

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/812/22
3 June 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1376th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 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,

Tomorrow will mark 100 days since the start of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine. Over this period, the Ukrainian neo-Nazis have vacated a significant amount of territory in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), in the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and in south-eastern Ukraine. Tasks related to demilitarization and denazification continue to be implemented in the liberated areas.

Those who consider the problem of neo-Nazism in Ukraine to be an imaginary one were able today to see the material disseminated by us at the OSCE, namely photographs showing "freedom fighters" in the raw, as it were – that is, members of the Nazi Azov battalion who voluntarily laid down their arms and surrendered to the DPR law enforcement authorities between 16 and 21 May – along with photographs found at the positions abandoned by the Ukrainian formations. What will you say now? That all these paramilitary neo-Nazis with swastika tattoos are simply an invention of "Russian propaganda"? Or that these devotees of Hitler, Bandera and Shukhevych were bringing light and joy to the residents of Donbas?

Humanitarian demining work is currently being actively conducted in the region. To date, specialists from the International Mine Action Centre have cleared explosive devices from more than 200 hectares of liberated territory in the DPR and the LPR, including the seaport of Mariupol, which has resumed normal operations. Civilian ships are now able to use the harbour safely.

Following the set of measures undertaken, the Russian Navy has established maritime humanitarian corridors in the Sea of Azov (115 miles long and 2 miles wide) and the Black Sea (139 miles long and 3 miles wide). In the Mariupol area such a corridor is operating smoothly. In the Odessa area, responsibility for ensuring the safe departure of vessels from the city's ports and their safe passage to the assembly area under the humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea rests with Ukraine, which has laid naval mines in coastal waters there. Full details and co-ordinates of the routes were distributed by us at the OSCE on 27 May (SEC.DEL/221/22). We would remind you that the humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea was established already on 27 March, and so insinuations about Russia "blockading the movement of Ukrainian vessels" are groundless.

Against this background, Ukrainian fighters continue to commit crimes against the civilian population with particular cynicism. With International Day for Protection of Children lying just behind us, it is worth emphasizing how children are among the fatalities and casualties caused by the targeted shelling of residential areas. The intensity of such shelling has exceeded the levels of 2014, when the Ukrainian Government had only just begun its punitive military operation against the population of Donbas.

Let us cite the most outrageous examples. On 29 May, three people were killed as a result of the shelling of the cities of Donetsk and Makiivka. On 30 May, two cluster munition rockets fired from a Smerch multiple-launch rocket system and 155 mm artillery shells of the Ukrainian armed forces struck the environs of school No. 22 and multidisciplinary lyceum No. 5 in Donetsk just as classes were taking place: three people were killed and at least 18 were injured. On 30 May, shells from a multiple-launch rocket system landed near a school and hospice in the city of Stakhanov (LPR): three people were killed, including two pregnant women, and 24 were injured, including eight children. On 31 May, also in Stakhanov, a nursing home burned down as a result of shelling. In the DPR on that same day, a five-year-old girl was killed in Makiivka and two adolescents were injured in the settlement of Panteleimonivka. Over the past week, three devastating Tochka-U missiles were fired at the city of Svatove (LPR); they were all shot down by air defence systems, but the falling fragments killed two civilians and injured 14, including four children.

We would stress that there were no military facilities near all these places that came under Ukrainian fire. The deliberate targeting of children, pregnant women, elderly people and other civilians indicates that the Kyiv regime, disappointed by its military failures, is “showing its fangs”: it is seeking to employ scorched-earth tactics and to wipe out civilian life there where the ideas of Ukrainian national exclusivity will never again return.

Does the nine-year-old son of President Zelenskyy know about the children killed by Ukrainian shelling? This boy, as the President’s wife, Olena Zelenska, confided to the *Daily Mail* in a recent interview, is neither more nor less than a “military expert” and adviser who “knows everything”. According to her, he gives his father tips about “what tanks, planes, helicopters we need to buy” and about “what countries help us badly, what countries help us well”.

We would stress that what is happening in Ukraine is not a children’s game or a strategy video game. At stake is the fate of real people whom the Kyiv regime is effectively holding to ransom. Of course, President Zelenskyy has other advisers too – foreign ones. We can see how the Kyiv regime is being prompted by its foreign handlers and political sponsors to commit crimes. Their goal is obvious, namely to drag out the armed confrontation and create a zone of prolonged military and geopolitical instability in Eastern Europe near Russia’s borders.

Most revealing is the position of the US and UK Governments, but also that of the EU and NATO leadership: they are all publicly dissuading the Ukrainian Government from pursuing a political and diplomatic settlement and continue to send weapons that are used or could subsequently be used to shell the territory of neighbouring States and kill citizens of Russia, Ukraine, the DPR and the LPR.

Speaking in the Czech Republic on 27 May, the UK Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, openly stated: “Now is not the time to be complacent. There should be no talk of ceasefires ...” This was evidently a signal not only for the Kyiv regime but also for, say, Ben Grant, a British MP’s son who is fighting in Ukraine, and many other British “soldiers of fortune”. A signal to the effect that they are allowed to continue committing crimes. We must add that the Russian Investigative Committee and the DPR and LPR law enforcement authorities will assess the actions of foreign mercenaries who have been thrust into the “spotlight” in Donbas.

The various NATO countries that are flooding Ukraine with military supplies are undermining the arms export control framework that was built up over many years. Instances have already been recorded of weapons that had been delivered to Ukraine being illegally “retransferred” to other zones of instability – for example, to areas of Syria not controlled by the Government. According to incoming reports, Javelin anti-tank missile systems are already being put up for sale there. The poor state of arms control in Ukraine has been flagged by the Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle: in remarks to the newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* on 28 May, she expressed her concern over the fact that such weapons could end up in the hands of criminal groups in EU territory itself.

On 31 May, retreating Ukrainian armed formations blew up a tank containing acid at the Azot plant in Sievierodonetsk (LPR). A cloud of toxic gas reached the city’s residential areas; the possible harm to public health has yet to be assessed. An identical scenario was already played out by retreating Ukrainian fighters on 5 and 9 April at the Zarya plant in Rubizhne (LPR) with a view to blaming the Russian military for the shelling. What we are dealing with is the use of tactics piloted by terrorists in Syria over the past few years during the civil war in that country.

The Ukrainian armed formations do not shrink from ever more dangerous provocations. According to reliable information from the Russian Ministry of Defence, long-range missile systems are expected to be delivered very soon from the United States of America to the city of Shostka in the Sumy region. It is planned to use these to launch strikes against Russian territory from the city’s residential areas with a view to provoking retaliatory fire. The Kyiv regime is also working on the preparation of suitable material to cover this in the press.

In general, the dissemination of low-grade fake stories about the actions of the Russian military has long become a favourite trick of the representatives of the Kyiv regime and some of its foreign sponsors. A case in point are the Ukrainian Security Service’s reports on telephone conversations between Russian military personnel that it had allegedly intercepted. The most absurd inventions are making the rounds. For example, on 30 March, the public was treated to a fake story about Russian soldiers having allegedly eaten a Central Asian shepherd dog. In contrast, on 31 May, it was a Yorkshire terrier that had been eaten.

In spreading lies based on the fantasies spouting from a fevered imagination no one has gone as far as the former Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), Liudmyla Denisova. She focused pretty much all of her attention on stories about “mass rapes” of women and children. Her intricate fabrications about “a six-month-old girl who was raped with a teaspoon”, or “infants who were raped by two soldiers at the same time”, or “a nine-month-old girl raped with a candle” and many, many other similar flights of fancy were widely reported on in the press. Indeed, not so long ago they even found their way into our meeting room, when the permanent representative of one participating State reproduced Ms. Denisova’s fake story about “a boy of 11 years old who’s been raped in front of his mother”. All this despite the public acknowledgement by the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children’s Rights (Ombudsperson for Children), Daria Herasymchuk, that the authorities were not in possession of a single confirmed fact pointing to violent actions against children by the military.

It is symptomatic that Ms. Denisova’s brazen lies found no credence among Ukrainian society itself. On 25 May, more than 80 Ukrainian media workers issued an open address to Ms. Denisova calling on her to stop making unproven accusations for the purpose of stirring up the emotions of her audience, or to present evidence if such evidence was available. There was none. On 31 May, the Verkhovna Rada removed Ms. Denisova from her post after a vote of no confidence. As Pavel Frolov, a member of the pro-presidential party Servant of the People, stressed, the information that Ms. Denisova spread about “sexual crimes” and “raped children”, and which she was unable to back up with evidence, harmed the interests of Ukraine.

We reiterate once again that the tactic of making such unsubstantiated accusations is not a new one. It has been cribbed from the worst examples of Goebbels's propaganda. For example, the propaganda about the "mass rapes and slaughter of civilians by Russian soldiers" that allegedly took place in the village of Nemmersdorf on 21 October 1944.

We call on the participants in our discussions to carefully verify all information and not to participate in the promotion of fake stories bandied about by second-rate politickers. We hope that the dissemination of such information at the OSCE was not done deliberately or consciously by our colleagues – with the exception, evidently, of Ms. Denisova herself, whom the Polish OSCE Chairmanship allowed to appear at human dimension events.

One further point. A few days ago, the DPR law enforcement authorities made public some rather intriguing documents and video footage that was stored in the Kramatorsk office of the Second Department of the Main Directorate of the Ukrainian Security Service in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. I am holding copies of these documents in my hands. It emerges from them that for a long time the Kyiv regime's intelligence services were secretly spying on OSCE staff and members of foreign diplomatic missions living in Ukraine. For example, the DPR authorities have in their possession video footage, taken with a hidden camera, of the movements of the former Co-ordinator of the Economic Working Group of the Minsk-based Trilateral Contact Group, Herbert Salber, and a political adviser at the German Embassy in Ukraine, Daniel Ricco, during their trip, on 15 August 2021, to areas of the former Donetsk region that were controlled by the Ukrainian Government.¹ What will our Ukrainian and Western partners say to this? That this video footage showing the arrival of Ambassador Salber and Mr. Ricco at Kramatorsk railway station and their movements within the city, filmed with a hidden camera, was faked by the Donbas militia?

Additionally, confidential documents from an informer of the Ukrainian Security Service who operated under the pseudonym "Agent Schultz" and was handled by Major Vitalii Serhiovych Ovcharenko, a counter-intelligence officer, have been published. As instructed by Major Ovcharenko, "Agent Schultz" secretly monitored the movements of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Henrik Villadsen, and of his Office's staff within the Donetsk region. It is remarkable that, as indicated in the document, the Project Co-ordinator's activities and contacts with representatives of Ukrainian government agencies were scrutinized to determine whether they involved "reconnaissance and sabotage operations by the intelligence services of foreign States and/or activities of organizations, groups or individuals aimed at weakening the country's State sovereignty". Moreover, details of the Project Co-ordinator's work are reported under the thematic category of "information on the actions of individuals or organizations colluding with the intelligence services of foreign States or suspected of being in communication with such services".²

There is also a reference there to one particular long-term task that the Ukrainian Security Service set its agents, namely to obtain information on probably illegal activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission – specifically on the Mission's gathering of information that did not fall within the competence of the representatives of its Mariupol office.

In other words, the Ukrainian Security Service suspected various OSCE representatives of espionage and conducted covert intelligence-gathering activities directed against them. We would point out that these are quite fresh documents, dating from August, September and October 2021.

1 <https://t.me/NeoficialniyBeZsonoV/13897>.

2 <https://t.me/NeoficialniyBeZsonoV/13935>.

We are surprised in this context by the silence of the OSCE leadership, which as a rule does not hold back in reacting to various aspects related to the activities of OSCE staff in Ukraine. You could stand up for them and defend their honour. But, no, you will not do that. It does not suit you to criticize the Kyiv regime and its intelligence services, even if they made the work of the Organization's representatives more complicated.

By the looks of it, this whole story also reflects the results of US assistance in the "reform" of the Ukrainian intelligence services. Receiving valuable tips from their foreign advisers and handlers, the latter expanded the scope of their activities to target even the OSCE. Ultimately, it would be most interesting to hear the Ukrainian Permanent Representative clarify why the Kyiv regime had OSCE officials in its "cross hairs" and what conclusions were reached upon examining their activities to determine whether they involved "reconnaissance or sabotage operations". We are certain that the Ukrainian Security Service's central archive in Kyiv, whose materials have yet to be made public, contains all the answers to these questions.

In closing, we would emphasize that, with time, many facts are coming to light that attest to the Kyiv regime's crimes against its own population and to its lies and hypocrisy in the international arena. All this additionally confirms the validity of conducting the Russian special military operation, whose main tasks – protection of the residents of Donbas and the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine – will be fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.