic and religious intolerance, the glorification of Hitler's accomplices and the revival of Nazi ideas. Moreover, their adherents have found their way to power, occupying cosy and influential positions in government structures. Ultimately, the country's officials have ceased being ashamed of their neo-Nazi identity and openly call for the killing of Russians all over the world.

For Ukraine, the full-scale attack on the rights of the huge, multi-million Russian and Russian-speaking population, who are effectively the people who make up the State, marked the beginning of the destruction of the country's fragile post-Soviet statehood. This process was controlled by foreign

handlers, who essentially stripped Ukraine of its sovereignty after the armed coup d'état in February 2014 and placed it under external control. Attempts to bring the Kyiv regime back to its senses and to return to compliance with international legal obligations, including those undertaken within the OSCE, have been unsuccessful. Russians have been steadily shaped into a kind of “national minority”. Year after year, their opportunities for living in their homeland the way many generations of their predecessors did have been curtailed.

Let's face it: the Russian language has been disappearing in Ukraine in State institutions, courts, schools, radio and television, city signage and a number of other spheres of public life not because it has become less popular, but because its use there has been actively banned or subjected to quotas. The same applies to the brutal interference of the post-Maidan Ukrainian authorities in the life of the Church and in many other spheres that define the basis of the people's identity.

In order to suppress dissent and impose Ukrainian nationalist ideas, the Kyiv regime has carried out a punitive operation in the east of the country since April 2014, claiming thousands of civilian lives. In parallel, the authorities in Kyiv have repeatedly stated that anyone who disagrees with this line should “clear off to Russia”. We have already quoted this in the past.

Russia's efforts to facilitate a peaceful, political and diplomatic solution to the crisis in Ukraine eventually met with opposition from the authorities in Kyiv and – to our surprise – from those international partners who, on paper, had offered to be guarantors of such a settlement. The many years of sabotaging the implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures approved by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, which envisaged direct dialogue between representatives of the authorities in Kyiv and locally, is a case in point. Instead of implementing it in good faith, the Kyiv regime, receiving more and more weapons and military funding from NATO countries, has continued shelling peaceful towns and preparing for a full-scale armed “mopping-up” of Donbas. Moreover, they have increasingly threatened to attack the territories of neighbouring States, including Russia, dreaming of some kind of “military parades” in the squares of the capitals.

Russia could not remain indifferent to the genocide against the population of the aforementioned territories. The Russian special military operation has liberated significant areas from Ukrainian armed formations. Their inhabitants have been able to exercise, freely and without hindrance, all the rights that the Kyiv regime deprived them of. Through democratic procedures, they have determined their own destiny – to be together with Russia.

Under these circumstances, it is bewildering how cynically Western countries ignore the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in many other documents. We talked about this in detail at the reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council on 30 September. By contrast, the Western alliance continues to encourage the Kyiv regime to commit more and more crimes against civilians, including crimes against those who have spoken out unequivocally in favour of remaining united with Russia.

In this room again today, we have heard words of approval from some for the Ukrainian formations. We urge you not to be under any illusions about their actions in the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. We emphasize that the entire territory of these constituent entities will be liberated from the Ukrainian formations, and that the goals of the Russian special operation to protect Donbas, demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, and to eliminate threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the collective West will be achieved.

Further video evidence of the crimes of the Kyiv regime and its armed formations can be found in the open video message published on 4 October by 38 servicemen of the Eighth Company of the Third Regiment of the 25th Airborne Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. They did not hide their faces and spoke directly about receiving criminal orders to massacre civilians. Watch it carefully – it is not a fake or propaganda. It is not someone having a psycho-emotional breakdown or fantasy. This is collective evidence of a systemic phenomenon in the Ukrainian armed forces.

According to admissions by members of the Ukrainian formations, before occupying a village in the Kharkiv region, they received an order from their commanders stating: “There are only occupiers in this village; there are no civilians here. Fire on all houses, windows and cars, and throw grenades into cellars.” The Ukrainian armed forces soldiers report that after entering the village they saw a young woman and her child come out of a house (so that is who are considered to be “occupiers”), after which the commanders confirmed their order, saying that “it happens, it’s war”. In other words, children and women were hiding in the basements of civilian homes (absolutely not military objectives), but the Ukrainian armed forces had orders to kill them there with grenades as part of the “mopping-up”.

Instead of reproducing long discredited fake news about children being raped, you could pay attention to real, rather than fictional, evidence. Those who spread such lame propaganda about children should recall that their author, former Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Liudmyla Denisova, said that she had invented and “embellished” this information in order to persuade European countries to supply Ukraine with more weapons. Furthermore, in a fresh online conversation with her published the other day, she confirmed that instructions to spread such fake news came from the Ukrainian intelligence services. Watch this entertaining video interview with her.

It is absolutely clear that the actions of the Kyiv regime represent a war against civilians, an attempt not only to destroy identity and dissent, but also to physically “cleanse” the territory of the unwanted and change the ethnic composition of the population by exterminating the local inhabitants. What kind of “heroism” by Ukrainian formations are representatives of Western delegations talking about here? Is that why a number of NATO countries are supplying them with lethal weapons?

A recent official statement by the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs on the search for “Ukraine’s enemies” is also telling in this regard. It is reported, for example, that up to 40 so-called “potential collaborators” in Kharkiv region settlements are detained every day and interrogated by the intelligence services in unknown conditions. The fate of many citizens detained extrajudicially remains unclear.

No less illustrative is a report by Al Jazeera correspondent Charles Stratford from Sviatohirsk (Donetsk People’s Republic), where a representative of the Ukrainian formations temporarily controlling the city states on camera that they intend to eliminate all the clergy of the Sviatohirsk Lavra without exception simply because the monks represent the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and historically share the same canon as the Moscow Patriarchate.

Convoys of civilians heading deep into the territory of the Russian Federation were shelled on 29 September near Kupiansk (Kharkiv region) and on 30 September in the Zaporizhzhia region. Dozens of dead were reported. All signs point to a punitive action by the Kyiv regime against those who did not wish to live under its rule and chose to leave the territories controlled by Ukrainian formations. Moreover, the incident near Zaporizhzhia was used by the Kyiv authorities to block humanitarian traffic to the territories of the Zaporizhzhia region liberated by the Russian military. I recall that the only functioning checkpoint where civilians could leave the Ukrainian Government-controlled areas was located in Vasylivka.

All this shows one thing: the Kyiv regime realizes that its formations in all these territories are not just “liberators”. The organization of mass killings and detentions is evidence that the regime is afraid of citizens it has long considered as not being its own and seeks to neutralize if not eliminate them altogether. Let us be frank: if the ethnic composition of the population, language, cultural and religious characteristics of the local inhabitants, monuments, historical traditions or place names stand in the way of someone who is trying to establish their statehood on a particular territory, then it is obvious that they are trying to do so on soil that is not theirs.

The inhabitants of the Donetsk People’s Republic, the Luhansk People’s Republic and the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions made their historic choice in favour of reunification with Russia, and this choice is widely supported by all peoples and regions of our country.

Thank you for your attention.