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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1573rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 July 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall read out an abridged version of my statement in exercise of the right of reply. At the end of our meeting we will distribute the full version containing a detailed list of all the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime over the past seven days.

The main trend persists. With the explicit approval of Zelenskyy and his accomplices, the Ukrainian armed forces continue with the deliberate hunting of our country's civilians and are aiming their strikes at civilian objects, thereby corroborating over and over again the terrorist nature of the Kyiv regime.

Between 9 and 15 July, the Ukrainian Nazis' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed more than 250 civilian casualties, of whom no fewer than 32 lost their lives.

Overall, more than 5,200 munitions were fired at civilian objects on Russian territory. Ninety-five per cent of the total number of civilian casualties were victims of attacks by Ukrainian combat drones.

When attacking fuel infrastructure facilities, the Kyiv regime eagerly targets civilians who happen to be there. As a result of the Ukrainian armed forces' strikes against filling stations in the Kursk and Belgorod regions and in the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR), 14 people were injured, including a pregnant woman and a two-year-old child. Yesterday, a girl and her grandmother were killed when the Ukrainian armed forces struck the village of Suzemka in the Bryansk region. Civilian vehicles remain a favourite target of the Ukrainian death squads.

Nine civilians were injured when a drone struck a passenger bus near the settlement of Starobeshevo, Donetsk People's Republic (DPR).

Eight civilians, including three children, were injured in a drone strike on a scheduled passenger bus in the area of the village of Tavrovo, Belgorod region.

One civilian was killed and six people, including a 17-year-old girl, were injured when an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) struck a commercial facility in the village of Tavrovo, Belgorod region.

One civilian was killed and three were injured as a result of a strike on the city of Belgorod using a HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system.

A 13-year-old boy was killed in a drone attack in the town of Grayvoron, Belgorod region.

Five civilians were injured in a drone attack on a filling station in the Novoaydar district (LPR).

Two civilians, including a two-year-old child, were injured as a result of a UAV attack on a filling station in the Oktyabrsky district of the Kursk region.

An employee of the central district hospital in Ivanovka was killed in a drone attack in the Kherson region.

A paramedic and a driver were injured in a drone strike on an ambulance in the settlement of Borisovka, Belgorod region.

A 73-year-old civilian was killed in a drone attack on a civilian vehicle in the Svatovo municipal district (LPR).

Two teenagers were injured when an explosive device detonated in Alchevsk (LPR).

Four rescue workers from the Ministry of Emergency Situations were injured while dealing with the aftermath of an attack by Ukrainian UAVs in the city of Azov, Rostov region.

Three municipal utility workers were injured in a drone attack in Lisichansk (LPR).

Exploiting the connivance of their Western sponsors, the Ukrainian “fighters” also made another attempt at nuclear terrorism, directing at least 12 UAVs towards the Kursk II nuclear power plant (NPP). One of the drones hit the cooling tower of reactor unit 2, which is currently under construction, damaging the cooling system, which had not yet been commissioned. Ukrainian drones were also spotted near two other plants: the Leningrad NPP and the Smolensk NPP. Although the strikes did not disrupt operations at these functioning plants, such attacks pose a direct threat to nuclear safety across Europe.

And yesterday, as a result of a terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime on a civilian vehicle, Aleksandr Yakovlev, chief engineer at the Zaporozhskaya NPP, and his driver were killed. This act of terrorism was condemned yesterday by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi. We await a reaction from the OSCE and other relevant international organizations.

However, the terrorist ambitions of the Zelenskyy regime, which feels it has impunity and that it can count on the unconditional support of NATO and the European Union, are not limited to these doings. Thus, the effective work of the Russian intelligence services thwarted an attempt by the Ukrainian intelligence services to carry out, with the direct involvement of their Western handlers, a series of sabotage and terrorist operations in Russia, unprecedented in their scale and the level of threat they posed. The perpetrators and accomplices were caught red-handed; first-person view drones equipped with jamming-resistant neural-network control modules (modules of British, United States, Canadian and Swedish make) were seized, along with other sabotage equipment.

Clearly seeking to provoke even greater escalation, the Ukrainian armed forces launched an unprecedentedly large-scale campaign using UAVs against tankers and other civilian vessels in the Sea of Azov. Dozens of ships transporting fuels and lubricants were subjected to intensive attacks. The aim of this terrorist operation was to try to block the southern sea routes used for the delivery of petroleum products. The casualty toll from this series of barbaric attacks comprised 12 sailors on board the targeted vessels, two of whom lost their lives. A Turkish ship in the Black Sea that was heading for Novorossiysk to load oil was also struck.

Naturally, these provocations by Zelenskyy and his henchmen have, as always, been followed by inescapable punishment. In response to Ukraine's terrorist operations directed against civilian objects in Russia, the armed forces of the Russian Federation used precision weapons and combat drones to launch one barrage attack and seven waves of strikes over the past week. Moreover, since the Kyiv regime actively targeted merchant ships, thereby taking its infrastructure warfare against Russia to a new level, our response has in many respects been symmetric.

Thus, from 11 to 13 July, Russian forces used long-range land- and air-based precision weapons, along with combat drones, to carry out co-ordinated strikes against military objectives in Ukraine.

Facilities belonging to the military-industrial complex in Kyiv were hit. Strikes were conducted against the ports of Odessa and Chornomorsk, the targets being port infrastructure facilities used for the unloading and storage of military cargo and fuels and lubricants, along with depots housing ammunition and missile weapons. Three sea ferries, a container ship and two dry cargo ships, which were delivering supplies for the Ukrainian armed forces, were also destroyed.

Meanwhile, the Russian army undoubtedly holds the initiative on the battlefield and is advancing rapidly along the entire line of engagement. Since the beginning of July alone, according to Ukrainian media reports, around 200 square kilometres have come under Russian control, an area comparable to the size of a city such as Odessa. As Ukrainian military experts have themselves admitted, Russian troops are now only about three kilometres away from Slavyansk and Kramatorsk.

The hour of the complete liberation of Donbass is steadily drawing nearer. As is the hour of the total collapse of the Kyiv regime – a collapse that the regime's Western sponsors, by supplying it with weapons and turning a blind eye to its crimes (including crimes against its own population), are only making more and more inevitable. Since there is no longer any talk of serious peace proposals and our European neighbours are clearly not interested in diplomacy – preferring instead to bank on destabilizing the situation in Russia and on our country's military defeat – our special military operation will be continued in full and until all the goals set for it have been achieved.

Thank you for your attention.