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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY  
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1555th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 February 2026

**On Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply.

Since we covered the current state of affairs in the Ukrainian conflict in detail during the reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council the other day and during the round-table discussion that preceded it on the opportunities and challenges of the related negotiation efforts, I see no point in discussing this at length today.

Let me just say that, while Zelenskyy's sponsors are engaging in hypocritical rhetoric here at the OSCE about how he allegedly "wants peace", the Ukrainian authorities are continuing their war crimes. During the week of 16 to 22 February, Ukrainian artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed 118 civilian casualties in Russia: 104 people were injured and 14 killed. Almost 4,000 munitions rained down on civilian objects. The youngest victim was three years old, and the oldest was 91.

A three-year-old girl was injured when a drone struck a car in the Belgorod region. A nine-year-old boy in Sevastopol was injured by shrapnel from a drone filled with small metal balls. A hospital came under attack in the Zaporozhye region. An ambulance was destroyed in the Bryansk region.

A good 1,500 munitions were fired at the Kherson region, and drone operators continue their targeted hunt for civilians. Sixteen Russian regions have come under attack – from the Belgorod region to Tatarstan. Schools, hospitals, businesses, residential areas. Some 79 per cent of the casualties were inflicted by drone strikes. Drones are hitting homes, hospitals and agricultural enterprises. In the Belgorod region alone, three people were killed and seven injured on farms.

The most recent crime committed by the Ukrainian military was the strike on the Dorogobuzh nitrogen fertilizer plant in the Smolensk region on the morning of 25 February. Seven people were killed and ten others were injured. There is a real danger of an environmental catastrophe.

The current Ukrainian authorities are waging war against defenceless people, while their sponsors are hypocritically turning a blind eye to this. As you were able to see for yourselves during the round-table discussions I mentioned today, Russia will continue to record every such crime, every such attack on civilians. We will ensure that the perpetrators receive the punishment they deserve. And no attempt by Western countries to hush up and consign to oblivion the crimes committed by their Ukrainian protégés will change that.

As I already said the other day, colleagues, your attempts to not see the regime installed in Ukraine after 2014 for what it really is, to ignore and overlook the crimes of the Ukrainian armed forces and the humanity-hating, neo-Nazi nature of the Kyiv authorities, are dragging you down. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to hide these facts. For example, the Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* recently published an interview with a compatriot who fought on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces. His story is shocking: every morning in the Ukrainian unit begins with a Nazi salute; the headquarters are hung with swastikas and portraits of Hitler's accomplices; and members of Colombian drug cartels, who boast about cutting off heads and torturing prisoners, are fighting side by side with "enlightened Europeans". In the end, despite having been subjected to Russophobic brainwashing, this Dutchman could not take it any more and had to leave. How do you like that truth? Or do you still believe there are no Nazis in Ukraine?

Just as there are no violations of the rights of the Russian-speaking citizens of that country, or of the rights of adherents of the canonical Orthodox faith? And yet these violations are not only continuing in Ukraine, but escalating. The latest example is the seizure on 13 February by devotees of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine of a parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and its forcible re-registration in favour of the schismatics. This time, the Church of St. John the Warrior in Kyiv was targeted.

Colleagues, only you are blind and deaf to this lawlessness, but ordinary Ukrainians see and understand everything. The very ones whom Zelenskyy deceived in 2019, promising that when he became president, he would leave all Russian speakers alone, not touch their faith, in short, not divide the country. We showed this video clip at the round-table discussion the other day. We can all see today what this deception has led to, and the Ukrainian President sees it too, which is why he has usurped power and lives in mortal fear of the wrath of the people and new elections.

You are the only ones who cannot see all this. But we do not have time to wait for you to see the light. And that is why the special military operation in Ukraine will continue until all its objectives have been achieved, whether through diplomatic or military means.

Thank you for your attention.