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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1574th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 July 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

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

It has now become so difficult to overlook the terrorist nature of the Kyiv regime, which manifested itself in all its “glory” as far back as 2014, that one can but marvel at the cynicism of our Western colleagues, who continue to portray Ukraine as some kind of “bastion of good” holding back an “evil” and “vicious” Russia from attacking Europe. We have already given examples of how the tentacles of the kraken-like terrorist regime in Kyiv reach as far as Africa and the Middle East, and of how an increasing number of terrorist acts and attacks are also taking place in Europe.

Indeed, Ukrainian uncrewed surface vessels packed with explosives are being detected not only in the Black Sea, but now even in the Mediterranean – our Turkish and Greek colleagues know this better than anyone else. Ukrainian missiles are landing in Poland, and Ukrainian drones are crashing in the Baltic States, Romania and Moldova, and only their fierce hatred of Russia prevents the leaders of these countries from calling things by their proper names.

One case that stands out is the assassination attempt on Ukrainian businessman Vadym Yermolaiev, an opponent of Zelenskyy, which was carried out in Monaco on 29 June and marked the first terrorist attack in that country’s history. Last week, Yermolaiev himself unequivocally accused Ukraine’s Main Intelligence Directorate of having a hand in this crime. Meanwhile, news from Germany indicates that Serhii Kuznietsov, the Ukrainian national whom that country accuses of blowing up the Nord Stream gas pipeline, is an active officer of the Ukrainian Security Service. Can anyone in their right mind, knowing all this, imagine that the Ukrainian intelligence services are carrying out terrorist attacks abroad on their own initiative, without the consent of the highest echelons of power in Kyiv?

International trade routes are increasingly turning into objects of heightened interest for Ukrainian terrorists. Turkish vessels are being attacked more and more – last time round, we discussed the strike on a

Turkish ship in the Black Sea that was heading for Novorossiysk to load oil. Since February 2025, facilities belonging to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium – through which more than 80 per cent of Kazakhstan's oil is exported – have been regularly targeted by the Kyiv regime.

Thus, already for the fifth time between 17 and 20 July, several tankers operating in the service of the Republic of Kazakhstan's oil extraction industry were subjected to a deliberate terrorist attack using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) while cargo loading operations were under way in Novorossiysk. We share the outrage of our Kazakh colleagues, who have put the issue of these Ukrainian strikes on the agenda for our meeting today. One would like to believe that our Western colleagues will muster the courage to call a spade a spade during that discussion.

I can also state that Russian civilians continue to be prime targets for the Ukrainian "fighters". Over the past week, the Ukrainian Nazis' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed at least 430 civilian casualties: more than 360 people were injured and 69 people were killed, including two children.

All in all, the Ukrainian armed formations fired more than 7,000 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past seven days. The Ukrainian "fighters" carried out premeditated attacks on targets in densely populated areas, seeking to inflict maximum damage on the civilian population. The main cause of death and injury among civilians remains the same – deliberate attacks by Ukrainian combat drones.

The highest numbers of civilian casualties were recorded in the Belgorod region, the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR), and the Zaporozhye, Kherson and Moscow regions.

Sixty-two civilians were injured and one was killed as a result of a drone raid on the Moscow region.

Seven civilians were killed and 25 injured as a result of an attack on the Tambov region by drones belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces.

Three civilians were killed and five people, including two children, were injured as a result of UAV attacks in the Moscow region.

A family of four, including a ten-year-old child, were killed when a drone struck a house in the village of Fyodorovka (DPR).

Five civilians, including three children, were injured as a result of a UAV attack in the settlement of Razumnoye in the Belgorod region.

A 78-year-old woman was killed and three civilians were injured when a drone struck a house in the village of Voznesenka in the Zaporozhye region.

A 15-year-old girl and her grandmother were killed when the settlement of Suzemka in the Bryansk region came under fire from a Grad multiple rocket launcher.

A civilian was killed and his wife and nine-year-old child were injured as a result of a UAV attack in the village of Voznesenka in the Zaporozhye region.

Three ambulance crew members were injured in a UAV attack in Gorlovka (DPR).

Two children were injured when a drone exploded in Shebekino in the Belgorod region.

A firefighter from a fire and rescue unit was killed in a UAV attack in the settlement of Belaya Beryozka in the Bryansk region.

An 88-year-old woman was injured when a drone struck a house in the village of Vasilyevka in the Bryansk region.

Three rescue workers from the Ministry of Emergency Situations were injured in a UAV strike in the city of Lugansk (LPR).

A house caught fire as the result of a UAV crashing in the suburbs of Voronezh. A three-year-old boy was killed, while his parents and a 19-year-old young man were injured.

One civilian was killed in the Republic of Crimea, and four others were injured, including two children.

A man was killed in the Shebekinsky district of the Belgorod region when a first-person view drone attacked a Gazelle van. The driver was hospitalized in a serious condition.

Five civilians were injured in the Kursk region.

Two people were killed and a further ten were injured in the DPR as a result of attacks.

Sensing that their Western sponsors are ready to turn a blind eye to any crime, the Ukronazis are honing their skills in attacking passenger buses. On 19 July, a UAV attack on a passenger bus in the settlement of Dubovoye, Belgorod region, left one person dead and four injured, including a 16-year-old girl. On 20 July, a Ukrainian kamikaze drone was directed at a passenger bus in Shebekino. Five civilians (four women and a boy) were killed; a further 27 people were injured, three of whom are in a critical condition.

In response to these and other crimes committed by the Kyiv regime's military rabble, the Russian armed forces are systematically striking Ukrainian military infrastructure facilities being used to supply the Ukrainian armed forces.

In the early hours of 19 July, a barrage attack was launched against facilities in Kyiv and the Kyiv region belonging to the military-industrial complex. The Radionix, Spetsoboronmash and Meridian plants, which manufactured control systems and components for cruise missiles, were hit. In the Kyiv region, the Tarasivka logistics centre, where components for drones were stored and assembled, was hit. Strikes were carried out against storage facilities at the port of Yuzhny in the Odessa region where fuel products were being stored for the Ukrainian armed forces. In the early hours of 20 July, strikes were launched against the ports of Odessa and Chernomorsk.

In the course of a week, 24 vessels being operated to serve the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces were hit as a result of co-ordinated strikes. In addition, infrastructure facilities at the ports of Odessa, Chernomorsk, Yuzhny and Dnipro-Buzky were hit, as were military-industrial plants, ammunition depots, logistics centres, fuel and energy facilities, transport infrastructure, drone production and storage sites, and temporary bases for the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries in 142 districts.

Russian forces have destroyed more than 200 locomotives used to transport weapons for the Ukrainian armed forces from Poland and Romania.

Furthermore, the Russian army continues with its active advance along the entire line of engagement, above all in Donbass – something that the Kyiv regime and its sponsors are trying with all their might to ignore. This approach was starkly evident in my Ukrainian colleague's statement today.

I shall not go into detail on this – your military intelligence officers are, of course, aware of the actual situation. I will simply say that this week, acting on the orders of the leadership in Kyiv, two “fighters” from the infamous “Skelia” outfit attempted to film a video featuring the Ukrainian flag in the centre of Konstantinovka, which we have liberated, in order to back up Zelenskyy's claim that the city is under his control. They did manage to shoot that video, but were immediately taken prisoner and then willingly exposed, on camera, their commanders' strategy based on “showy” video clips and concealing the true front-line situation. That is all you need to know about Ukraine's “Potemkin diplomacy”. You may draw your own conclusions.

In closing, I cannot fail to touch upon the recent visit to Ukraine by a group of permanent representatives from several OSCE participating States. Predictably, this “political tourism” is presented as evidence of the support for Ukraine shown by the countries involved.

A legitimate, but unfortunately rhetorical, question arises: were our colleagues shown the real Ukraine, rather than a Potemkin-style Ukraine? Did their hosts share with them their further plans for violating the rights of Russian-speaking residents of their country, for reburial with honours of other Nazi criminals in addition to Andrii Melnyk, for suppressing dissent and for the arbitrary treatment of political prisoners? Or perhaps it was the visitors who chose not to mention all these flagrant violations of human rights and of the Helsinki Final Act, which constitutes the bedrock of our Organization?

Did our colleagues ask, for example, when there will be an end to the forced mobilization, which violates basic human rights and which only we in this room have the courage to speak about? For instance, Ukrainian Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets bluntly stated a few days ago that only around 10 per cent of mobilization measures are carried out in compliance with procedures, while the remaining 90 per cent involve direct violations of citizens' rights. He confirmed that conscripts are fleeing en masse even before they reach the front line – from the premises of the territorial recruitment centres, from vehicles headed for the training grounds, and directly from the training grounds themselves. As a result, the actual size of the Ukrainian army is not growing but shrinking.

The Ombudsman also reported widespread corruption linked to the mobilization: those detained are asked by military enlistment officers to fork out between 10,000 and 20,000 dollars in exchange for their release. Thus, one part of society buys its way out, while the rest, lacking funds, go off to fight. The Ukrainian armed forces are conscripting large numbers of men with drug and alcohol addictions, with serious illnesses, including HIV infection and hepatitis B and C. Military medical boards are looking the other way and declaring these men fully fit for service. These are not our assessments – they are assessments by Mr. Lubinets!

Overall, according to Lubinets, Ukrainian society is “on the verge of a violent confrontation” with the authorities as a result of the forced mobilization. Ukrainians are increasingly trying to stand up to the military enlistment officers on their own, and society is thus turning into a kind of lynch mob, with people having lost hope of seeing justice from the corrupt authorities.

This problem is now a cause of concern for all Ukrainians, whom Zelenskyy, by usurping power, has deprived of the right to vote. The only people not concerned are our colleagues, who have not said a single word about it either in Kyiv or in this room today, thereby playing into the hands of that criminal government. It, of course, was only too happy to use the OSCE delegation as a backdrop for yet another propaganda stunt, designed to divert attention from the profound internal crisis in which Ukraine finds itself. After all, you have also not said a single word today about the protests involving tens of thousands of people that are currently sweeping the country at the same time as your stay there. For you have long been speaking about Ukraine as if it were a dead person, of whom one is meant to say nothing but good!

Well, that is your choice – to go along with Zelenskyy and turn a blind eye to how the fundamental principles of our Organization are being trampled upon by the Ukrainian authorities. And, at the same time, to help him trample them underfoot, thereby fanning the flames of a major pan-European war.

I will address this topic in detail in my statement under the relevant agenda item raised by us.

Thank you for your attention.