

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/874/26
21 September 2026
ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1577th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 September 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

The tally for August and the first half of September unequivocally confirms that the Kyiv regime, with the moral and material support that you are criminally providing, continues to launch deliberate attacks targeting the civilian population in Russian cities and towns. The Ukrainian Nazis' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed 1,841 civilian casualties in August 2026: 231 people were killed, including 21 children, and 1,610 were injured, including 101 minors. These are the highest figures since the start of 2026, with casualties up by over four times compared to January. Strike drones continue to be the main weapon of terror, accounting for around 90 per cent of all casualties. In August alone, the Ukrainian armed forces fired more than 37,000 munitions at civilian objects, with the number of incoming strikes reaching 1,200 per day.

The most heinous crimes of August warrant separate mention. On 3 August, a Ukrainian drone crashed on to a central beach in Arkhipo-Osipovka, where there were large numbers of holidaymakers, since it was the height of the holiday season. Seven people were killed, including four children, while a further 58 people were injured. On 10 August, 13 civilians, including a child, were killed and 78 people were injured when unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) attacked Nizhnekamsk. On 24 August, the "World of Wonders" children's rehabilitation centre in Krasnodar was damaged as a result of a drone attack. At the time of the strike, there were 25 people inside, of whom 23 were children. Four children were killed, while a further seven children aged between 13 and 16 years were injured, as were two adults.

The other crimes committed in August are no less appalling. On 1 August, a Ukrainian drone struck a bus on the Veseloye-Dneprorudnoye road that was carrying workers from the Dneprorudnoye iron ore plant. One person was killed and 12 were injured. On 2 August, the Ukrainian death squads attacked a children's playground in the village of Printsevka, Belgorod region. A 13-year-old girl succumbed to her severe injuries; two other girls, aged seven and nine, sustained multiple shrapnel wounds. On 12 August, three civilians, including an eight-year-old child, were killed and 24 people were injured as a result of a barrage attack in Novorossiysk. On 18 August in Energodar, a UAV strike on a public transport stop claimed the life of one civilian and left a further 20 injured – they were employees of the Zaporozhskaya nuclear power plant who were waiting for their company-provided transport. On 22 August, at least

46 Ukrainian UAVs attacked the Samara region. The Ozon logistics hub in Chapayevsk was damaged; a warehouse caught fire, leading to the emergency evacuation of more than 500 staff, and four workers were injured. An elderly woman was killed and 12 civilians were injured in the attack on Novokuybyshevsk, including a boy born in 2022. On 26 August, ten civilians, including two minors, were injured when Anglo-French Storm Shadow/SCALP-EG cruise missiles hit the area around the Donetsk City shopping and entertainment centre in the Kievsky district of Donetsk. On the same day, in the Lugansk People's Republic, the neo-Nazis carried out a targeted strike against a regular bus travelling on the Lisichansk-Stakhanov route. There were 15 passengers on the bus. Eight people were killed on the spot. A young woman of 20 died in intensive care; her mother and an 18-year-old girl were injured. On 30 August, Belgorod came under rocket fire: a 16-year-old youth and two men were killed, while a further 15 people were injured, including nine teenagers aged between 16 and 17 years. And this is just a small cross section of the crimes committed by Zelenskyy's "fighters".

That conveyor belt of death and destruction has not stopped for a single day this month.

Between 7 and 13 September, the Ukrainian Nazis' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed 384 civilian casualties: 336 people were injured, including 16 minors, and 48 people were killed, including three children. In total, the Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 8,243 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory, which is one of the highest figures recorded since the start of the year.

An adolescent girl, 15 years of age, was killed and a six-year-old child and two women were injured as a result of a UAV attack on a civilian car in the village of Mikhaylovka, Zaporozhye region.

Three people were killed, including a 15-year-old youth, and two people were injured when a Ukrainian armed forces drone attacked a car between the villages of Krasnaya Polyana and Stepnoye (Donetsk People's Republic).

Four civilians, including one child, were killed as a result of a drone attack on the city of Novorossiysk in the Krasnodarsky krai.

One man was killed and four others were injured when a UAV struck an apartment building in the city of Perm.

A man sustained serious injuries following the explosion of a first-person view drone in the town of Grayvoron, Belgorod region; he would later succumb to his injuries.

A man was killed when a drone struck the premises of a house in the village of Gora-Podol, Belgorod region.

A 39-year-old man was killed and a further three civilians were injured as a result of a UAV attack in Starodub, Bryansk region.

A woman was killed in a UAV attack in the village of Spiridonova Buda, Bryansk region.

A man was killed as a result of a drone attack on a bus station in Zlynka, Bryansk region.

A 37-year-old man who was driving a combine harvester was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike near the village of Kalinovka, Kursk region.

A 61-year-old man was killed when a UAV hit a house in the village of Glushkovo, Kursk region.

A 58-year-old man was killed when a UAV opened fire in the Pologi municipal district, Zaporozhye region.

A man driving a civilian heavy-duty vehicle was killed in a UAV attack near the village of Orlovka, Zaporozhye region.

A 68-year-old man was killed in a UAV attack on a car in the village of Novovodyanoye, Zaporozhye region.

A man was killed on the R-150 highway as a result of a UAV strike in the Yasinovataya municipal district, Donetsk People's Republic.

A woman was killed and two other people were injured in the same house during a UAV raid on the town of Borisoglebsk, Voronezh region.

The head of the Kyiv junta has become so confident of the unwavering support of his European backers that he has openly announced a large-scale campaign to strike civilian targets in Russia: energy facilities, warehouses belonging to online marketplaces, and industrial and infrastructure facilities. On Zelenskyy's orders, hundreds of Ukrainian drones and missiles have been directed at civilian targets in Russia every day in July, August and September. The Ukrainian "fighters" have now turned their attention to the Black Sea Basin with redoubled vigour, attacking port infrastructure and ships, including foreign-owned and foreign-flag vessels. We will deliver a detailed statement on this topic at the next meeting.

The aim of this campaign was laid out in the most blunt and cynical terms, namely to stir up discontent among Russians towards the authorities and to disrupt the elections to the Russian State Duma due to be held from 18 to 20 September. However, the campaign was a resounding failure: although a number of targets were hit, the vast majority of drones and missiles were – and continue to be – intercepted, and Zelenskyy has never managed to inflict any truly significant damage on our industry and economy.

When Zelenskyy was boasting about his strike capabilities and announcing his terrorist plans, we warned him and his sponsors that, by taking the escalation to a wholly new level, he was opening a Pandora's box that he would no longer be able to close. And that is exactly what happened: our armed forces began to launch tit-for-tat strikes – but several times more powerful – destroying logistics and transport hubs and energy facilities in Ukraine, along with port and railway infrastructure. Ukraine has quickly run out of its stock of interceptor missiles, which the West, even if it wanted to, is unable to promptly replenish on such a scale.

Meanwhile, in August and the first half of September, Russian troops continued their steady advance along the entire line of engagement, systematically breaching the enemy's layered defences and taking up new lines and positions. Burning through its last reserves, the Ukrainian command can only respond to this by intensifying the forced mobilization, which has long since come to resemble a veritable manhunt. Over the past month and a half, it has become even more evident that the Ukrainian army is unable to halt our advance.

And then the Kyiv regime began to whimper, trying – true to form as always – to turn everything on its head and, in defiance of the facts, blame us of all people for the escalation. It turns out that Ukraine is now ready for an energy and infrastructure truce. Zelenskyy's recent escalation bravado seems to have become a distant memory to him as he once again tries to don the mantle of a peacemaker. The Western

sponsors, realizing that their protégés desperately need a respite, are also vociferously pushing various scenarios that boil down to halting the conflict along the current front line.

However, a responsible public official must be able to take responsibility for his actions and words, first and foremost vis-à-vis those who elected him. Given that Ukrainian voters backed Zelenskyy in 2019, lured above all by his promises not to restrict the Russian language and to pursue peace with Russia, the head of the Kyiv regime will be held to account, and that moment is drawing nearer.

We, for our part, are determined to continue the special military operation until its objectives have been fully achieved, whether by peaceful or military means. In doing so, we will systematically dismantle everything coming from the West that is intended to fuel the Kyiv regime's war machine. Our conditions for halting the fighting are well known and have not changed. And we will not agree to any ceasefire unless a comprehensive understanding is reached on the key parameters of peace agreements that would address the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis. We hope that all those positioning themselves today as mediators fully understand this.

Thank you for your attention.