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PC.DEL/308/23  
9 March 2023

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1414th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 March 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the countries  
from the Western alliance to escalate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

In the absence of success during combat operations, the Kyiv regime has entrenched itself in terrorist methods targeting the civilian population.

On 2 March, in two villages in the Klimovsky district of the Bryansk region, members of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's armed formations who had crept there from territory controlled by the Kyiv regime carried out a terrorist foray during which they killed one civilian and wounded a child.

Eleven-year-old Fyodor and two girls born in 2015 and 2016 were travelling by car to their classes at Novoropsk secondary school. Armed terrorists attacked the vehicle using small arms supplied to Ukraine by NATO countries, pointing these weapons at unarmed civilians. What is more, they understood that they were shooting at children. As a result of this attack, the driver of the car was killed and 11-year-old Fyodor injured. He scrambled out of the car, helped the two girls to escape from the vehicle and together with them, fleeing from the terrorists, began to seek shelter in a nearby wooded area.

The injured boy proved himself beyond any doubt to be a real man. As they were heading for the forest, the children were shot in the back, in an attempt to leave no witnesses to the sabotage group's movements. Fyodor is now being treated at Bryansk regional hospital and has been operated on.

The sabotage group carried out a deliberate, planned attack on the peaceful villages of Lyubechane and Sushany, where there are no military facilities whatsoever. They identified themselves as some sort of Russian Volunteer Corps, which is a subdivision of the so-called foreign legion of the Ukrainian armed forces and acts on the orders of the Kyiv regime's military command. In order to avoid casualties among the civilian population and damage to civilian infrastructure, the Russian border guards and law enforcement officers forced the group back into Ukrainian territory, where it was subjected to a massive artillery strike.

Denis Nikitin, who also goes by the name of Denis Kapustin and is the leader of one of the neo-Nazi movements, survived the sortie and told the *Financial Times* that he had led this raid and that it had been

agreed upon with the Kyiv regime and carried out with its direct assistance. In that context, he mentioned mined bridges along the route the group traversed, the use of cameras and heat-seeking drones, the equipping of hidden observation posts and so on.

It is noteworthy that this person, who professes racist and neo-Nazi ideas of “white power”, has been living in territory controlled by the Kyiv regime, where people with such views feel quite at ease, since 2017. He reportedly earned himself a ten-year ban from the Schengen area in 2019 for promoting far-right ideas in Germany, France, Bulgaria and other countries.

The Russian Investigative Committee has opened criminal proceedings into the acts committed by the sabotage group under Articles 205, 317 and 167 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

The representatives of the Kyiv regime and a number of Western countries hypocritically claim to care about the fate of children in the context of the events in and around Ukraine. Today, they have not said a word about this sabotage attack and the children who were affected. And they would not have said anything, even if none of the schoolchildren on their way to their classes had survived. This is not just a selective approach, it is a brazen demonstration of double standards. We remember perfectly well all this cynicism towards the child casualties of shelling by the Kyiv regime’s formations: the representatives of the West in this room simply did not care about their fate. Although they are well aware, for example, of the Alley of Angels memorial in the city of Donetsk, which commemorates the many children who have lost their lives as a result of Ukrainian shelling over the past nine years.

NATO countries continue to provide weapons to the Kyiv regime, which is committing terrorist acts against the civilian population. On 3 March, the United States of America announced the latest package of military “aid” worth 400 million dollars, which is expected to include shells for missile and artillery systems, as well as armoured vehicle-launched bridges, pontoon crossings and systems to undermine and breach defensive lines. The contents of this package, as well as the actions by the United States in general, are telling. The US Government is doing everything possible to fan the flames of the armed confrontation with renewed force so as to cause additional casualties and destruction and further suffering on the part of the civilian population. The Kyiv regime’s foreign handlers are clearly not fazed by the dramatically increased losses among Zelenskyy’s formations either – according to the Russian Ministry of Defence, in February of this year alone, the figure for losses among all kinds of personnel exceeded 11,000 people, which is 40 per cent more than the same figures for January.

The objective of this “war down to the last Ukrainian” is the complete destruction of Ukraine: they are trying to impose on the world the view that Ukraine will be able to exist as a country only as some kind of “anti-Russia” project, with the military and political support of the West, and the identity of its inhabitants, including ethnic Russians, will be built upon anti-Russian and Russophobic principles. It is not without reason that the NATO puppets in Kyiv are already declaring that they intend to develop an identity in Ukraine within the framework of which the inhabitants of territories controlled by the Kyiv regime will perceive the inhabitants of all of Russia as enemies for the next hundred years (Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal spoke in this vein recently). The West simply does not give Ukraine the choice of being a prosperous country that would live in peace with its neighbours and would not be used as a tool and bridgehead for destroying their statehood. Our society is convinced that such plans will never come to fruition – in Russia, people know a different Ukraine and Ukrainians, with whom we are linked by a single and inseparable historical destiny, and we will definitely preserve this unity.

The directors of the Ukrainian tragedy were the first to comment after China’s position on a political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian crisis was made public on 24 February this year. That plan was instantly rejected in Washington, D.C., and in the European capitals – when in Kyiv they were still saying

that they were merely studying China's considerations (for example, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba at the United Nations Security Council on 24 February this year). Shortly afterwards, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a statement to the effect that an immediate ceasefire was inadvisable, rejecting diplomacy and advocating a continuation of the hostilities. For his part, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin once again announced a "spring offensive" by Ukrainian formations, saying that the United States and its NATO satellites were training several mechanized brigades of the Ukrainian armed forces for that purpose.

It was only after all this that the head of Zelenskyy's office, Andrii Yermak, said in an interview with Newsmax on 27 February that, in Kyiv, they "will not accept any ceasefire". This is an additional illustration of who actually determines the politico-military attitudes of the puppet regime in Kyiv.

Behind all this is also the West's desire to drag out the conflict so as to wage a war of attrition against Russia using Zelenskyy's formations. The tactic is not a new one: it consists of blindly supporting their protégés in Kyiv, whatever the crimes they might have committed – for example, not bringing to justice or holding accountable the "Maidan killers" (who were even granted amnesty in 2014) or those who organized the burning alive of dozens of people at the Trade Union House in Odessa, or the members of the Kyiv regime's formations who have killed thousands of residents of Donbas over a period of eight years during the punitive operation and continue to shell peaceful neighbourhoods today, or who make preparations for forays by those who open fire on children at close range. And all this under the guise of "principles" of some sort and the need to respect international humanitarian law. Western governments simply do not care: their eyes are clouded by pipe dreams of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia at any cost, even by the dirtiest methods and means.

Let us return to the subject of children. We have already grown accustomed to being astounded by the allegations we hear in this room about "abductions and forced adoptions of children" living on Russian territory in areas that are regularly shelled by Ukrainian formations. We must point out straight away that all aspects of the evacuation from danger zones, saving the lives of such children, their care, access to medical, educational and other services are based on traditional family values and are in strict compliance with the provisions of the legislation of the Russian Federation.

We should also like to echo the words of the head of the representation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Moscow, Karim Atassi: the Office is not aware of any cases in which people have been removed to Russia by force. Moreover, no such cases of alleged forcible transfer or detention have been identified by the partner organizations with which the UNHCR works in our country. Thus, the insinuations about any "forced relocations" are unfounded. We urge everyone, the OSCE executive structures too, not to deal in uncorroborated reports.

At the same time, we see how carefully our opponents are ignoring scandalous stories in countries of the European Union, where the number of complaints by refugees from Ukraine about refugee children being separated from their parents on various pretexts is growing. For example, in late February, the media were awash with stories of Ukrainian women whose children had been taken away by social services in some EU countries and subsequently placed with other families. One could mention in that respect the tragedies befalling Elena Kovaleva from Dnipropetrovsk, Oksana Buratevych from Irpin in the Kyiv region, and Karina Voronova and Elena Dashko from Sievierodonetsk in the Luhansk People's Republic, all of whom ended up in Germany: they have not seen their children for many months. Ukrainian human rights activists have reported appeals by parents with similar stories from France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain.

Lastly, we cannot ignore the continuing pressure being exerted on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. In recent weeks, with the support of representatives of the Kyiv regime, adherents of the “Orthodox Church of Ukraine” (a political association with a religious bent created by State authorities in 2018) have forcibly taken over ownership of churches in the Zastavna district of the Chernivtsi region and also in the Brovary, Bucha and Fastiv districts of the Kyiv region. There continue to be authorized crackdowns on the clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on the basis of trumped-up charges of undermining State security: charges have been brought against the head of the eparchy of Cherkasy and members of the clergy of the eparchies of Kirovohrad and Sumy. We regard these actions by the Kyiv regime, which diligently follows the instructions of its foreign sponsors in all spheres of public life, as a desire to change the identity of the inhabitants of Ukraine by force and as yet another manifestation of brazen and blatant interference in religious life and freedoms in violation of international legal obligations.

All of this demonstrates the deep crisis into which Ukrainian society has plunged as a result of nine years of foreign external control. Responsible political and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions both within and around Ukraine are needed to overcome the destructive tendencies.

The Russian special operation will continue until all the tasks that were set have been fully accomplished, including the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine and the elimination of threats to our country’s security created by NATO countries and emanating from Ukrainian territory. We draw attention to the fact that all of them can be achieved on the basis of political and diplomatic contacts. However, we do not need negotiations at any price. At the same time, the responsibility for the ongoing armed escalation lies solely with the Kyiv regime’s foreign sponsors, which are provoking it to continue fighting until the last round of ammunition is fired. The West is banking – directly and openly – on a military breakthrough this spring and summer at the expense of the lives of forcibly mobilized Ukrainians. There will indeed be a turning point. But the warmongers in Washington, D.C., and London, just like the obedient players in the continental European capitals, will be greatly disappointed by its development. So we recommend preparing scenarios for an immediate response – if, of course, our opponents still have the ability to think rather than reproduce cheap propaganda hacks about “Russian warmongering”.

Thank you for your attention.