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/1030/26
22 October 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1582nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

22 October 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Between 12 and 18 October 2026, Ukrainian fighters continued to carry out targeted acts of terror against civilians on the territory of the Russian Federation. Here are the key figures for the week: 233 civilians injured, including 13 minors; 22 killed; more than 8,000 munitions fired at civilian objects.

Drone strikes injured 224 people (96 per cent of the overall number).

I should like my esteemed colleagues, who are so fond of discussing the "protection of the civilian population," to reflect on the following figures. Since the beginning of 2026 alone, Ukrainian artillery, missile and drone attacks have injured or maimed 484 children, 72 of whom subsequently died. Seventy-two children – that is the equivalent of several school classes. Which of the representatives of EU and NATO countries present here has mentioned this even once in their statements?

Allow me to cite just a few examples from the past week – so as to uncover the real people and places behind the statistics.

In the early hours of 14 October, Ukrainian drones attacked residential neighbourhoods in Balakovo in the Saratov region. Residential buildings were damaged and one civilian was killed. Balakovo is located hundreds of kilometres from the line of contact. What "military target" were the Kyiv regime's drone operators looking for there?

On the same day, a Ukrainian armed forces drone struck a construction site in Shchastia in the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR). One person was killed and six workers were injured. These were construction workers who were trying to rebuild what had been destroyed. In total, 12 civilians were injured in the LPR over the course of a single day; two women, aged 68 and 38, were injured in Rubezhnoye.

This was followed by an attack on a minibus in the LPR that killed one person and left ten injured. Another strike targeted a regular bus travelling on the Rostov-Stakhanov route, injuring four passengers. I should like to emphasize that, since the start of the year, Ukrainian formations have attacked 277 passenger buses, leaving more than 450 people injured. The hunting down of civilian vehicles has long become a hallmark of the Kyiv regime.

In the Belgorod region, a woman was killed and a man injured as a result of Ukrainian drone attacks. In the Rylsky district of the Kursk region, a drone attacked the grounds of a sugar factory, injuring a 56-year-old woman. In the LPR, two people were killed and eight injured in a single day.

Realizing that Ukrainian drones were unable to break through to Moscow, the head of the Kyiv junta decided to focus strikes on other major cities. As a result, St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region came under a massive drone attack. One person was killed, five were injured, and 12 apartment buildings and two houses were damaged. There were ten casualties in the Leningrad region.

In the Belovsky district of the Kursk region, a drone attacked an ambulance that was on its way to attend to a casualty, injuring a 65-year-old doctor, a paramedic and the driver. In the Kherson region, a strike by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) damaged the accident and emergency department of a hospital in Kakhovka and an ambulance.

The situation in Alyoshki merits special attention. Despite the hypocritical statements by the authorities in Kyiv and their European sponsors expressing “concern” for the fate of the city’s residents under drone siege, the Ukrainian armed forces continued their massive attacks on the Alyoshkinsky district. As a result, one man was killed and five people were injured. It is not only drones that are being used in the hunt for the residents of Alyoshki organized by Ukraine. In addition to 556 UAV strikes, 733 tube and mortar artillery strikes were recorded across the city during daylight hours alone.

Colleagues, just over a year ago, on 16 October 2025, Ivan Zuev, a war correspondent for RIA Novosti, was killed in the Zaporozhye region as a result of a precision strike by a Ukrainian drone. He had been covering events in Donbass since 2014, working in the most dangerous hotspots in the zone of the special military operation, and had come under fire on numerous occasions – yet he remained true to his journalistic duty and his commitment to bringing the truth to millions of people in Russia and abroad right up until the end. A criminal attack by the Kyiv regime’s “fighters” cut short his life, but his memory lives on.

The death of Ivan Zuev serves as a reminder that this is not an isolated incident. The Kyiv regime is really hunting down Russian correspondents – the death toll runs into the dozens.

Here is a chronological list of the victims of the Ukrainian authorities’ crimes against journalists.

In 2014: Andrey Stenin, a photojournalist for the Rossiya Segodnya news agency (killed on 6 August); Igor Kornelyuk, a correspondent of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (VGTRK), and sound engineer Anton Voloshin (killed in June); Channel One cameraman Anatoly Klyan (killed on 29 June);

In 2022: political analyst and journalist Darya Dugina (killed on 20 August); journalist and producer Oleg Klokov (killed in October);

In 2023: war correspondent Vladlen Tatarsky (killed on 2 April); war correspondent Rostislav Zhuravlev;

In 2024: war correspondent Semyon Eremin (killed on 19 April); NTV cameraman Valery Kozhin (killed in June); correspondent Nikita Tsitsagi (killed on 16 June); editor-in-chief of *Narodnaya Gazeta* Yulia Kuznetsova (killed on 17 November); *Izvestia* correspondent Alexander Martemyanov (killed on 4 January);

In 2025: *Izvestia* war correspondent Alexander Fedorchak and Zvezda correspondent Andrey Panov (killed on 24 March).

Meanwhile, the entire Western propaganda machine is working for the Kyiv regime. While Western delegations are peddling claims about "Russian strikes on civilians", the reality is quite different. The Russian armed forces are conducting strikes against facilities belonging to the military-industrial complex and the infrastructure supporting it. For example, the Fire Point logistics hub in Kyiv was hit on 19 October; this facility stored components for the very Flamingo missiles that the Kyiv regime is using to fire on Russian towns and cities. Yesterday, strikes targeted UAV assembly plants and vessels transporting military cargo. As a result, Ukraine's military capabilities are diminishing before our very eyes – even representatives of the very "top echelons" of the Kyiv regime have already begun to sound the alarm.

The incident in Boryspil is telling. Ukrainian propagandists actively spread the narrative that a strike had been carried out against a "car park for civilian vehicles". In reality, however, the attack had destroyed lorries carrying drone launchers. It is a familiar pattern: the consequences of strikes on military targets are portrayed as "Russian crimes". It is noteworthy that, despite the obvious facts, attempts are still being made in Kyiv and the capitals backing the Kyiv regime to blame Russia for the tragedies in Pryluky and Kramatorsk, which occurred as a consequence of Ukraine's violations of the basic norms of international humanitarian law.

It is not only Ukraine's military-industrial potential but also its human potential that is being actively "worn down", despite the fact that Ukrainians have long since made it unequivocally clear that they do not wish to head to the front lines to face certain death in the service of Western geopolitical interests and in order to save Zelenskyy's band of thieves. We see evidence of this every day during the forced mobilization, resistance to which is growing across the country.

For instance, on 19 October, a man taken to the Pechersky territorial recruitment centre opened fire there, injuring six people. On 20 October, a crowd pelted the territorial recruitment centre building in Odesa with stones following the capture of a local resident. Yet the methods used by the "people-catchers" are only becoming more ruthless. Yesterday, Márta Sebestyén from Hungary spoke at the Vienna Discussions; her brother was brutally tortured by territorial recruitment centre officers, who have still not faced any punishment. Meanwhile, such crimes continue. On 20 October, the State Bureau of Investigation of Ukraine announced that a member of staff at the territorial recruitment centre in Lviv had been served with charges: according to the investigation, he and his colleagues beat a mobilized man who was lying on the ground in handcuffs. The man died in hospital. Meanwhile, in Kremenchuk, a 48-year-old conscript died last week at the territorial recruitment centre assembly point after being denied medical treatment.

It is hardly surprising that Ukrainians are doing everything in their power to escape from the "Zelenskyy concentration camp" – a camp named after the very same man who, during the 2019 election campaign, promised them complete freedom of movement around the world. On 15 October, an incident occurred that sparked an international scandal. Two Ukrainian border guards in a motorboat pursued a 49-year-old resident of Kyiv who was attempting to swim across the Dniester to reach his family in Moldova. According to the victim himself and eyewitnesses who filmed the incident, the border guards struck him on the head with an oar and steered the boat so that he would be caught in the propeller and

drown. It was only the intervention of local residents on the Moldovan side of the riverbank that saved the man's life. He was admitted to hospital with concussion.

This is the true face of the current authorities in Kyiv; only our European colleagues are trying today to turn a blind eye to it and to Zelenskyy's true intentions. This week, the President of the United States of America could no longer hold back, publicly acknowledging the obvious: the man who usurped power in Ukraine has no interest in bringing the war to an end.

In fact, it is not only Zelenskyy who has no interest in this, but also his European sponsors, who already attempted once to derail the understandings leading to long-term and sustainable peace reached by the Presidents of Russia and the United States in Anchorage just over a year ago. Today, they continue to view the situation as a "zero-sum game" and, despite Ukraine's dire situation on the front line, are attempting to push forward schemes aimed solely at saving the Kyiv regime, thereby depriving ordinary Ukrainians of any hope for peace. The main thing for them right now is to secure a ceasefire and once again impose a settlement on us along the lines of the "Minsk agreements" – the very agreements that they themselves violated.

I wish to reiterate this specifically for their benefit: this will not happen. We no longer have any trust in you or your protégés in Kyiv. You are well aware of the terms on which we are prepared to negotiate, and your attempts to preserve the criminal authorities in Kyiv will not succeed. Neither we nor ordinary Ukrainians – who have already suffered enough at the hands of the Zelenskyy clique, which has deprived them of their right to have a say and their right to choose their country's future – have any interest in this. If you do not wish to listen to us, at least listen to them and make the right choice at last!

Thank you for your attention.