

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1028th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 November 2014

**On the situation in Ukraine and violations of the  
Minsk agreements by the central authorities**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Minsk agreements remain the basis for a peaceful resolution of the Ukrainian crisis. We reaffirm that all parties to the conflict – the central authorities of Ukraine and the representatives of the Donbas regions – need to comply with them. We underscore the need for direct contacts between the parties to the conflict in the Minsk format, which today remains the only viable and most effective option. I might add that the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Heidi Tagliavini, spoke about this at the previous Permanent Council meeting. We are endeavouring to make this happen.

Russia is making its contribution to facilitating the implementation of the Minsk agreements. First and foremost, this concerns the most pressing provision – point 1 of the Protocol – on achievement of a ceasefire. At the invitation of the Ukrainian side, our military experts are working to determine the line of contact. They are carrying out an important task in assisting the parties in determining the line of separation on the ground and the schedule for the withdrawal of heavy weaponry. These top-priority measures are essential if there is to be an end to the shelling of towns in Donbas, the deaths of civilians and the destruction of infrastructure.

We note the statement by the representative of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Andriy Lysenko, that a ceasefire is one of the most important requirements of the Minsk agreements, after which the parties can discuss the implementation of the other points.

Nevertheless, the Ukrainian security forces continue to carry out strikes against residential districts. On 25 November, a shell fell on a bus near Donetsk, killing two people and wounding eight.

The build-up of Ukrainian security forces in the conflict zone continues. According to the information received, military personnel are being urgently recalled from leave. We have

taken into account the report by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) regarding the two Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems of the Ukrainian army observed near Debaltseve on 22 November. We note the desire of the monitors to provide an objective picture, despite the obstacles being created both in the field and in Kyiv. We also regard any attacks on the monitors as inadmissible, regardless of where they may come from, although we were somewhat surprised that, for example, the United States of America failed to express concern at the last meeting when it was reported that Ukrainian security forces had opened fire on SMM monitors. Their concern is selective. The United States delegates have also read only half of the United Nations mission's report, because its second half focuses on flagrant human rights violations by the Ukrainian security forces.

We have already drawn our colleagues' attention to the scale of the devastation in Donbas and to the destruction of industry and vital infrastructure. These are not random attacks but the targeted disabling of key facilities vital for the region's survival. We have already observed similar tactics in the operations of NATO countries in Yugoslavia, Iraq and Libya.

We regard this as a violation of the Minsk agreements and the norms of humanitarian law in general.

Kyiv has declared a blockade on the population of Donbas. All public-sector salaries have been suspended, pensions, social welfare payments to war veterans, pensioners and people with disabilities, and child benefit allowances have been confiscated. People have been working and paying taxes to the Ukrainian State all their lives, and now they are left with nothing. This is robbery. Kyiv has imposed a ban on the delivery of medicines to Donbas and is preventing trucks loaded with provisions from entering the territory. State institutions have been closed by presidential decree. The banks are not operating. The right to social security regardless of race or ethnic origin, gender, language, place of residence, type or nature of activity is part of our common international commitments.

Here we frequently hear that "the people were robbed by the Yanukovich regime". What are we to call what the Yatsunuk regime is doing to the people of Donbas? How are we to interpret some of our colleagues relishing the prospect of food riots? How is Kyiv's interest in preserving the territorial integrity of the country to be reconciled with the virtual expulsion of Donbas from its political, economic and humanitarian space?

The central authorities are deliberately exacerbating the already calamitous situation of the inhabitants of Donbas. In the past Arseniy Yatsunuk referred to them as "subhumans", the Ukrainian artillery destroyed their homes and deprived them of light, water and heating. Now, Kyiv is depriving them of their livelihood. It is clear that this state of affairs requires urgent humanitarian intervention.

All that remains is to make the delivery of humanitarian aid from Russia impossible. Kyiv sends them nothing. We cannot allow another military blockade against the population of Donbas.

Mr. Chairperson,

Some of our colleagues refuse to pay attention to what is happening now in Ukraine. And yet it is simply dangerous to close our eyes to it.

The results of a survey of more than 100 people handed over to the militias during an exchange of prisoners attest to the systematic and deliberate use of torture by the Ukrainian security forces. Most of the torture victims are not militia members, have never held a weapon in their hands and were seized on absurd charges. The scale and systemic nature of the torture indicate that this is a deliberate policy sanctioned by the Ukrainian leadership.

At the same time, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine speaks of 3,000 cases initiated against Ukrainian security forces personnel suspected of murder, robbery and theft. There are reports of atrocities in Mariupol – robberies, people disappearing and rape. Seeing as the SMM monitors are now in this city, they could pay particular attention to the verification of these reports, as directly provided for in their mandate.

We are extremely concerned at the rise in manifestations of neo-Nazism and aggressive nationalism in Ukraine. With the connivance if not the support of the authorities, memorials are being unveiled to the Nazis, and there are attempts to elevate those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition or collaborated with the Nazis to the rank of national heroes or heroes of the national liberation movement.

Unfortunately, as can be seen from the vote on the draft resolution of the Third Committee of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly on combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, this revisionist position enjoys support among some OSCE participating States.

Thank you for your attention.