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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1566th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 May 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I am taking the floor in exercise of my right of reply. I will read out an abridged version of our statement; the full text will, as usual, be distributed later today.

This past week, the Kyiv regime decided to exceed its quota for the killing of Russian civilians. The Ukrainian armed forces' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed at least 250 casualties – this is the highest weekly figure since the start of 2026. Fifty-one people were killed, among them a child. Around 200 people were injured, including 20 minors. In total, Ukrainian “fighters” fired more than 4,300 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory. An increase in the number of strikes against civilian objects was observed not only along the line of engagement, but also in many constituent entities of the Russian Federation that are located a considerable distance away from the zone of the special military operation.

In our previous statements, we warned that the Zelenskyy regime is now in desperate need of some kind of tragedy that would help to distract the public from the escalating corruption scandal at home, while at the same time drawing the attention of Western sponsors to Ukraine. That is precisely why the head of the Kyiv junta authorized a deliberate attack on the Starobelsk teacher training college in the early hours of 22 May. We disclosed the details of that attack in this room two days ago.

As a result of this act of terrorism, 21 students were killed and 44 people sustained injuries. The victims were aged between 15 and 22 years. I would emphasize that there is no doubt whatsoever that the punitive squads from the Ukrainian armed forces sought precisely this outcome, since there are no military facilities anywhere near the college.

Other residents of Russian regions were also among the victims of Ukrainian drone attacks last week.

One civilian woman was killed and eight people were injured as a result of a Ukrainian drone attack on Makeyevka (Donetsk People's Republic).

Nine civilians, including a teenage girl, were injured in a missile strike on the settlement of Borisovka (Belgorod region).

Two civilians were killed and three were injured in a drone attack on Syzran (Samara region).

A 17-year-old girl was killed and two further civilians injured in a drone attack on a fixed-route bus in Lisichansk (Lugansk People's Republic).

Three civilians were killed as a result of a strike by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) on a private home in the village of Markovo (Kursk region).

Three railway workers were killed in a drone strike on a train station in Unecha (Bryansk region).

One civilian woman was killed and another woman injured when a drone struck a civilian vehicle in Sevsk (Bryansk region).

A 67-year-old woman was killed as a result of a UAV attack on a private home in the settlement of Podol (Kursk region).

A 14-year-old girl was injured in a drone attack in Donetsk (Donetsk People's Republic).

A drone strike left a 15-year-old boy injured in the Akimovsky municipal district (Zaporozhye region).

An ambulance driver was injured in a drone attack near the settlement of Borisovka (Belgorod region).

This list could go on.

Seeing that the West failed to react in any way to the horrendous, cold-blooded murder of teenagers in Starobelsk, the Kyiv regime decided to add more children's lives to its bloody tally. Last night, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a drone attack on a secondary school in Svatovo in the Lugansk People's Republic. Fortunately, there were no children inside the building at the time. There is reason to believe that this will not be the last incident and that the hunting down of children in Donbass will continue. In that case, all of you who – the day before yesterday in this room – could not bring yourselves to condemn the Ukrainian attack will be accomplices of the killers from Kyiv and complicit in this crime.

The Swiss Chairmanship will also be complicit, as will the executive structures of our Organization, upon which great hopes were once pinned in Europe. It is now clear that those hopes were in vain – instead of promoting dialogue and seeking ways to co-operate, members of NATO and the European Union have turned the OSCE into a tool of their hybrid war against Russia.

The terrorist attack in Starobelsk served as a litmus test, highlighting this decline. Having failed to find a single word of condemnation for this blatant atrocity, you have endeavoured to distort the aims and results of our retaliatory missile strikes against military facilities, defence industry enterprises and decision-making centres in Ukraine. In doing so, you have demonstrated that you could not care less about Russian children – or, for that matter, about Ukrainian children.

Your interest in the topic of children is limited solely to the context of the mendacious propaganda campaign surrounding the alleged “deported Ukrainian children”, where you spread unfounded fabrications

and avoid a discussion based on facts. Because you do not have any facts to back this up – nor do you even need them; they only get in the way of portraying Russia as the enemy.

And while you shed crocodile tears over some abstract children who exist only in the records and reports of countless pro-Ukrainian commissions and committees, real children – 21 of them – lost their lives in Starobelsk under the rubble of their dormitory at the hands of Ukrainian Nazis. And you are cynically trying to turn a blind eye to this. The height of your cynicism was the sickening remarks made by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Melnyk, in response to our call for an emergency meeting of the Security Council, when he complained that Russia was distracting the Security Council with “trivial matters” at a time when everyone should already have been having dinner. May God be your judge!

And the Kyiv regime, emboldened by the blood of children, decided to take its mockery a step further and added the surviving teachers and staff of the college in Starobelsk – the very people who, under repeated Ukrainian drone strikes, were clearing the rubble and recovering the bodies of their students – to the database of the infamous Myrotvorets website, where Ukronazis brazenly post the names of those they deem to be their targets. These people are charged with “encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine” and, most outrageously, “genocide of the Ukrainian people by forcibly changing the national identity of Ukrainian children”. And on this matter too, you have all remained silent today, thereby issuing the Kyiv junta with yet another blank cheque for further killings and terrorist attacks.

In the face of this complete moral degradation on your part, a teenage author from Lugansk, the courageous Faina Savenkova, could not remain silent; she recorded a video message addressed to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis. In that video message, Faina asks several obvious questions, questions that are extremely uncomfortable for our Swiss colleagues: why does the OSCE remain silent when Ukrainian Nazis are killing children and persecuting the survivors? Why is your Organization, which is duty-bound to protect human rights, turning a blind eye to the genocide of the Russian population of Donbass? Why do you not condemn the Myrotvorets database, which has for many years now been functioning as an instrument for intimidating and punishing dissenters?

Faina has the right to ask these questions because her childhood was spent under Ukrainian bombardment and she herself – while still a child – was included in the Myrotvorets database, with her personal details being published, following her appeal to the United Nations Security Council in 2021. She grew up in Lugansk, lives there and is familiar with the sentiments of its people. Ukraine pushed them away in 2014 and is now taking revenge on them for choosing to reunite with Russia. I therefore wish to conclude by quoting the relevant excerpt from her message: “It sounds particularly cynical when your Organization refers to Starobelsk and the whole of Donbass as ‘temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine’... Donbass will never return to Ukraine. Not because someone will not allow it, but because the people no longer believe in a totalitarian State that has been bombing their children for years and calling it an ‘anti-terrorist operation’.”

Faina hopes that Mr. Cassis will respond to her message. As a teenager, it is hard for her to imagine that callous, indifferent and hypocritical people could be at the helm of the OSCE. I do not want to disappoint her, but the way the Swiss Chairmanship has behaved following the Ukrainian armed forces’ strike on Starobelsk – much to my regret – leaves no doubt whatsoever in that regard.

Thank you for your attention.