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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1552nd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 February 2026

**On Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply.

The statements just made by the representative of the Kyiv regime and her Western colleagues disregard the fact that, between 26 January and 1 February, following the humanity-hating logic of the head of the Kyiv regime, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has publicly called for the killing of tens of thousands of Russians, Ukrainian armed formations continued to systematically violate the norms of international humanitarian law. They deliberately chose as targets not military objectives, but vulnerable points of civilian life: ambulances, hospitals, residential neighbourhoods, schools and energy infrastructure. As a result of the strikes, mainly by drones, completely innocent people were killed, including a six-year-old child in the Donetsk People's Republic and an ambulance driver in the Belgorod region. Medical workers who were trying to save human lives became targets themselves. In total, artillery, missile and drone attacks by Ukrainian formations during this period claimed 75 civilian casualties: 12 people were killed and 63 injured. This bloody toll is a direct consequence of the very same ruthless calls coming from Kyiv.

Targeted strikes on facilities that support the vital functioning of entire regions demonstrate particular cruelty and a desire to cause maximum suffering. For example, in the Belgorod region, which came under a record number of attacks – up to 150 drones per day – Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters focused on key distribution substations, seeking to leave as many people as possible without light and heat. A similar picture was observed in the Kherson region, where at least 1,100 munitions were fired at civilian objects. The barbaric methods included hunting down specific individuals: drones attacked the home of a local administration employee, and in the village of Sartana, a combat drone targeted a residential building, causing it to collapse and killing a mother and her young son. These actions have no military justification and are acts of State terror aimed at intimidation and the destruction of peaceful life in the liberated territories.

This raises the legitimate question: whose “ongoing aggression” against whom have you been discussing for four years now under this agenda item?

The Kyiv regime's crimes are subject to neither legal assessment nor condemnation by the West. Moreover, all criticism and accusations concerning violations of international humanitarian law are directed exclusively at Russia, while the West turns a blind eye to the Ukrainian formations' deliberate killing of civilians and destruction of hospitals and electric power systems.

This is a tool of hybrid warfare, where double standards are elevated to the status of policy. We regard this conflict as a large-scale proxy war with the Western coalition, which has deliberately turned Ukraine into an anti-Russian bridgehead.

As for the initiatives on so-called security guarantees for Ukraine, our position is quite clear and based on bitter experience. In April 2022, in Istanbul, on Ukraine's own initiative, a comprehensive document was initialled that included balanced security guarantees for all parties. These guarantees, which provided for the participation of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, established Ukraine's neutral, non-aligned status and specific mechanisms for responding to threats. Russia agreed to this in principle. However, the process was unilaterally derailed by the then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who prohibited the Kyiv regime from signing the agreements. This fact was publicly confirmed by the head of the Ukrainian delegation at those negotiations.

For us, any negotiations on security must begin with a return to the principles agreed upon in Istanbul: Ukraine's neutrality and renunciation of future membership of NATO, and equal and indivisible security for all, including Russia. For now, the West's "guarantees" look like nothing more than a tool for prolonging the conflict in the hope of further weakening Russia. This is a reckless and irresponsible approach to an issue that is of vital importance to our continent and indeed to the world as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.