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PC.DEL/296/25
27 March 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1514th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 March 2025

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in
further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

As the result of informed, active and decisive actions by Russian military personnel over the past two weeks, it has proved possible to push the Ukrainian neo-Nazis' armed formations out of a number of districts of the Kursk region, including the town of Sudzha and its environs. The remnants of the Ukrainian armed forces' units and their bands of foreign mercenaries are tactically surrounded; their combat capability has been drastically degraded. We note that, in these circumstances, the Kyiv regime continues to squander the lives of its soldiers on stoking the conflict, oblivious to the certain death they must expect.

While retreating, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's fighters have committed a host of crimes in open violation of the norms of international humanitarian law. Let us cite just a few examples.

On 14 March, following a targeted strike by the Kyiv regime's formations on the building of the local history museum in Sudzha, a nineteenth-century architectural monument, one female staff member of the museum was killed and a further two people were injured. The museum's historical building itself was destroyed.

Engineering units of the Russian armed forces have discovered large quantities of PFM-1 Lepestok anti-personnel mines scattered on the streets of villages in the Kursk region from which the Ukrainian armed forces had been dislodged.

All in all, the Ukrainian neo-Nazis' shelling of Russian regions over the past two weeks has claimed more than 300 civilian casualties, of whom 41 were killed and 261 were injured, including 17 children.

Against this backdrop, the Finish Chairmanship continues to violate its collectively agreed mandate and to use the OSCE platform to advance politicized propaganda directed against Russia. To that end, the authorities in Helsinki are deliberately ignoring each and every crime committed against our country's civilians, thereby very much fomenting anti-Russian sentiment.

In that regard, it is worth recalling the musings by Finnish President Alexander Stubb in February of this year about the need to make use of a ceasefire to “rearm Ukraine” (obviously against Russia). And likewise his even more recent insinuations during a press conference with Mr. Zelenskyy with regard to Finland having lost something or other when it concluded a peace treaty with the USSR in 1944 after a period during which his country had been in league with Adolf Hitler. He said nothing about the tremendous number of casualties claimed by the inhumane siege of Leningrad, which lasted more than two years and was jointly organized by Carl Gustaf Mannerheim and the German Nazis. Nor, indeed, about the casualties that the conflict is currently claiming among our country’s civilian population. These are consistent approaches, so to speak – it is as if Russians do not count as human beings.

On 24 March, three Russian media workers were killed in the settlement of Mikhailovka (Lugansk People’s Republic) as a result of a targeted attack by the Ukrainian armed forces in the zone of the special military operation. Their names are Alexander Fedorchak, an *Izvestia* correspondent, Andrey Panov, a cameraman working for the Zvezda television channel, and Alexander Sirkeli, the driver of the camera crew. In addition, Zvezda correspondent Nikita Goldin was seriously injured. The strike on the civilian car in which the journalists were travelling was carried out using a HIMARS multiple rocket launcher. At around the same time, TASS reporter Mikhail Skuratov sustained shrapnel injuries in the Sudzha district of the Kursk region. A few days ago, Channel One correspondent Anna Prokofyeva was killed in the Belgorod region by a mine laid by the Ukrainian armed forces. We demand that the OSCE’s senior officials, including the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Jan Braathu, strongly condemn the targeted killing of journalists by the Kyiv regime, and that they also call for an immediate stop to the Ukrainian armed forces’ attacks on civilians, including media workers.

The aforementioned tragic incidents attest to something quite obvious, namely that the Kyiv regime, supported by its Western handlers, is demonstrating its terrorist nature and flouting all norms, including those of international humanitarian law.

We draw particular attention to the report by Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik from the Russian Foreign Ministry that was published on 20 March and that reveals egregious violations of international humanitarian law in relation to Russian military personnel who spent time in Ukrainian captivity. The report was prepared on the basis of the testimonies of Russian citizens who were repatriated in February 2025 following an exchange of prisoners (150 on each side). It contains information on the systematic abuses and torture to which they were subjected by the Kyiv regime’s security apparatus. The English-language version of that document will shortly be distributed by us too.

In its striving to ascribe to Russia some sort of strikes on civilians, the Kyiv regime has no qualms about resorting to newsworthy false-flag operations in the style of another “Bucha”, “Mariupol Drama Theatre” or “square in front of Kramatorsk railway station”. We would remind you that the fake stories about these alleged Russian attacks have been repeatedly debunked by means of specific facts and evidence, not least in this room.

This time round, the propaganda of the Kyiv regime and its handlers has dished up a story about a missile strike being launched on the city centre of Sumy on 24 March, leading to scores of injured civilians, including children. All this needs to be set against the fact that, already on 21 March, Russian media published reports of how camera crews from Ukrainian television channels had arrived in the Sumy region in order to put together staged footage of the consequences of a Russian missile strike featuring children from a kindergarten among the victims. However, the Kyiv regime’s propaganda has once again fallen flat, for the fact is that it was precisely Ukrainian correspondents in Sumy who were the first to capture on camera how the Ukrainian armed forces were involved in storing munitions in a civilian area, and likewise

how these munitions were set off and underwent secondary detonation right in the middle of video reports from the scene.

We note that the psy-ops and military operations of the Kyiv regime and its sponsors were set in motion just as Russian-US contacts were under way, and that they are aimed at misleading the international community as to the Russian military's actions. It is worth recalling, too, how on 18 March, the day of a telephone conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters made an unsuccessful attempt to penetrate into the Krasnoyarskiy district of the Belgorod region – an adventure that saw them suffer considerable personnel and equipment losses.

All this was done in order to create a negative information backdrop and impede the diplomatic efforts being undertaken. We note the thorough exchange of views that has taken place regardless. Thus, the meeting of expert groups held in Riyadh on 24 March focused on the working out of agreements in the energy and maritime domains. A list of facilities covered by the temporary moratorium on strikes on energy systems was agreed upon and published.

We would remind you that, during the telephone conversation between the Russian and US Presidents on 18 March, a proposal was made for the conflict parties to mutually refrain from strikes on energy infrastructure facilities for 30 days. The Russian military was immediately ordered to stop carrying out such strikes. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, once the Supreme Commander's order was received, our air defence assets and fighter aircraft shot down in mid-flight seven Russian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that were on course to strike energy facilities in the Mykolaiv region linked to Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

Nevertheless, just a few hours after the aforementioned conversation between Presidents Putin and Trump, the Ukrainian formations launched a premeditated attack on an international oil transshipment infrastructure facility belonging to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and located in the village of Kavkazskaya in the Krasnodar territory. And this despite public assurances by the leadership of the Kyiv regime about their willingness to refrain from strikes against energy facilities in Russia.

Subsequently, in the early hours of 21 March, as the Ukrainian armed forces were withdrawing from Sudzha, the town's eponymous gas metering station was deliberately blown up. This facility, which had been under the Ukrainian armed forces' control since 7 August 2024, was seriously damaged. One day later, on 22 March, UAVs were used to attack the Valuyka gas distribution station in the village of Shvedunovka in the Belgorod region, causing damage to technical equipment.

While Russian-US contacts were taking place in Riyadh on 24 March, the Kyiv regime launched a strike on infrastructure belonging to the Kuban branch of the public joint-stock company Rosseti in the Krasnodar territory, which led to the "Rostov nuclear power plant-Tikhoretsk No. 2" high-voltage line having to be switched off. In the Lugansk People's Republic, Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters used a drone to attack the Svatovo gas distribution station. On 24 and 25 March, our air defence assets intercepted Ukrainian combat UAVs near Cape Tarkhankut in Crimea that were on course to hit the Glebovskoye gas condensate field. In even more recent days, energy facilities belonging to the Rosseti company in the Kursk and Bryansk regions have been attacked by drones.

The aforementioned attacks against Russian energy facilities are deliberate provocations aimed at discrediting and derailing the initiatives for de-escalation. Moreover, we must point out that such strikes on Russian territory would be impossible without satellite data and assistance with target designation being provided by NATO countries. To carry them out, UAVs and other weapons (including HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems) supplied to the Kyiv regime by NATO countries are being used.

All this is accompanied by absolutely insane attempts by the leaders of the United Kingdom and certain EU countries to somehow take upon themselves exclusive “responsibility” when it comes to safeguarding peace in the European part of our continent.

Incidentally, within leadership circles in a number of Western countries it has been acknowledged on a number of occasions over the past few months that the conflict is a proxy war by NATO against Russia which is not delivering the desired results and, what is more, is proving far too costly for the West itself. Against this backdrop, the speculations about “peacekeepers” from NATO countries being deployed to Ukraine are puzzling. Given that the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance are engaged in a proxy conflict against Russia, insinuations regarding the deployment of contingents from NATO countries are a certain path to intensifying, scaling up and geographically extending the Ukrainian conflict.

Pronouncements in the spirit of the speeches of Napoleon and Hitler have already been heard from the leadership of France and Germany, accompanied, what is more, by announcements that the military-industrial complexes of those two countries will step up their operations at the expense of social spending. We must stress that these madcap militaristic ideas fly in the face of Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, which gives an exhaustive description of the principal mechanism for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Furthermore, according to reliable reports, the German authorities have instructed media outlets in their country to ensure that no evidence ever gets shown of how Mr. Zelenskyy’s fighters employ gestures and symbols associated with Nazi Germany. A sombre record of cynicism has been set by their recommendation that such imagery be removed from the camera’s view merely during the production of photo and video reports.

Despite the clear admission that there are neo-Nazis in Ukraine, a new package of military supplies for the Ukrainian armed forces was nevertheless announced by Germany on 17 March. Plans by the German Government to provide additional military aid worth 11 billion euros have been unveiled. The true goal is obvious – it is by no means to secure a military advantage for the Ukrainian armed forces (something that is impossible by definition), but, rather, to drag out the conflict and the final agony of the Kyiv regime. In addition to this, restrictions on large-scale government borrowing in Germany have from now on been lifted so as to set the country’s own war machine rolling. It would seem that some German politicians have completely forgotten the bitter lessons of twentieth-century history.

Anyway, it is already becoming quite clear that the calls for the universal militarization of Europe are falling on deaf ears among the public and in leadership circles in many EU Member States.

We stress Russia’s principled commitment to a political and diplomatic resolution of the Ukrainian conflict – a solution that must be sustainable and long-term, take Russia’s interests into account and be based on eliminating the root causes of the current crisis.

A fundamental aspect that is complicating work on a settlement is the chronic intractability of the Kyiv regime and some of its Western sponsors vis-à-vis any agreements, including potential ones. A case in point – and we have already cited it – is the situation regarding the proposal for the conflict parties to mutually refrain from strikes on energy infrastructure facilities for 30 days.

For effective agreements to be reached, it is necessary that concrete practical steps be taken, which include putting an end to the forced mobilization in Ukraine and to the provision of weapons and

intelligence to the Kyiv regime's formations, and also rolling back all measures aimed at rearming and re-equipping the Ukrainian armed forces.

In closing, we would reiterate that our country is seeking a political and diplomatic settlement; however, when it comes to protecting its interests, it is prepared to use all the means and resources at its disposal, including military ones.

Thank you for your attention.