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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1538th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 October 2025

On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime, with the direct support of its Western “guardians”, is continuing its attacks on civilian objects in Russian regions. In the week of 6 to 12 October, we witnessed a new tactic that is monstrous in its brutality. As the line of battle moves away from major cities, Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s armed formations are increasingly carrying out combined strikes on civilian objects using long-range weapons supplied by the West. The main targets were residential neighbourhoods, hospitals and energy infrastructure. These attacks killed 21 civilians and injured 83 people, including six children. In total, more than 3,400 munitions were fired at civilian targets.

Each one of these figures reported here represents a human life cut short. They include a 25-year-old teacher of the Russian language who was killed in Maslova Pristan, 21-year-old volunteer Ilya Belyaev who was killed by a drone, a surgeon from Gorlovka who lost an arm and a leg in an attack on a bus, and two ten-year-old children who were injured when a drone exploded near their house. The Kyiv regime and its foreign patrons bear direct responsibility for these war crimes. We will continue to document every such atrocity, and all the perpetrators will surely be brought to justice.

The OSCE has failed to take notice of any of these facts. Instead, on 13 October, the OSCE Troika issued a statement accusing Russia. Not a word is said there about the Ukrainian armed forces’ crimes.

We especially call attention to the child casualties in the sorry chronicle we have just shared. Let me pose a direct question to the representatives of Finland, Malta and Switzerland: do you seriously believe that the killing of children also counts as “legitimate self-defence” by the Kyiv regime? Is putting children on the hit lists of the Myrotvorets website also “self-defence”? Do you even realize that you are completely destroying the system of international humanitarian law and human rights protection with your hypocritical steps in support of each and every action by the Kyiv regime? We should like to note, in particular, our Swiss colleagues’ involvement in this propaganda campaign. In principle, it is already quite clear to us how Switzerland will structure its work at the OSCE next year. We shall draw our conclusions.

The ostensible compassion for Ukrainians expressed in the Troika's statement is a lie from the first word to the last. It should be understood that, in reality, the Western sponsors are not supporting Ukraine and its inhabitants, but, rather, the Kyiv regime, a regime that in no way reflects the interests of the country's inhabitants and functions solely for the purposes of enriching itself and carrying out the West's orders about inflicting damage on Russia. I must stress that the Zelenskyy regime no longer has any legitimate connection with the citizens of Ukraine – elections have been cancelled, no cues from society are allowed to influence the decisions made, political pluralism and freedom of speech have been destroyed. It is telling that, in these circumstances, many Ukrainians recall with nostalgia the years under Viktor Yanukovich, when the present totalitarian methods seemed unthinkable.

Are those who drafted the recent statement by the OSCE Troika aware that a veritable conveyor belt for killing people has been set up in Ukraine? The system of forced mobilization has taken on features that cannot be described as anything other than criminal. Law enforcement agencies, which were meant to protect citizens, have turned into punitive squads. Border guards go about not protecting the borders from external threats, as in all other countries, but trying to catch citizens of their own country who are seeking, by hook or by crook, to get out of this land of arbitrariness. Police officers and the staff of territorial recruitment centres have unlimited powers: they can detain a person travelling on the metro, snatch him from a crowd of people on the street, and then, pulling out a tablet computer, announce to him: "You're on the list." This phrase has already become a death sentence for thousands of people.

Is it any wonder that, according to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, in the last month alone, some 20,000 criminal cases related to desertion and going absent without leave have been opened? Indeed, from the beginning of 2022 until September 2025, almost 290,000 such proceedings have been initiated overall. What is particularly telling is that this continues to be a rising trend. These figures eloquently testify to the fact that Ukrainians do not want to die for the Zelenskyy regime. They are voting with their feet, preferring criminal prosecution to a senseless death. When an army is held together by coercion and fear of prison, this shows a complete loss of support within society.

Aware as they are of the insufficient human resources of the Kyiv regime's armed formations in Ukraine, it seems that NATO countries are exploring various, at times unconventional, methods for topping up the manning levels. For example, the Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* recently published an interview with a Chechen militant, radical Islamist Viktor Gaziev, who had been "pressured" into "volunteering" and sent on his merry way to join the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces by the Swedish security and intelligence services. This character had been declared unwelcome in Sweden and they found a "good use" for him – two Swedish military intelligence officers escorted him to Ukraine without his carrying any documents at all. Journalists point out that this case is far from an isolated one.

Another shocking exposé published by the British newspaper *The Guardian* is also noteworthy. According to that investigative article, one of the shareholders of a weapons manufacturer supplying Ukraine handed former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson a bribe of 1 million pounds sterling. The purpose of this criminal racket was extremely cynical, namely to persuade Mr. Zelenskyy to continue military operations. This fact illustrates very well the true background to the so-called support for Ukraine by its Western partners. It does not have to do with defending democratic values, but with advancing the United Kingdom's geopolitical interests, and those of arms manufacturers into the bargain. This case is just the tip of the iceberg. It demonstrates that the war in Ukraine has become a lucrative business project for Western politicians and the military-industrial complex, with the common goal of inflicting some kind of "strategic defeat" on Russia.

To that end, no means are evidently to be shunned. Not even open support for terrorism. A telling example is to be found in the recent statements by the Polish leadership, including

Prime Minister Donald Tusk, on the undesirability of handing over to the German law enforcement authorities a Ukrainian citizen suspected of involvement in the rupturing of the Nord Stream pipelines. Poland's National Security Bureau chief Sławomir Cenkiewicz actually stated in an interview with the *Financial Times* that it was in the interest of the Polish State to protect all who potentially took part in damaging Nord Stream 2. We would remind you that the terrorist attack against the Nord Stream pipelines dealt a formidable blow to the German economy, and thus to the economy of the entire European Union.

The countries of the anti-Russian alliance continue to search for resources to support the Kyiv regime. Some have taken it into their head to solve this problem by drawing on "frozen" Russian sovereign assets. According to the European Commission's plan, funds totalling 140 billion euros are to be given to the Kyiv regime as an interest-free loan, which it is unlikely to ever repay since the main condition for repayment is the requirement that Russia pay "reparations" to Ukraine. This initiative is pure skulduggery. A number of EU countries realize this. Regardless of any legal ruses, tampering with Russian assets will be considered theft – proceeding with that scheme would deal a fatal blow to the investment climate in the European Union, signalling to the whole world that, in Europe, one can be stripped of one's property at any time on political orders from on high. It would destroy confidence in the European financial system and trigger large-scale capital flight. The European taxpayers themselves would be left to foot the bill for this adventure. Nor will our country stand idly by as such confiscations are made. In response to the European Union's illegal actions, a mechanism has been established for fast-tracking the disposition of foreign assets on the territory of the Russian Federation. These measures are exclusively reactive in nature. We were not the instigators of this confrontation.

In closing, we would emphasize that the Russian Federation has consistently advocated a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine. We remain open to constructive dialogue and are ready for negotiations that would take into account the legitimate security interests of our country. However, in the absence of a real alternative and given the continued resistance on the part of the Kyiv regime, Russia will be forced to carry on with its special military operation. I wish to stress that all the objectives set for the special military operation will be achieved. My country has the necessary determination and resources to defend its national interests and safeguard the security of its citizens. The responsibility for potential further escalation will fall on those who prefer confrontation to dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.