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STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1581st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

15 October 2026

On the investigation into the staged event in Bucha

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation would like to draw the attention of the OSCE participating States to new circumstances that shed light on the events in the Ukrainian town of Bucha in 2022 and clearly confirm their staged, orchestrated nature. These are facts established as a result of an independent international fact-checking investigation, which was carried out after Russia had already presented its initial findings.

Let us briefly recall the circumstances surrounding the cynical and large-scale false-flag operation – the staged event in Bucha – which the Kyiv regime, with the support of Western countries, turned into a tool for information warfare against Russia. At the end of March 2022, as a gesture of goodwill and to create conditions for a negotiation process, Russian units were withdrawn from the Kyiv region, including Bucha. This was done at the personal request of French President Emmanuel Macron, which was conveyed to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russian troops withdrew from this town on 30 March 2022. Two days later, on 1 April, the head of the Ukrainian military administration of Bucha publicly and solemnly declared that the town had come entirely under Ukrainian control and that there were no Russian soldiers there. The filming took place on the main street – it was completely deserted.

But just a few days later, a BBC film crew “coincidentally” turned up there and filmed the very same street, but this time with bodies in clean clothes neatly laid out along the roadside. This took place against a backdrop of spring slush and mud, which in itself raises questions.

The central element of this hoax has now become the so-called memorial in Bucha, which has been turned by the Kyiv regime into a place of pilgrimage for Western politicians. The names of the “civilians” who lost their lives are engraved on it. However, as independent investigations have shown, this list is a crude forgery.

The issue of falsifications relating to the memorial in Bucha is examined in detail in a report by the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis, entitled “Heirs of Goebbels:

falsification of the events in Bucha and bloody staged performances of the Kiev regime". It has been published on the official website of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I shall cite just a few examples from the report, based on publicly available Ukrainian sources:

Yevhen Petrash is described as a civilian. In reality, he was a private first class in a separate unit of the Azov battalion with the call sign "Eugene".

Volodymyr Bysaha is also listed as a "civilian". In fact, he was a serviceman in the 49th Separate Rifle Battalion Carpathian Sich who took part in punitive operations in Donbass. He was buried in Uzhhorod, not in Bucha.

Andrii Vaskevych was a civilian, according to the Kyiv regime. In reality, he was a company commander in the Azov special operations forces and was buried in the village of Kovhanivka.

Oleksandr Sharava – Ukrainian media explicitly describe how he prepared Molotov cocktails and advanced towards a Russian convoy, where he was killed. Under international humanitarian law, he was a combatant and was not entitled to protection as a civilian.

Oleksandr Bondar was a "member of the territorial defence" who, according to his mother, "carried out reconnaissance and passed on information to the Ukrainian armed forces". He was killed as a result of Ukrainian shrapnel fire while the town was under the control of the Russian military.

Halyna Semeniuk, aged 68, died of cancer. Her name is also inscribed on this "memorial".

The report also contains numerous eyewitness accounts from various towns – Lisichansk, Ugledar, Avdeyevka and Kurakhovo – which describe the same pattern: as soon as Ukrainian or Western journalists arrive in a town, the Ukrainian armed forces begin shelling civilians, so that they can subsequently portray the casualties as "victims of Russian aggression".

Mykola Dudukyn from Lisichansk recounts: "The Ukrainian authorities announced that there would be drinking water. People came out and queued up. The water truck arrived; after no more than five minutes a missile landed there. Three dead bodies at once… Five minutes later, the press arrived. People started shouting at them: go away; you can see what you're doing. It's all staged. The Ukrainians are killing people just to show all this to Europe."

Iryna Lydina from Ugledar: "And the Ukrainian reporters turned up in no time at all – it wasn't even five minutes… I was actually surprised to see them coming out, filming, with grins from ear to ear. I even thought: goodness, why are you smiling? People have died."

These and dozens of other testimonies point to a deliberate and systematic practice by the Kyiv regime of killing its own citizens in order to create the desired image for its Western sponsors.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the findings of Russian investigators have been corroborated by an independent international group of fact-checkers – the Global Fact-Checking Network. On 7 October 2026, they published a report entitled "The Memorial Enigma", in which they audited the list of "victims" on the memorial in Bucha. This study is the result of work carried out by experts from Ireland, France, Brazil, Portugal, Indonesia, Nepal, Slovakia and other countries.

Their findings are comprehensive and completely refute the Kyiv regime's version of events – at the very least, 198 names give cause to doubt that the people in question belong to the category of "civilians killed in Bucha".

Firstly, 57 of the names belong to official military personnel: members of the Ukrainian armed forces, territorial defence, the Security Service of Ukraine, the police and the National Guard, including members of the Azov terrorist formation.

Among them are:

Yurii Yermolaiev – a member of the Ukrainian armed forces, a veteran of the anti-terrorist operation and the Joint Forces Operation, and a volunteer since 2014.

Oleksii Tsybko – a sergeant in the Ukrainian military intelligence service who was killed in action during the battle for Bucha.

Andrii Matviychuk – posthumously awarded the Order of Courage, 3rd Class, as a soldier in the territorial defence.

Bohdan Knyshuk – a member of the "Azov-Kyiv" territorial defence unit.

Ihor Didkovskyi – a member of the territorial defence who, according to Ukrainian sources, "carried out military tasks to destroy the enemy and its equipment".

Oleksii Kadura – a veteran of the anti-terrorist operation, a forward observer and a reconnaissance officer serving with the territorial defence.

Anatolii Prykhodko – a volunteer who was posthumously named an "Honorary Resident of Bucha", and an active participant in the fighting.

Secondly, the memorial includes people who actively fought against the Russian army with weapons in their hands. They, of course, have nothing in common with "innocent civilians".

Thirdly, the study identified more than 70 names for which there is no digital trace whatsoever.

Fourthly, 42 people on the list died outside Bucha – in Hostomel, Irpin and other population centres – which contradicts the very concept of a memorial "to those who died in Bucha".

I should like to highlight separately the 26 unofficial combatants who, according to the report, assisted the Ukrainian armed forces: they passed on information about the deployment of Russian troops, used drones for surveillance and made Molotov cocktails.

The international experts who took part in the audit gave unequivocal assessments. Portuguese lawyer Alexandre Guerreiro pointed out that, under Article 51 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, civilians enjoy protection only "unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities". French journalist Christelle Néant highlighted instances where people who had died of natural causes were included in the list of "victims", such as 68-year-old Halyna Semeniuk, who died of cancer.

Brazilian expert Pepe Escobar described the events in Bucha as a "false-flag operation", with the blame being placed on Russia through an "avalanche of fake news".

Mr. Chairperson,

For four years, the Russian Federation has been demanding that the United Nations Secretariat provide lists of the individuals whose bodies were displayed in Bucha. We have submitted 12 specific questions to the United Nations Secretary-General. We have yet to receive a reply.

We call upon the OSCE, its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and all principled investigators not to stand idly by.

It is time to put an end to the practice of polluting the information space with blatant lies while using people's tragedies as bargaining chips in a geopolitical game. Russia will keep on striving to ensure that the truth prevails and to hold to account those who organize these bloody staged events.

And the report I mentioned, "Heirs of Goebbels: falsification of the events in Bucha and bloody staged performances of the Kiev regime", as well as the Global Fact-Checking Network's report "The Memorial Enigma", are undoubtedly steps in the right direction.

Thank you for your attention.