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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1578th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 September 2026

On Ukraine

I am taking the floor in exercise of the right of reply.

Between 14 and 20 September, the Ukrainian Nazis' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed 379 civilian casualties: 338 people were injured, including 18 minors, and 41 people were killed, including four children. In total, the Ukrainian armed formations fired almost 9,000 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over those seven days.

In the course of that week, strikes by Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) claimed 370 civilian casualties, accounting for 97 per cent of the total number of such casualties.

The Ukrainian armed forces used long-range fixed-wing drones to attack civilian objects in a number of areas far from the combat zone. Drone and missile attacks were recorded over the Voronezh, Ulyanovsk, Volgograd, Kaluga, Kursk, Moscow, Oryol, Ryazan, Orenburg, Rostov, Samara, Tver, Saratov, Tula and Yaroslavl regions, the Krasnodarsy krai and the Republics of Adygea, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, among other territories.

I shall dwell separately on the most outrageous crimes committed by the Kyiv neo-Nazis.

On 18 September, a UAV attacked a house in the village of Liman, in the Perevalsky municipal district of the Lugansk People's Republic. The criminals flying the drone hit a sleeping household. A woman and her 16-year-old granddaughter were trapped under the rubble. Rescuers managed to save the woman, but the child died. The search and rescue operation lasted around ten hours.

That same day, the Ukrainian armed forces targeted a public bus travelling on the Lugansk-Novaidar highway. Two elderly women were killed and three people were injured.

On 18 September, three ambulance crew members were injured when a Ukrainian armed forces drone attacked an ambulance in the village of Oktyabrsky, Belgorod region.

On the same day, in the settlement of Rakitnyoe in the Rakityansky district, an eight-year-old boy picked up an explosive device he had found on his family's property. The munition exploded, killing the child.

On 20 September, in Nizhnye Serogozy, a Ukrainian armed forces drone attacked a civilian bus transporting employees of an agricultural enterprise. Two people were killed and four were injured. Among the victims was Olga Demyanenko, born in 1966, a member of the Nizhnye Serogozy district election commission, who had been working on elections since 2023 and had been involved in organizing early voting.

That same day, a drone crashed into a three-storey residential building in Sofino, killing a 44-year-old woman. A 15-year-old girl and her 19-year-old brother were also injured in Sofino; their parents were killed during a UAV attack by the Ukrainian armed forces.

A civilian was killed when an explosive device was dropped from a drone in the village of Smorodino, Belgorod region.

A man was killed in a UAV attack on a car in the village of Stepnoye, Volnovakha municipal district, Donetsk People's Republic (DPR).

A civilian was killed as a result of a UAV attack on a civilian vehicle near the city of Primorsk, Zaporozhye region.

A woman was killed in a UAV attack on a residential building in the village of Zolotarevka, Khartsyzsk municipal district (DPR).

Two men and one woman were killed in UAV attacks on heavy-duty vehicles travelling on the Yalta-Urzuf highway (DPR).

Twelve people were injured in a UAV attack on a public bus in Gorlovka (DPR).

A man was killed as a result of artillery fire in the city of Energodar, Zaporozhye region.

Over the seven-day period in question, the Kyiv regime targeted personnel and specialized vehicles from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, along with emergency utility workers from the Belgorod and Kherson regions and the DPR, as they arrived at the scene of Ukrainian terrorist attacks in order to rescue civilians.

A heavy-duty vehicle travelling on a road near the village of Sumovsky in the Belgorod region burst into flames following the explosion of a Ukrainian armed forces drone. As a result of a double-tap strike, a fire engine that had arrived to put out the fire was damaged.

On 20 September, in the village of Prishib in the Mikhailovsky municipal district, a polling station at a general education school attended by 170 children was destroyed as a result of strikes by UAVs belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces.

The elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation that took place last week aroused the particular fury of Zelenskyy and his clique. For the first time in the history of modern Russia, such elections were held while a special military operation was under way – and, for the first time, residents of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions took

part in them. Realizing that it could not rely on political means to prevent our citizens from expressing their will, the Kyiv regime attempted to disrupt the voting through terror, but it miscalculated.

During the voting period, 74 election commission buildings in ten regions of our country were damaged or destroyed as a result of Ukrainian strikes. In the Kherson region alone, ten buildings were damaged: the buildings of two regional and eight district election commissions.

Shortly before the elections, Ukrainian drones deliberately attacked the chairpersons of local election commissions in the Zaporozhye region. Yelena Astanina, the chairwoman of a district election commission in the village of Oktyabrskoye, Zaporozhye region, was killed by a drone strike. She had been working within the election management bodies of the Zaporozhye region since 2022.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has signed an executive order posthumously awarding Yelena Astanina the Order of Courage. Her death has become a symbol of the Russian people's struggle for their rights.

Furthermore, a pinpoint strike by a Ukrainian armed forces drone on a residential building in the village of Lyubimovka, Zaporozhye region, injured the chairwoman of the district election commission, Viktoriya Maksimova, and members of her family, including her husband and their nine-year-old son.

The elections took place despite all the attempts by the Kyiv regime and its Western patrons to derail them. On 20 September, the main day of voting, the Ukrainian formations mounted their largest-scale attack on civilian targets: in the space of a single day, nearly 2,000 combat drones and nine cruise missiles launched by the enemy against Moscow and the Moscow region were destroyed. The attack claimed lives and inflicted injuries. Residential buildings were damaged, as were industrial and logistics infrastructure facilities.

Despite this, Russian citizens went to the polling stations. They cast their votes. The elections were marked by an unprecedentedly high voter turnout. This is a well-deserved slap in the face for the Kyiv regime and its European sponsors, who had banked on terror instilling fear in Russian society and destabilizing our country. That did not happen – Russian citizens became even more united and demonstrated resilience and courage.

It goes without saying that we have responded decisively to the terrorist acts committed by the Kyiv regime that I have mentioned. Dozens of plants belonging to the Ukrainian military-industrial complex have been destroyed, including facilities in Kyiv, Dnepropetrovsk, Poltava, Vinnytsia and Odessa.

In Kyiv, we hit Fire Point plants and the Grand Terminal oil storage facility. In Kryvyi Rih, we attacked steel industry and logistics facilities. In Poltava, we damaged the Kremenchuk oil refinery and the JTI Ukraine factory, which is engaged in the production of ammunition. In Vinnytsia, we targeted railway infrastructure facilities. In Odessa, we hit the port of Reni.

Furthermore, we hit more vessels transporting military cargo. Most importantly, while the Kyiv regime is failing in its attempts to destabilize Russia, our troops are continuing their steady advance. In September alone, Russia has so far gained control over more than 27 population centres and liberated over 670 square kilometres of territory.

Mr. Chairperson,

For the benefit of those in this room today who have called upon us to seek peace and put an end to the hostilities, I should like to reaffirm that Russia has always advocated, and continues to advocate, a lasting peace, rather than a ceasefire, which would merely give the Kyiv regime an opportunity to take a breather and rebuild the capabilities of its armed formations. One should not harbour any illusions on that score. We note that we have yet to receive any concrete proposals from Western countries or from the Kyiv regime regarding a long-term settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, specifically proposals that would address the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis. Accordingly, for the time being, we have no choice but to pursue the objectives of our special military operation by military means.

Thank you for your attention.