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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1378th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 June 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukrainian armed formations have recently dramatically increased their shelling of the territories of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). In more than eight years of armed attacks by the Kyiv regime, 13 June was one of the worst days for Donetsk, with more than 300 heavy shells hitting the city. Most of them were fired at the city centre, where there are no military installations of any kind.

The shelling cannot even be categorized as indiscriminate. The attack on civilian neighbourhoods was carefully prepared and carried out over several hours in the form of methodical shelling with various types of large-calibre artillery. This is nothing less than a planned attack to cause mass deaths of civilians, to intimidate the population and to inflict maximum damage on civilian infrastructure. According to the Donetsk authorities, at least five people were killed and more than three dozen injured, including children. Many were saved by their eight-year practice of immediately taking shelter from Ukrainian shelling. In addition, at least five medical and eight educational institutions, two cultural facilities and many residential buildings were damaged.

On the same day, Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a televised address in which, following the bombardment, he called for a message to be conveyed to the residents of Donetsk that the Ukrainian military would be sure to return. This is a supremely cynical statement. Of course, he did not offer any words of sympathy to the injured Donetsk citizens. On the contrary, the Ukrainian Supreme Commander-in-Chief expressed absolute support for the actions of his armed formations and evidently for those persons committing war crimes against the civilian population.

The shelling of the Donetsk Republic Centre for Maternity and Childhood Protection was particularly barbaric. For twelve hours, several dozen pregnant women and young mothers with newborn babies took refuge in the basement. It is not a simple maternity hospital, but a multidisciplinary centre providing highly qualified medical care for citizens throughout Donbas. There were also premature babies who were hooked up to life-support systems in special rooms and had to survive the shelling in their cots.

The life-support systems could not be switched off and carried to the basement – otherwise the babies could have died. It is frightening to imagine what they experienced when the windowpanes near them shattered and shards of glass flew into the children’s intensive care unit.

It is equally frightening to imagine the horror of the last seconds of life of the mother and her 11-year-old son who were killed in the shelling of the Maisky market in the Budyonnivskiy district of Donetsk – and of the dozens of residents of other towns and villages in the DPR and LPR who have been hit by artillery strikes over the past week “for the glory of Ukraine”.

According to information from the field, these attacks involved the use of weapons supplied to the Kyiv regime by a number of NATO countries – French 155 mm CAESAR self-propelled howitzers, for example. Photos of unexploded shells landing in Donetsk were published by the city authorities. Ladies and gentlemen, who are you fighting against using Ukrainian formations as proxies? Have the arms deliveries been deliberately carried out for this purpose, to shell civilian neighbourhoods?

There are also questions for the OSCE leadership, specifically for the Polish Chairmanship: why are you remaining silent? The United Nations Secretariat has responded, albeit belatedly, to reports of shelling in Donetsk. Or maybe the victims of shelling in Donetsk do not seem to be a reality to you? And they can be forgotten – like second-class citizens? For example, after the Ukrainian strike on Donetsk on 14 March with a Tochka-U missile from near the city of Krasnoarmiisk, the OSCE leadership simply kept silent.

The brutal shelling was completely distorted by Western propaganda sources, which blatantly falsified the facts. For example, a story in Germany’s “Tagesschau” claimed that the shelling of the Donetsk market had been carried out by the Russian military. This was echoed by the French television channel TF1 and other so-called “media outlets”.

Notable against this background are the words of Zelenskyy’s adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, who demanded another large-scale supply of weapons from the West, directly suggesting that Ukraine be turned into a testing ground for them: “Why think, hold meetings of military committees with expert arguments or make endless theoretical calculations? We can now test all this on the battlefield, in eastern Ukraine, on a large scale.” The fact that the cost of such an exercise would be the lives of civilians clearly does not embarrass him.

Against this backdrop we are witnessing absolutely senseless statements from Poland – both from officials and from Polish politicians. Many are clearly made in an attempt to add fuel to the fire in the context of Ukraine. We will not mention the rash remarks made by Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki about preparing for war. We should like now to draw particular attention to the words of former Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, who at one time unsuccessfully acted as a guarantor of the 21 February 2014 agreement for resolving the political crisis in Ukraine. He now believes the West is justified in handing over nuclear weapons to the Kyiv regime. Apparently, the disastrous consequences for Europe and the world of such a development do not bother these failed politicians at all.

Incidentally, the Polish Chairmanship has repeatedly invited “special guests” to our meeting room, one of whom last week was the former Chairman of the Kherson Oblast Council, Oleksandr Samoilenko. This official abandoned the residents of his city and fled at the very beginning of the Russian special operation. Meanwhile, he has tried to paint a distorted picture here at the OSCE of real life in the region today.

The practice of having people speaking at the OSCE who do not represent anyone raises questions. We believe the Polish Chairmanship should consider inviting to the meetings those local community leaders who have remained in the territories liberated from Ukrainian formations and who maintain municipal services and utilities. They would probably have a lot more to say. For example, Volodymyr Bandura, mayor of Sviatohirsk (DPR), a city where until last week Ukrainian militants used novices from the monastery as human shields and before retreating burned down a unique architectural structure, the Skete of All Saints. Or it should invite representatives of the Donetsk city administration in order to learn first-hand about the situation in the city.

The situation today in the Sievierodonetsk industrial zone is not easy. As in Mariupol, Ukrainian formations used civilians to protect themselves as they retreated from residential areas and took some of them as human shields into the basement of the local Azot factory.

On 14 June, Russia received a request to provide a humanitarian corridor for the evacuation of all those in the industrial zone to Lysychansk, which is controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces. As the last bridge over the river towards Lysychansk was blown up by Ukrainian formations on 13 June on the orders of the authorities in Kyiv, the only possible route for evacuation was to the LPR-controlled city of Svatove. The designated corridor was organized by the Russian military on 15 June, starting at 8 a.m. However, Ukrainian formations not only did not allow civilians to take advantage of it but also continued shelling in that area. All this shows that under the guise of evacuating civilians, the Kyiv regime is in fact seeking to withdraw the surviving units from the area. It is only interested in the lives of civilians for utilitarian purposes.

Incidentally, the aforementioned Mr. Podolyak has also tried to justify the tactic of destructive combat in urban areas, which indisputably endangers the lives of civilians. In an interview with *The New York Times* on 13 June, he said that “it is possible to manoeuvre and find shelter in cities”. In fact, he has admitted that Ukrainian formations trained by NATO instructors are turning residential neighbourhoods into military targets. All of this, we repeat, we have already seen from the terrorist actions in the civil war in Syria.

You can see who the Ukrainian military is boasting to in a video published by the Ukrainian media showing the head of one of the departments of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine shooting at children playing in a courtyard in Kyiv the other day.

Amid growing military and tactical failures, the Kyiv regime is trying to halt the retreat and surrender of its units to the law enforcement agencies. This is being done through punitive actions by detachments blocking the retreat. For example, in the DPR, 32 Ukrainian soldiers who had decided to lay down their arms and come out with white flags were shot in the back by their fellow servicemen near Novomykhailivka.

Western countries keep promising more and more arms deliveries to Ukraine. At a meeting of NATO member countries and Alliance partners in Brussels on 15 June, it was decided to send new shipments of lethal supplies. Moreover, US Under Secretary of Defense Colin Kahl has stated that the US Government will pass intelligence information to the Ukrainian military for strikes using multiple-launch rocket systems supplied by the United States. So explain to us, esteemed representatives of the United States, what is it really, supplying the Ukrainian armed forces or direct US involvement in the hostilities in Ukraine using the Ukrainian military as a proxy?

Incidentally, according to a recent report in *The Wall Street Journal*, former and current US officials seriously fear theft and diversion of US and NATO financial inputs and military supplies to Ukraine. We

should add that the fears are not misplaced: weapons, in particular man-portable air defence systems, are already being sold on the black market. According to the heads of INTERPOL and Europol (we have already cited them), these weapons could eventually fall into the hands of cross-border criminal groups. And in general, the doubts of the external handlers about the ability of their Ukrainian protégés to show any responsibility is a telling result of the “successful Ukrainian reforms” in the public sector and in the fight against corruption, carried out for several years under the watchful eye of the West. The result, you might say, speaks for itself. You can discuss this in a couple of weeks in Lugano, Switzerland, at a conference on reforms in Ukraine (scheduled for 4 and 5 July 2022).

Arms deliveries will not affect the determination with which the Russian special operation is conducted. We have taken note that President Zelensky, his adviser Mr. Podolyak, Deputy Minister of Defence Hanna Maliar and others have expressed concern about the volume and speed of delivery of supplies in recent days – they say only 10 per cent of what is needed for a resounding “peremoga” (victory in Ukrainian) has arrived.

It seems Kyiv regime officials are beginning to realize that Ukraine’s territory was needed by the West – and they have made little secret of this – only as a testing ground for confrontation with Russia in a bid to weaken our country. To this end, the Western masters are trying by all possible means to dissuade Ukrainian officials from reaching a swift settlement and are continuing to flood Ukraine with more and more weapons, supposedly in order to strengthen the Ukrainian Government’s negotiating position.

Just a reminder: a day after the contact in Istanbul on 29 March 2022, Ukraine’s negotiators – not without advice from abroad – abandoned their attempts to achieve any kind of agreement. The finalized Russian draft settlement agreement was handed over to Zelensky’s team on 15 April, where it has also languished since then without any reaction.

Therefore, the words of some Western leaders that they are helping the Ukrainian Government to negotiate a political and diplomatic solution to the situation are a lie. These utterances are inconsistent with their own statements that issues need to be resolved “on the battlefield”, to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia. In short, the West needs an attritional protracted conflict near Russia’s borders.

We can assure you that these plans will never come to fruition. Russia will put an end to its special operation when its tasks have been completed. Western countries should recognize their responsibility for the current state of affairs in Ukraine, which was deprived of full sovereignty in a coup d’état in February 2014 inspired, financed and orchestrated from abroad. The fact that there is still no peace in Ukraine is a direct result of the encouragement given by the United States and its allies to the belligerent aspirations of the Kyiv regime and its subordinate armed nationalists. This will all come to an end soon.

Thank you for your attention.