

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/408/26/Rev.1
7 May 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1563rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall speak in exercise of my right of reply.

By decision of Vladimir Putin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, a ceasefire will be in effect along the line of engagement from 12:00 a.m. on 8 May until 12:00 a.m. on 10 May. This step is being taken solely in connection with the celebration of the 81st anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War.

In response, instead of supporting this initiative, the Kyiv regime has announced some sort of “truce” starting 6 May in an attempt to diminish the significance of the great day of 9 May and obliterate historical memory. This is a blatant attempt by the Kyiv regime to pull the wool over the eyes of the international community, to create the appearance of a peace initiative, while leaving itself room for provocations – Zelenskyy has already made open threats to strike Moscow on Victory Day.

In this connection, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has warned that any attempt to disrupt the ceasefire or strike our towns and cities will result in a massive strike on the centre of Kyiv. We have spared it until now on humanitarian grounds, but retribution will be inevitable. We emphasize that this is not a threat, but a warning in response to a threat.

We are all too aware of the cynical nature of the Kyiv regime and its patrons. Conscious of their helplessness on the battlefield, the Ukrainian armed forces are continuing to use terrorist methods against Russian civilians. Artillery, missile and drone attacks by Ukrainian Nazis claimed 200 civilian casualties over the past week: 166 people were injured, including eight minors, and 34 people were killed, including two minors.

Ukrainian combat drone strikes were the most frequent cause of death or injury among the civilian population. Strikes by Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) claimed 185 civilian casualties over the past seven days, accounting for more than 90 per cent of the total.

All in all, the Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 3,594 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past seven days.

The highest numbers of civilian casualties were reported from the Belgorod, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions and the Lugansk People's Republic. Residential neighbourhoods, infrastructure facilities, and civilian targets in densely populated areas were hit, resulting in numerous casualties and demonstrating the deliberate nature of the strikes and a desire to inflict the greatest possible harm on the civilian population.

I should like to focus on the terrorist attack on the city of Cheboksary carried out on 5 May using Ukrainian combat drones, which the representative of Ukraine mentioned today. We are talking about a targeted strike on civilian objects: 40 apartment buildings and public facilities, including kindergartens and a college, were damaged. At least 30 people were injured, and at least two people were killed. It is strange that this was cited to us as an example of a successful response by Ukrainian armed formations. There are also reports that a Ukrainian drone crashed overnight on the territory of the Republic of Latvia at an oil depot 40 kilometres from the Russian border in the city of Rēzekne. Apparently, it was heading towards the Russian port of Ust-Luga, falling short by 350 kilometres.

We wish to once again draw attention to the unprecedentedly dangerous situation unfolding around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP). The Kyiv regime is continuing its criminal attacks against this sensitive facility, in defiance of all norms of international law and appeals from the International Atomic Energy Agency. On 3 May 2026, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a direct UAV strike against the Zaporizhzhia NPP's External Radiation Control Laboratory, a system designed to detect radiation threats in a timely manner. While, fortunately, there was no critical damage or casualties among the staff on this occasion, the very fact that such a target was chosen speaks volumes.

We have recorded a sharp increase in shelling of the Zaporizhzhia NPP following the end of the Easter truce. The West continues to turn a blind eye to this. We call upon the international community to take a firm stand against these criminal acts. The ongoing provocations are unjustifiable and must be stopped.

Amid the Ukrainian armed forces' reckless actions, information continues to emerge about corruption schemes in which the Kyiv regime's leaders are implicated. The publication of the latest batch of so-called Mindich tapes reveals only the tip of the iceberg. In the tapes, high-ranking officials, including the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Rustem Umerov, discuss a total reallocation of the defence budget in Kyiv.

The result is a shocking contrast that should outrage any European taxpayer: while mobilized Ukrainians are dying on the front line, the wife of Defence Minister Fedorov is buying a luxury yacht for 26 million euros. Corruption permeates all levels of power – from vote-buying in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) to cryptocurrency scams worth millions.

And against this backdrop, the Kyiv junta is still throwing ordinary Ukrainians into the furnace of war. The violence by the territorial recruitment centres is taking on ever more brutal forms: people are being abducted from hospitals (such as Vasily Dragun, a priest of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), in Uzhhorod), rounded up on the streets and shoved into minibuses in full view of young children. The Kyiv regime is continuing its policy of State terror against members of the canonical UOC, while simultaneously suppressing the Russian language and cultural identity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Cynicism and bloodthirstiness have long been the trademark of the current Kyiv regime. On 2 May, we marked the 12th anniversary of a tragedy that must remain forever in our memory – the mass murder at Odessa’s Trade Union House. Back then, in 2014, radicals from Right Sector burned alive 48 civilians – women, pensioners, a 17-year-old teenager – who were peacefully protesting against the imposition of Banderite ideas and discrimination on the basis of language. Those who managed to escape through the windows of the burning building were finished off on the ground. Not only have the organizers and perpetrators of the massacre gone unpunished – they do not even feel the need to hide.

What is more, on the eve of the 12th anniversary, the Ukrainian authorities ostentatiously unveiled a commemorative medal, “Victory over the Russian Spring”, cast from bronze taken from the monument to Empress Catherine II that was torn down in Odessa. This cynical affront to the memory of the victims is a sign that the Kyiv regime has not changed its nature.

And this tragedy is compounded by the fact that an ideology is taking hold in Ukraine today that our common ancestors regarded as their greatest enemy. There is no longer any effort being made to conceal the current regime’s Nazi essence – it is displayed openly, cynically and on a State scale. There is nothing in common between this orgy of neo-Nazism and the feat of our ancestors – Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Kazakhs and other peoples of a single country – who crushed the “Brown Plague”.

Ukraine does not observe 9 May. The head of the Kyiv regime, commenting on the statement by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation regarding a ceasefire to mark the Soviet people’s victory in the Great Patriotic War, referred to the Victory Day celebrations as “some kind of anniversary”. One can only imagine what Semyon Ivanovich Zelenskyy, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, a hero and recipient of a decoration, would have said to his grandson had he been alive and witnessed the manifestations of neo-Nazism in his own country.

It is precisely against this ideology – one that is humanity-hating, Russophobic and that denies the very fact of our shared victory – that Russia is fighting today. And while torchlit processions in honour of Hitler’s accomplices take place on the streets of cities liberated by our grandfathers, it is our duty to remember the truth and pass it on to future generations: we are not at war with a brotherly people; we are destroying the Nazism that has taken hold of Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.