

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/451/26
14 May 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1564th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 May 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall speak in exercise of my right of reply.

Last week, we all had the opportunity to see for ourselves the utter intractability of the Kyiv regime, whose leader uses talk of peace solely for self-promotion. The Ukrainian armed forces responded to Russia's proposal for a truce during the Victory Day celebrations on 8 and 9 May by ramping up their attacks on civilian objects. In total, almost 24,000 violations by Zelenskyy's formations were recorded in the course of the truce we had declared.

Over the past week, at least 230 civilians suffered at the hands of the Ukrainian "fighters", with 25 people killed, including one minor. Their attacks affected no fewer than 20 constituent entities of Russia located far away from the zone of the special military operation, including the Moscow region, Chuvashia and the Chechen Republic. Overall, the Ukrainian armed forces fired more than 3,500 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past seven days.

The highest numbers of civilian casualties were recorded in the Belgorod, Kherson, Zaporozhye and Bryansk regions, the Chuvash Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR). Residential neighbourhoods and infrastructure facilities were hit, resulting in casualties among the civilian population. The Ukrainian "fighters" attacked civilian targets in densely populated areas, which attests to the deliberate nature of these strikes and a desire to inflict the greatest possible harm on the civilian population.

In violation of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, the Ukrainian formations are actively engaged in the remote mining of civilian objects and frequently visited places; they are planting explosive devices within populated areas.

In Gorlovka in the DPR, a 14-year-old boy was injured when a cluster submunition that had previously failed to detonate went off; moreover, a 64-year-old man was injured when a mine exploded. Another civilian lost a foot after stepping on a Lepestok anti-personnel mine near Slavyansk. In Shebekino

in the Belgorod region, a 79-year-old man was injured by the detonation of a submunition of the type that resembles a little bell.

In the settlement of Razumnoye, also in the Belgorod region, an attacking drone left three members of an ambulance crew injured: two paramedics and the driver.

During the so-called ceasefire announced by the Kyiv regime, the car of Alexander Polegenko, a photojournalist with the TASS news agency, was struck by a Ukrainian first-person view drone in Vasilyevka, in the Zaporozhye region. He had come to the town on a reporting assignment, namely to capture the aftermath of the shelling of residential areas and assess the extent of damage to urban infrastructure. We call upon Special Representative on Freedom of the Media Jan Braathu to take a stand against this latest brazen attack by the Zelenskyy regime on members of the press.

The Kyiv regime consistently shows indifference to the fate of its citizens. Thus, on 5 May, Russia submitted a proposal to the Ukrainian side for a prisoner-of-war exchange on a “1,000 for 1,000” basis and forwarded a preliminary list of 500 Ukrainian military personnel currently held in Russia. The exchange was to have taken place under US mediation during the three-day truce that we supported. However, Ukraine has as yet not confirmed its willingness to go ahead with this prisoner swap.

The fact that Zelenskyy could not care less about his fellow citizens was unequivocally corroborated by his former close associate and press secretary, Iuliia Mendel, in an interview with the US journalist Tucker Carlson. No less insouciant are our European colleagues, in particular the British ones, who regularly issue hypocritical appeals to Russia to “stop the war”. This is hypocrisy because Iuliia Mendel herself, like others before her, clearly acknowledged that it was British Prime Minister Boris Johnson who, in March 2022, persuaded Zelenskyy to revoke his consent to a peace agreement with Russia, the parameters of which had already been fixed by both sides at that point. I want everyone to clearly understand that the hostilities could have ended a month after they began, with but minimal casualties and destruction in Ukraine. In anticipation of that and taking into account the agreements reached, Russia, as a gesture of goodwill, withdrew its troops from around Kyiv. There would not have been these four years of war, these hundreds of thousands of casualties, had the United Kingdom not, in the spirit of the colonial formula of “divide and rule”, dissuaded Zelenskyy from signing an agreement that had already been initialled by both sides.

I would remind you that, at the time, in order to make this opting for war more palatable to the Ukrainian public and the international community, a cynical staged event was mounted in Bucha, which we already spoke about at our meeting on 26 March.

The falsity of the accusations levelled at Russian troops, who left the town on 30 March 2022 as part of that gesture of goodwill I mentioned earlier, was obvious, if only because the mayor of Bucha, Anatolii Fedoruk, recorded a video that very same day in which he stated that there were no longer any Russian soldiers in the town and made no mention whatsoever of any corpses lying in the streets. The world only learned of them a few days later, once the Ukrainian intelligence services and Western camera crews, led by the United Kingdom’s very own BBC, had entered the town. They were the ones who laid out the corpses (there are eyewitnesses to this) and subsequently trumpeted this gory staging far and wide across the world.

Since then, Russia has been demanding that the United Nations Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) conduct a thorough investigation – an investigation in which, of course, neither the authorities in Kyiv nor their sponsors are interested. This can, in effect, only be described as a conspiracy of silence!

I shall cite just a few facts from our correspondence that have become public knowledge.

In September 2024, an official request prepared by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Prosecutor General's Office was submitted to the United Nations Secretariat through the Russian Permanent Mission in New York. We asked for one thing – for a list to be provided of the names of the individuals whose bodies Western media displayed to the world, accompanied by hysterical accusations against Russia. We requested names, addresses, details of the time and cause of death, and the results of forensic medical examinations.

In January and April 2026, we made new demands for an expedited response to our inquiry.

In July 2025, nearly a year after the last request, the OHCHR finally replied that it had analysed our request and come to the conclusion that it was “not in a position to disclose the requested information”, as its disclosure would “violate obligations of confidentiality owed ... to third parties” and “prejudice the security” of United Nations operations.

The United Nations Secretariat is deliberately avoiding constructive engagement with Russia. We have every reason to believe that they prefer to dodge answering, as all that matters to them is not to expose the organizers of that “blood-drenched production”.

On 5 May, we likewise sent the Secretary General of our Organization a copy of those very questions (there are 12 of them) that we had put to the United Nations Secretary-General and that had fallen on deaf ears.

Could Zelenskyy have lied so cynically, in true Goebbels fashion, to his own people and the international community? Let us turn to Iuliia Mendel again. In her interview, she recalls that after Zelenskyy's approval ratings began to plummet on account of his failure to fulfil his election campaign promises, he gathered his inner circle and literally told them: “I need Goebbels propaganda, if you want ... I need thousands of talking heads of Goebbels propaganda ... If talking heads, a thousand people tell you that this is happening, then this is happening.”

So all of you, colleagues, who continue to spread the Bucha fake story are in fact acting as those very “talking heads” that Zelenskyy spoke of. Today, by the looks of it, we are in for yet another show featuring these talking heads, this time wearing their “Moscow Mechanism” hat. I use the word “show” because if this “supporting cast” of Zelenskyy's were genuinely concerned about the fate of Ukrainian children, they would be operating with facts – which we are providing aplenty – rather than with baseless accusations. I hope that sooner or later, colleagues, you will realize what an unenviable role you have been assigned in this disgraceful and mendacious spectacle “starring” a former comedian.

Thank you for your attention.