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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1382nd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 July 2022

**On the ongoing crimes by Ukraine against the civilian population with the support of a  
Western alliance of OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

As a result of the shelling of storage facilities at the site of an agricultural market in Nova Kakhovka in the Kherson region by Ukrainian formations on 11 July, tanks filled with ammonium nitrate and accompanying mineral fertilizers exploded, warehouses containing food and humanitarian supplies for local residents (35 tonnes) burned down, and nearby residential buildings suffered serious damage. According to the municipal authorities, seven people were killed and more than 90 were injured. Over 300 people were left without a roof over their heads, since their houses were heavily damaged. Drawing on military support by the West, the Ukrainian formations conducted strikes that inflicted damage on a municipal hospital, three kindergartens, two schools and numerous residential buildings. As has become known, the shelling was carried out using US missile systems, and three days before it started, the WorldView-2 satellite, also US-made, took pictures of the city from outer space.

On that same day, Horlivka in the Donetsk region came under shelling as well, with more than ten people there, including one child, sustaining injuries of various degrees of severity. Also on that day, three people were killed and over 40 were wounded in the shelling of the village of Stepano-Krynka (Donetsk People's Republic) from US-made multiple-launch rocket systems. Additionally, an attempt to shell the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant in the Kherson region was thwarted as the air defence system there sprung into action to protect that important civilian infrastructure facility. In the early hours of 13 July, a massive missile attack was launched on the city of Luhansk. At least ten people have been killed and 33 injured, including children, in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk alone since the start of this week as a result of Ukrainian shelling carried out using, *inter alia*, Western weapons. The figures continue to be updated.

In its determination to intimidate the residents of the liberated territories, the Kyiv regime continues to resort to patently terrorist methods. In Kherson alone, several sabotage groups have been uncovered, the participants of which admitted that they were receiving instructions from the intelligence services and the Ukrainian military command, including the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence, to carry out terrorist acts against infrastructure and storage facilities situated in that peaceful city. For example,

two detained natives of Nova Kakhovka told of how they would pass on information to facilitate subsequent strikes by the Ukrainian armed forces. They added, moreover, that the Ukrainian Security Service had asked them for the co-ordinates of a dam and of the places where peaceful public events involving the residents of the city were to be held to mark the Day of Family, Love and Fidelity (8 July).

This is a highly telling situation, especially in the light of recent statements made by the Chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, Kyrylo Budanov, in an interview with the *Financial Times* to the effect that terrorist acts are being prepared against everything connected with Russia.

Let us enumerate just some of these “acts”, which can unequivocally be traced back to the Kyiv regime. On 11 July, an attempt was made on the life of Andrii Sihuta, the head of the Melitopol district administration, but he survived. On the same day, an attempt on the life of Volodymyr Saldo, the head of the Kherson regional administration, was thwarted: an explosive device had been planted along the route of his car. Unfortunately, the day before, Yevhenii Yunakov, the head of the administration of the settlement of Velykyi Burluk, was murdered by means of such an explosive device. Even longer ago, on 24 June, Dmytro Savluchenko, the head of the families, youth and sports department of the Kherson regional administration was killed in a car explosion. Additionally, an attempt was made in Melitopol to blow up the car of Yevhen Balytskyi, the head of the Zaporizhzhia regional administration. All these people are not some sort of “stooges of Russia”, as they keep repeating over in Kyiv. They are officials and public figures from the region who did not abandon their fellow inhabitants but stayed there to help establish a peaceful life.

The Kyiv regime continues to display a benevolent attitude towards inveterate criminals from the Ukrainian nationalist battalions. Last week, we learned of the release from prison of a former commander of the Tornado nationalist battalion, Ruslan Onyshchenko. Together with his subordinates, he had engaged in extrajudicial reprisals and acts of torture and rape against civilians in Donbas – all this has been confirmed by the military prosecution services. Following his conviction, Mr. Onyshchenko was meant to have served his prison sentence until 2028, yet the “generous” Kyiv regime (evidently guided by the principle of political expediency) decided to grant him his freedom in exchange for his having expressed his readiness to fight in Donbas again. Well, what do you know: courtesy of the regime, rapists and murderers of civilians are sent back to the places where they have already inflicted massive suffering on the civilian population.

Today it is absolutely obvious that it is part of the plans of the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime to artificially maintain tensions in Ukraine. Last week, the US authorities announced that an additional package of so-called military aid worth 400 million US dollars had been earmarked for Ukraine. Among other things, it envisages the delivery of shells for multiple-launch rocket systems and for large-calibre artillery. We are convinced that over in Washington, D.C., they understand that such shipments are not going to secure any tactical advantages, let alone a “military victory”, for the Ukrainian armed formations. They also understand that their “beefing up” of the regime, alongside their dissuading it from participating in negotiation efforts to achieve a settlement, will merely result in further casualties among Russians, Ukrainians and locals belonging to other nationalities. That does evidently seem to be the aim after all. By the way, the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service, Stefano Sannino, has spoken of the European Union’s plans to invest in the destabilization of Ukraine by allocating a fifth tranche of “military assistance” to the tune of an additional 500 million euros.

We stress that military supplies from NATO countries to Ukraine are legitimate targets in the context of the Russian special operation and will be destroyed. The more these supplies are destroyed in depots and during transport and the less they end up in the combat positions of Ukrainian formations, the fewer civilian casualties there will be as a result of their targeted deployment against civilian infrastructure.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation will act no less resolutely against foreign mercenaries fighting on the side of Ukrainian armed formations. I wish to assure you that their names are all being recorded by us when they are still at the stage of preparing to travel to Ukraine. And their numbers are dwindling inexorably: over the past three weeks, as a result of offensive operations by the Russian armed forces and people's militia units from the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, the number of mercenaries decreased from 3,221 to 2,741. If they wish to stay alive, they ought to return home immediately. Otherwise, they will be either eliminated or handed over to justice as mercenaries, with all the implications of that term.

There was a remarkable pronouncement last week from the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, who said that, in his view, "Russia will close down the project called Ukraine once and for all" unless the Kyiv regime achieves military victory. First, what a highly revealing attitude towards one's own country, which even high-ranking officials refer to as a "project" (though they fail to mention who is in fact running it). Second, regardless of the feverish fantasies of representatives of the Kyiv regime, it must be understood that the "anti-Russia project" into which the collective West has been persistently trying to turn Ukraine all these past years has, without a doubt, no future whatsoever.

Russia is interested in there being a Ukraine that is free from the ideology of neo-Nazism, hatred and national exclusivity, that is not subject to unrestrained militarization by the West and that is set on fostering friendly relations with both the peoples inhabiting its territory and those living in neighbouring lands. We are convinced that this corresponds to the interests not only of the long-suffering Ukrainian people but also to those of pan-European security.

For now, we are obliged to note that the Ukrainians have been turned into pawns in the collective West's geopolitical struggle against Russia. This is illustrated clearly by the way in which the much-touted "solidarity" of Europeans with the inhabitants of Ukraine is crumbling before our very eyes. It is quite obvious that they are more interested in exploiting Ukrainian territory for anti-Russian purposes than in the Ukrainians themselves. For example, many fine, high-flown words were uttered in the capitals of various EU countries about their willingness to support Ukrainian refugees. However, already now signals are being sent out by them to the effect that they have reached the limits of their hospitality. This has been indicated in different forms and at various levels in the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Poland, the Baltic States and several other countries. One has only to think of the recent confession by the Minister of the Interior of Latvia, Kristaps Eklons, in a live broadcast on Latvijas Televīzija, when he said that there was growing "fatigue" as a result of the situation regarding Ukrainian refugees. Shortly thereafter, the local authorities in Riga and several other Latvian cities announced that they would be cutting back on their support for refugees from Ukraine. Similar announcements have been made by the authorities in Prague, Warsaw and other capitals. A multitudinous rally even took place in Poland under the slogan "This is Poland, not Ukropol!" As it is, many refugees are already finding themselves on the streets. For various reasons, they are failing to integrate into societies, where, as they kept being assured over the past years, "European values" close to their heart reign supreme.

In contrast, more than 9,500 temporary accommodation centres are operating in the Russian Federation. Arriving refugees are attended to individually; they receive prompt assistance with their further accommodation and employment, with the provision of places for their children in kindergartens and educational institutions; they are granted social welfare payments and benefits. All in all, more than 2,481,661 people, including 390,578 children, have arrived in Russia over the past four months. An additional 2.7 million people have applied to the inter-agency co-ordination headquarters in charge of the humanitarian response, asking to be evacuated to Russia, but this has not been possible because of the Kyiv regime's opposition to such evacuation. Previously, during the eight years of the Ukrainian Government's

punitive operation against the population of Donbas, Russia admitted and housed around 2 million Ukrainians fleeing from the violence perpetrated by the Kyiv regime. Russia will continue to render assistance to all the inhabitants of Ukraine who need it. In our society there is no – and never will be – “fatigue” of any kind in relation to Ukrainian refugees. We do not regard these people who are close and dear to us as strangers. And no exertions by Western propagandists to instil into the public consciousness myths about alleged “forced deportations” or “filtration camps” could possibly change that.

In a context where the Kyiv regime and its foreign handlers are deliberately depriving the residents of the liberated territories of opportunities for legal and social protection, Russia has taken steps to ensure that the residents of these territories are able to fully realize their civil rights. Through Decree No. 440 of 11 July 2022 of the President of the Russian Federation, the legislation on citizenship has been amended so as to give all inhabitants of Ukraine, irrespective of their place of residence, the right to apply for Russian citizenship via a simplified procedure. We emphasize that this process is of an exclusively voluntary nature. Against this background it is worth noting the rather hysterical reaction of representatives of the Kyiv regime, which is understandable given that the true attitude of the greater part of Ukrainian society towards anti-Russian narratives will become clear in the very near future.

We stress once again that the objectives of the Russian special military operation – namely, the protection of Donbas, the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, and the elimination of threats to the Russian Federation’s security created by the West on Ukrainian territory – will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.