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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1525th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 June 2025

**In connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in
Conflict**

Madam Chairperson,

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 19 June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. Its main objective, as set out in General Assembly resolution 69/293, whereby the International Day was established, is “to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence”.

We believe that the fight against this scourge is the prerogative of national governments, and that intergovernmental organizations and civil society are meant merely to complement those efforts.

On the international stage, the leadership and co-ordinating role falls to the United Nations Security Council. We support the Security Council’s consistent calls regarding the need to ensure the implementation of international humanitarian law in order to effectively combat this disgraceful phenomenon, including by expanding the membership of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and of the two Protocols Additional thereto of 1977.

Madam Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the collective West has over many decades been using the sensitive issue of sexual violence as a means of shoddy, cynical propaganda to demonize political opponents and smear “undesirable” States. Our country came up against such an approach already during the concluding phase of the Second World War, when, in order to rally resistance to the Red Army, the Hitlerite military ideologues actively propagated the myth about alleged mass rapes and other so-called atrocities by Soviet soldiers. As admitted by Nazi civil servant Werner Naumann, “our propaganda as to what the Russians are like, as to what the population can expect from them in Berlin, has been so successful that we have reduced the Berliners to a state of sheer terror.”¹

1 Translator’s note: English translation taken from Cornelius Ryan, *The Last Battle* [1966] (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2015)

As we can see, the methods of Goebbels's Ministry of Propaganda have been actively embraced by the Ukrainian neo-Nazis and their Western patrons. Since 2022 they have been ceaselessly broadcasting "studies" of sorts allegedly based on eyewitness accounts. However, these are, as a rule, unverifiable. Such unsubstantiated allegations are subsequently relayed on international platforms as some kind of evidence for crimes by the Russian army.

And the representatives of "enlightened democracies" in this room time and again cite – as if they were invoking an absolute truth – dubious reports issued under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism and periodical reviews by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which, however, are increasingly discrediting themselves. Just consider, for example, the insinuations about tens of thousands of Ukrainian children having been "abducted", as allegedly confirmed by the authors of the aforementioned publications. This is a lie that we have repeatedly debunked, including a mere couple of meetings ago, on the basis of the very same data that was presented by the Ukrainian side in Istanbul on 2 June of this year. What is the value, then, of such "expert findings"?

Madam Chairperson,

Against this backdrop, we note the hushing-up and concealment of real cases of sexual violence on the part of right-wing radical groups and Ukrainian armed forces personnel against the civilian population of Donbass since 2014. There have also been such cases in territories controlled by the Kyiv regime. Not to mention the heinous crimes committed in the Kursk region by Ukrainian neo-Nazis and Western mercenaries. After invading that Russian territory in August 2024, they unleashed a veritable terror against its civilians. Numerous documented facts have been gathered relating to sexual violence, torture and other forms of ill-treatment. We emphasize that this is genuine evidence, as opposed to the sick fantasies of representatives of Western countries and their Kyiv protégés.

The cruelty and inhumanity of the crimes committed are staggering. For example, on 18 January 2025, the bodies of tortured and murdered local residents were discovered in the basements of residential buildings in the village of Russkoye Porechnoye. Their deaths had resulted from hours of abuse, including violent acts of a sexual nature. In the course of the investigation, it has been established that the Kyiv regime's armed formations were involved in murdering civilians and physically abusing women. We assure you that the Russian Federation's law enforcement authorities will leave no stone unturned to clear up these crimes. All the perpetrators will be brought to justice and severely punished.

We call upon the Western alliance countries to stop hushing up these unlawful acts – otherwise, we must interpret it as criminal complicity.

Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the topic being discussed today, we cannot fail to mention a high-profile case that demonstrates the true nature of those who have got into the habit of arrogantly making accusations from their lofty pulpit.

The crimes, including sexual crimes, committed by British soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan recently surfaced in the news again. The BBC has made public the testimonies of several dozen veterans of an elite Royal Marine unit who spoke about the numerous killings of civilians perpetrated by their comrades-in-arms. As reported, during raids, British soldiers would resort to the tactic of wholesale slaughter of civilians, including detainees or those who were in hospital. Soldiers would force their way into homes, rape women and kill people in their sleep. What is more, these members of the British special forces

had a feeling of complete impunity everywhere. The poor psychological state of these military personnel is emphasized, with some of them described as serial killers who would experience a pathological urge to shed blood. There was, in effect, a “competition” going on between the individual squadrons to see which managed to liquidate the highest number of civilians. It is stressed that these crimes were committed over a period of more than ten years, whereas the so-called independent inquiry into offences by the British military launched by the UK Ministry of Defence in December 2022 covers just the period from mid-2010 to mid-2013 and deals only with events in Afghanistan.

We may legitimately ask whether the United Kingdom could perhaps start off by putting its own house in order. Or does the “white man’s burden” give licence to commit any crimes against the inhabitants of the “jungle”, to use the well-known designation coined by Josep Borrell?

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian Federation categorically condemns sexual violence in any form. There can be no mitigating circumstances. Such crimes must be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

We stress that the work carried out to prevent and eradicate sexual violence must be systematic and comprehensive, taking into account the identified causes and origins of such violence. Focused efforts to combat manifestations of this scourge must yield long-lasting and sustainable results.

Thank you for your attention.