

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.

FSC.DEL/360/25
18 November 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. OLEG BUSHUEV, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1121st PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

12 November 2025

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

As long as terrorist strikes launched from the territory of Ukraine continue to rain down on Russian towns and cities and our civilian population, we are obliged to take retaliatory action.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are hitting exclusively military infrastructure belonging to the enemy: airfields, intelligence centres, ammunition depots – anything that is still feeding into the Kyiv regime's lethal potential. These targeted actions are yielding their drastic, but necessary results. Significant enemy capabilities have been destroyed since the start of the special military operation: hundreds of airplanes, tens of thousands of pieces of equipment. Behind each of these figures are the saved lives of Russian citizens, including the lives of Donbass residents. The Russian army will not stop until the source of danger next to our borders has been neutralized.

By dint of incredible courage, Russian military personnel are liberating native lands. Control was established over the following population centres in the course of last week: Gnatovka in the Donetsk People's Republic; Uspenovka, Rybnoye, Novouspenovskoye, Novoye and Sladkoye in the Zaporozhye region; and Volchye in the Dnepropetrovsk region. Kupyansk and Krasnoarmeysk are being liberated. Moreover, the situation of the Ukrainian groupings penned into these encircled pockets, or "cauldrons", is hopeless. They are sustaining catastrophic losses. The only chance for these soldiers to stay alive is to voluntarily surrender into captivity.

Yet, what is the Kyiv regime doing? Instead of humaneness, we see monstrous, unconscionable disregard for the lives of its own people. A few days ago, yet more facts came to light illustrating the Kyiv regime's true attitude towards its militants. According to the testimony of people involved, Ukrainian armed forces personnel in these "cauldrons" are being sent en masse to be slaughtered. In addition, the Ukrainian "fighters" shot dead their wounded "comrades-in-arms" during their retreat from the village of Volchye, regarding them as unnecessary ballast and anxious to prevent them from surrendering into captivity.

However, the Kyiv regime's cynicism extends much, much farther, bearing down on the most defenceless civilians, whom Russian troops at the risk of their own lives continue to evacuate and rescue. For example, a group of civilians who were trying to get out of the area of combat operations and were moving with white flags towards the Russian positions came under fire from Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). According to eyewitness accounts, it was possible for the UAV operators to make out that what they had in front of them were unarmed civilians, yet they conducted their strike all the same. There is also publicly available footage showing how an elderly man trying to escape from Kupyansk was attacked by a drone belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces. What is more, its operator committed murder even though that man had fallen to his knees, crossed himself and begged for mercy. This is not a case of blundering, but a criminal system fomented at the State level. We are willing to show this horrifying and sad footage to those who are minded to cynically claim that it is all just "Russian propaganda".

In view of this, it is not surprising that the Kyiv regime is running a scandalous programme called the "Army of Drones Bonus System", under which war turns into a video game and a competition among UAV operators while human life becomes an object of sport! According to the First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mykhailo Fedorov, who is quoted by *The Guardian* and several other newspapers across Europe disconcerted by this practice, Ukrainian armed forces personnel on the front lines are able to earn points through strikes against our soldiers, including wounded ones – something that is categorically prohibited by international humanitarian law. Under the rules of the programme, "players" are rewarded with points for wounding or killing and those points can be exchanged to buy new weapons. Just imagine – human lives and destinies – all this has been turned into "gaming points" while the boundary between virtual reality and the all too real consequences of combat operations is being erased. And what if points start being awarded for killing civilians? Will this be considered acceptable by the West?

In this room we do not hear a word of condemnation for these and other crimes of the Kyiv regime. One gets the impression that everything can be sacrificed at the altar of confrontation with Russia, be it the principles of humanity, the norms of international law or the very value of human life.

Over the past week alone, the Ukrainian armed forces claimed 53 civilian casualties, of whom 45 people were injured, including six children, and eight people were killed. People just like you and me. All in all, at least 3,477 munitions were fired at our cities, towns and villages using unmanned combat aerial vehicles, multiple-launch rocket systems, and artillery of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre. Moreover, prohibited cluster munitions were used.

Yet, behind these dry statistics are real human tragedies. On 3 November, four boys aged between 13 and 15 years were injured in the village of Ilinka in the Lugansk People's Republic as the result of a UAV detonation. On 5 November, a kamikaze drone killed an elderly woman in the city of Vasilyevka in the Zaporozhye region, while a 76-year-old female resident of the Kherson region was killed in her own house there by a UAV strike. On 9 November, a drone attacked a passenger car in the village of Novaya Mayachka, also in the Kherson region, and a 50-year-old woman was killed by a direct hit.

The number of civilian casualties arising from the Ukrainian armed forces' remote mining of civilian objects continues to grow. This week, unfortunately, further tragedies came to light. Civilians in the Donetsk People's Republic set off mines, with the ensuing blasts killing a 59-year-old man and injuring several people. Moreover, it is reported that in Krasnoarmeysk and other population centres being liberated, Russian deminers have on a daily basis been deactivating booby traps left behind by the Ukrainian "fighters". How many more people must have their lives cut short by these barbarous devices?

In addition, the Kyiv regime is hitting not only civilian targets in front-line areas, but also regions far from the border. Civilian objects in 12 Russian regions – from the Volgograd region to the Yaroslavl region

– have been attacked by means of long-range UAVs. A 48-year-old man was killed as the result of such a strike on a residential high-rise building in the city of Volgograd. Two civilians were injured in Saratov.

Special words of condemnation are warranted for the hunting down of those who selflessly work for the good of the civilian population. For example, in the Valuyki district of the Belgorod region a drone attacked the car of the deputy head of a territorial administration, injuring a woman. Unfortunately, this was not the first such incident.

We continue to consistently draw the international community's attention to the fact that all these actions are being carried out using weapons supplied to the Kyiv regime by the West.

Against a backdrop of incessant war crimes being committed by the Kyiv regime against Russia's civilian population, the NATO and EU countries, obsessed by the stillborn idea of overwhelming our country, continue to ramp up their military and financial support for a regime that has unabashedly embraced terror.

I wish to alert you to a noteworthy fact. While discussions on how best to plunder Russian assets have reached a state of deadlock in the European Union, the idea has been floated in British media that affluent Norway could pay for all this out of its sovereign wealth fund. Just imagine: assets that ought to be put to work for the benefit of the Norwegian people may be burned through on financing a hopeless war against Russia. This raises the legitimate question: have the authorities in Norway and the European Union actually asked their citizens whether they want to get into debt and risk their savings for the sake of Ukraine? For a country that is posting a record increase in monetary gold reserves while Europeans are being called upon to tighten their belts? Over the past month alone, such reserves increased by 3 billion dollars. So what is the money of European taxpayers actually being spent on, then? On combating imaginary "Russian aggression" or on lining the pockets of the Kyiv regime's bosses? The answer is obvious: everyone in Ukraine today is talking about the "Mindich case", which involves someone who, according to independent Ukrainian media outlets, served as Volodymyr Zelenskyy's personal piggy bank.

Mr. Chairperson,

The position of the Ukrainians themselves is now becoming increasingly clear: they have grown more and more disillusioned with the policies of the Kyiv regime, which is waging a senseless war against its own people.

Quite telling in that regard is the record number of Ukrainian military personnel absconding from their units. Just in the period between January and October of this year there have been more than 176,000 instances of soldiers going absent without leave or deserting. This figure is essentially not much lower than the monthly influx of mobilized troops. And if one takes the losses into account, it is actually greater.

While Ukrainian society displays a growing rejection of war, the draft campaign in Ukraine has turned into a veritable hunt for people.

In Ternopil, a man driven to despair jumped from the fifth floor of the building of a territorial manning centre and is now on life support. In Vinnytsia a truck belonging to a military draft office knocked down a man twice who was trying to save his pal from being forcibly packed off to the front lines. Things have got to a point where even the homeless and persons with disabilities are being mobilized.

We are also increasingly hearing of cases where Ukrainian citizens organize themselves to fight back against the “hunters” from the territorial manning centres. One cannot blame ordinary people for fleeing what is, in effect, a meat grinder or for putting up resistance against those who are unlawfully trying to send them there. All the more so bearing in mind the reports about the authorities’ heinous attitude not only towards those whom they regard as cannon fodder, but also towards those killed and their relatives. Thus, in Ukraine the families of soldiers thrown into the millstones of war are even being denied the bodies of their loved ones. Out of the 6,000 bodies handed over by Russia six months ago, only 24 have been formally identified. Moreover, families are invited to collect the remains of their loved ones for burial under one condition: they must sign a document waiving any claims to the stipulated financial compensation. This is not simply bureaucracy, but a cynical affront to the memory of soldiers killed in action and to the feelings of their next of kin.

I ask my Western colleagues: why do your governments continue to arm a regime that is waging war against its own people? Why are your countries, which mendaciously call here for a peaceful settlement, preparing new egregious false-flag operations together with the Zelenskyy regime?

According to the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, European advisers are urging the Kyiv regime to organize a major act of sabotage at a nuclear facility that would involve civilian casualties – in accordance with the template provided by the tragedy of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in 2014. The objective is cynical and simple: to shift public opinion at any cost, as it is currently unfavourable to the West, and close ranks against Russia.

I wish to warn all those present that, given the target selected for such a false-flag operation, the stakes in this situation are significantly higher. Any attempts to carry out these criminal plans will lead to the most serious consequences. We call upon the West to refrain from supporting or inspiring such adventures.

In closing, I would point out that those who are encouraging this conflict to continue will have on their conscience all further escalation and all fresh human casualties. The Russian Federation will ensure that all the tasks set for the special military operation are implemented either through diplomatic channels or – if our opponents turn out not to be ready for that – by military means.

Thank you for your attention.