

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/355/26  
23 April 2026

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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 1561st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 April 2026

**On Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall speak in exercise of my right of reply.

The Kyiv regime is proving time and again that it has no interest in a sustainable and long-term peace. Following the collapse of the Easter truce, which we discussed last week, Ukraine has continued to launch frenzied strikes against peaceful Russian towns and cities, killing women and children. Zelenskyy's aim is to provoke our country into mounting a firm response, and then, together with his European sponsors, to shed crocodile tears over those killed and injured as a result of the actions of Ukrainian air defence assets deployed in residential neighbourhoods.

As a matter of fact, it is precisely such hypocritical lamentations that we are witnessing in this room today. We are also witnessing in all its glory the selective blindness of the representatives of the old continent, who once again fail to find the words to condemn the killing of Russian people and the crimes committed against them.

Meanwhile, artillery, missile and drone attacks by Ukrainian Nazis claimed 133 civilian casualties over the past week: 123 people were injured, including seven minors, and ten people were killed, including one minor. All in all, the Ukrainian armed formations fired more than 3,000 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past seven days, including rockets from 122 mm multiple rocket launchers, artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (some of them with cluster warheads), mines and grenades. The enemy also made active use of unmanned combat aerial vehicles, first-person view drones and small arms.

Almost everything being used to kill and maim Russian civilians is manufactured and supplied by the Western accomplices in the Kyiv regime's crimes, including those whose representatives have been speaking before us. We are well aware of this, and there can be no justification for those who, from abroad, are helping to kill our citizens by waging a proxy war against Russia using the Ukrainians as a cat's paw.

I should like to highlight two incidents. In the early hours of 20 April, an attack by Ukrainian drones on the town of Tuapse resulted in damage to three private houses and seven apartment buildings, four socially important facilities, three administrative buildings and a gas pipeline. It was not only residential buildings that were affected. A local church was damaged by shrapnel. It is important to understand that the strike targeted a town in which there are no military objectives.

In the early hours of 22 April, a targeted drone strike was carried out on the city of Syzran in the Samara region, resulting in the collapse of the entrance to a residential building; several people died under the rubble.

At times, one gets the impression that the Ukrainian Nazis could not care less what they hit – whether it be a house, a hospital or a school, a group of civilians or a child in the street – as long as they are killing people, and preferably killing in such a way as to maximize the number of victims. We have witnessed this brutality time and again, as drone operators cynically hunted down women, the elderly and children in border towns and regions, notably in the Kursk region, from where the Ukrainian butchers were driven out in disgrace and with heavy losses. However, as they retreated, they took several dozen local residents with them, the last of whom were released only very recently. Going back in time, the German fascists acted in exactly the same way when they were retreating from Soviet villages and towns – their accomplices are regarded as heroes in today's Ukraine.

I could speak at length about the specific crimes committed by the Kyiv regime; we are documenting each and every one of them in order to identify and punish those responsible. In total, nearly 8,000 civilians have been killed by the Ukrainian “fighters” since February 2022. To save time during Permanent Council meetings, we have decided to circulate detailed information regularly at the OSCE; you will be able to acquaint yourselves with the first such summary after our meeting. In addition, yesterday we submitted documentation to the OSCE detailing violations of international law by the Ukrainian armed forces between 16 and 22 February this year. So each of you has the opportunity to delve into these grim statistics, but whether you choose to do so or not is entirely up to your own conscience. We harbour no illusions that our Western colleagues still have one; it was washed away long ago by their primitive Russophobia and hatred of Russia and all things Russian.

However, we will not be holding our breath until you see the light and your conscience awakens. Given that the Kyiv regime and its sponsors are leaving no room for diplomacy, we continue to implement the objectives of our special military operation by military means. Our military units are advancing on all fronts; the liberation of the Lugansk People's Republic has been fully completed. In March and April of this year, Russian troops liberated 34 population centres and approximately 700 square kilometres of territory, and since the beginning of 2026, more than 1,700 square kilometres and 80 population centres have come under their control. And this is just the start of our spring-summer campaign!

And so it will continue until all threats to our security have been eliminated, until justice prevails and until the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv is no longer able to commit its crimes.

Thank you for your attention.