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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1553rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 February 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply.

As the popular precept says, actions speak louder than words. Those speakers who just now claimed that the Kyiv regime was striving for peace and who made up fairy tales about our alleged plans to subjugate Ukraine and deprive it of its identity, cravenly skipped over the assassination attempt on Lieutenant General Vladimir Alekseyev, a key member of the Russian negotiating team on Ukraine, which was carried out while a high-ranking OSCE delegation was in the Russian capital.

There is no doubt that this act of State terrorism was planned and authorized by the Kyiv regime. The would-be assassin, who left Russian territory a few hours after committing this crime and flew off to the United Arab Emirates, was identified within a very short space of time. His name is Lyubomir Korba and he was born in the Ternopil region of what was then the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. He was arrested with the help of our Emirati colleagues and taken back to the Russian Federation.

It has been established that Korba arrived in Moscow at the end of December last year, having been tasked by the Ukrainian intelligence services with carrying out a terrorist attack. He was recruited by the Security Service of Ukraine in August 2025 and underwent specialized firearms training at a shooting range in Kyiv. An accomplice in the crime, Viktor Vasin, has also been arrested. In addition, a further accomplice was identified: Zinaida Serebrikskaya, who managed to escape to Ukrainian territory.

The situation has a cynical flavour in that this assassination attempt put into practice those very prescriptions regarding sabotage operations that the head of the Kyiv regime had issued just a few days before while looking into the cameras. The purpose of this provocation is obvious, namely to derail the Russian and US negotiators' efforts in Abu Dhabi. In attacking a member of the Russian negotiating team, the Kyiv regime has shown its true face: as far as Zelenskyy is concerned, diplomacy is just a fig leaf to cover up terror. For the "princeling of Kyiv" has no use for peace except in words. He is afraid that with the end of the war his usurpation of power in Ukraine would come to an end, and that he would have to answer for the crimes he has committed against his own people.

The fact that none of the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors has condemned this crime does not really come as a surprise to anyone by now. We interpret their silence as an endorsement of terrorist methods. As partners in crime of the Zelenskyy clique, they are in fact also interested in a prolongation of the conflict at any cost, and their fine words about commitment to peace cannot pull the wool over the eyes of any impartial expert.

Colleagues, the Kyiv regime's provocative actions are not limited to the attempt on Vladimir Alekseyev's life. While some in Abu Dhabi are trying to give diplomacy a chance, the authorities in Kyiv are issuing orders for those fleeing to be shot in the back and for hospitals to be blown up, with their counterparts in London, Berlin and Brussels looking the other way as a matter of "principle". Summary data on the Kyiv regime's war crimes for 2025 has been circulated by us at the OSCE. These figures are shocking: more than 130,000 shelling attacks on civilian objects, over 6,500 civilian casualties, of whom 1,065 were killed, including 293 children. What is particularly cynical is that the March, May and July spikes in the number of attacks on the civilian population of Russian cities and towns coincided distinctly with periods of peace talks, including the high-level dialogue between Russia and the United States of America. Some 70 to 75 per cent of the victims were targeted in strikes by unmanned aerial vehicles. This means that those who are supplying the Kyiv regime with drones are directly complicit in these crimes. Attacks were carried out on rescue workers, refugees in humanitarian corridors, and buses carrying families. And all this in order to deny diplomatic efforts any chance whatsoever, in order to goad Russia into abandoning dialogue.

Nor has the Kyiv regime given up this objective now that we have moved into 2026. In January 2026, the Ukrainian formations' deliberate strikes against Russian civilians claimed 387 casualties, including 21 children, with 79 people killed, among them three children. The Ukrainian armed forces systematically shelled humanitarian convoys in order to prevent civilians from being evacuated from the zone of hostilities. This strategy culminated in the heinous terrorist attack on New Year's Eve in the village of Khorly, where incendiary munitions were used to kill 29 people in cold blood.

And here are the very latest statistics: during the week of 2 to 8 February, artillery, missile and drone attacks by the Ukrainian formations claimed 127 civilian casualties: 113 people were injured, including nine minors, and 14 people were killed. In total, the Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 2,500 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past seven days.

The border city of Belgorod is the most affected. Just over the past week, more than forty people there became casualties of shelling by Ukraine. On 7 February, as a result of a missile strike, around 80,000 residents of Belgorod were left without heating. This hero city stood up against the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War, and now shells are raining down on it again – in this case fired by Nazi admirers.

And relevant international organizations, including OSCE structures, are trying to ignore all this. The only thing that is to be heard in this room are groundless accusations that Russia has somehow committed violations of international humanitarian law. And the obvious fact that the Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy facilities are reactive in nature is passed over in silence, as usual. This has by now become a lamentable tradition, colleagues – one which undermines your credibility beyond repair. Do bear in mind that, in these circumstances, any talk of peace coming out of certain European capitals smacks of blatant hypocrisy.

Thank you for your attention.