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

15 October 2026

On Ukraine

I am taking the floor in exercise of the right of reply and shall read out an abridged version of my statement. At the end of our meeting we will distribute the full version containing a detailed list of all the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime in the course of last week.

As always, I shall start with the figures, which eloquently demonstrate that no one in the Kyiv regime is so much as considering any sort of de-escalation – this idea exists only in Zelenskyy's disingenuous rhetoric, designed to appeal to Western public opinion. For example, between 5 and 11 October 2026, the Ukrainian formations' criminal actions claimed 326 civilian casualties. A total of 274 civilians were injured, including 11 minors, and 52 people were killed, including five children.

During this period, Ukrainian armed formations fired more than 8,500 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory. These munitions included rockets from 122 mm multiple rocket launchers, artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (some of them with cluster warheads), mines, grenades, combat drones and first-person view drones.

The fact that civilians are being hunted deliberately is confirmed by the testimonies of captured Ukrainian military personnel, who openly admit to having received orders from their commanders to kill and maim civilians.

I shall now focus on specific crimes.

The Ukrainian armed forces, disregarding the norms of international humanitarian law, carried out a series of targeted attacks on medical workers and healthcare facilities. In the town of Shebekino in the Belgorod region and the city of Konstantinovka in the Donetsk People's Republic, drones carried out strikes on ambulances. In Vasilyevka in the Zaporozhye region, Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles carried out a follow-up strike on an ambulance while it was evacuating a patient who had been seriously injured during the first attack. In the Zaporozhye region, Zelenskyy's fighters attacked the central district hospital in the village of Rozovka; in the Kherson region, they struck a hospital in Kakhovka as well as a dental clinic and an ambulance. In Lisichansk, the Ukrainian armed forces carried out a targeted attack on the grounds of a hospital, setting fire to ambulances.

Over the past week, the Kyiv regime's militants targeted personnel and specialized vehicles from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, along with emergency utility workers as they arrived at the scene of Ukrainian terrorist attacks in order to rescue civilians and carry out repair work. During an attack on the Kuibyshevsky municipal district in the Zaporozhye region, a fire station was hit and emergency rescue vehicles were damaged. A targeted follow-up strike was launched against personnel from the Ministry of Emergency Situations while they were extinguishing a fire on the grounds of a hospital in Lisichansk.

On 6 October, in an act of blatant barbarism and disregarding the norms of international humanitarian law, Ukrainian formations carried out a deliberate strike against lorries and a warehouse containing humanitarian aid from the International Committee of the Red Cross in Donetsk. We are awaiting a response to this crime from the relevant international organizations, including the OSCE.

The chair of the local election commission and representatives of social services documenting the consequences of Ukrainian strikes on civilian objects in the Alyoshkinsky district of the Kherson region were injured in Ukrainian attacks. A double-tap strike by a Ukrainian drone on a residential building in the village of Novaya Mayachka killed Elena Litvinenko, chair of the district election commission for the Alyoshki municipal district in the Kherson region. Another casualty of Ukraine's crimes was an official from the Golaya Pristan municipal district in the same region; he was killed when a drone attacked an official vehicle near the village of Dolmatovka.

The Holy Spirit Church in Golaya Pristan, Kherson region – the central cathedral of the Gola Pristan district – was burned to the ground as a result of drone strikes. In the village of Gora-Podol, the windows of the Church of St. Michael the Archistrategos were damaged by the detonation of a Ukrainian armed forces drone.

Public transport and private civilian vehicles remain a favourite target of the Ukrainian armed forces' attacks. In the village of Basan, in the Pologovsky municipal district of the Zaporozhye region, a drone attack by Ukrainian formations on a fixed-route minibus resulted in the deaths of three civilians, including the driver. Three passengers were injured. In Lugansk, drones struck a city bus and a passing lorry in the middle of the day – five civilians, including a child, were injured. A 57-year-old man was killed by a drone strike in the Klimovsk neighbourhood of the city of Podolsk.

Zelenskyy has not yet given up hope of reaching the Russian capital. He needs this to attract media attention, to prove to Western sponsors that Ukraine is capable of striking at the very heart of Russia. He is stockpiling drones and missiles and is attempting to launch them all at once at the city in order to overwhelm the air defence systems. For instance, on the night of 6 October, 650 Ukrainian drones were flown towards Moscow and the Moscow region. On the night of 13 to 14 October, some 500 drones were flown towards Moscow. But Zelenskyy's results are consistently disappointing – his "fleet" never reaches the capital, and damage is recorded only on the outskirts. A total of 47 private homes were damaged in seven municipalities in the Moscow region – in Volokolamsk, Stupino, Dmitrov, Naro-Fominsk, Serpukhov, Domodedovo and Istra. Civilians were injured.

Now that the President of the United States of America has directly linked the Kyiv regime's strikes on energy facilities in Russia to the rise in prices for petroleum products, a frightened Zelenskyy has reverted back to the old script, in which Ukraine is supposedly adhering to some sort of "energy truce". The facts, however, suggest otherwise, and strikes on Russian energy facilities are continuing. Indeed, just yesterday, at the height of the Ukrainian leader's mendacious campaign claiming that Ukraine was no longer targeting Russia's energy sector, the Kyiv regime sent its drones to two oil refineries — in the Saratov and Ryazan regions. The oil refinery in Ryazan was attacked again last night.

Yet the regime's Western sponsors are determined to turn a blind eye to this, criticizing only Russia's retaliatory strikes and, of course, ignoring the indisputable fact that their protégé in Kyiv has, on at least three recent occasions, announced with great fanfare a deliberate escalation of attacks on civilian objects in our country. For this, Kyiv and other cities continue to be subjected to painful "strikes in response", which cause suffering not to Zelenskyy, but to the Ukrainian civilians he is using as hostages.

Against this backdrop, the Russian Aerospace Forces are methodically and consistently destroying the Kyiv regime's military and economic potential, thereby increasingly undermining Zelenskyy's ability to attack our country with each passing day. Over the past week, hundreds of precision strikes have been recorded against military-industrial complex facilities, warehouses and ships supplying the Kyiv regime with weapons and ammunition. If they are cravenly placed in civilian areas, a powerful detonation is inevitable. Zelenskyy is well aware of this, but he shows no sign of putting an end to his violations of international humanitarian law – the tragedies suffered by Ukrainians only play into his hands.

In our statement at the previous meeting of the Permanent Council, we referred to the tragedy in Pryluky in the Chernihiv region, which was caused by the actions of Ukrainian air defence assets concealed within residential buildings – a tragedy that the Kyiv regime is trying by every means to blame on Russia. They have even begun to take high-ranking foreign visitors to the houses damaged by Ukrainian missile strikes. Today, in this room, mention was made of an alleged Russian strike on two passenger buses in Kramatorsk. Colleagues, we do not expect this to bring you to your senses, but bear in mind that the facts indicate that there was no strike on the buses.

There was a strike on a vehicle in traffic that was carrying ammunition and explosives for drone units of the Ukrainian armed forces; it was therefore a legitimate military target. A passenger bus travelling nearby was caught in the blast wave from the large-scale detonation. There are no craters at the scene of the incident caused by a missile or bomb strike, and the drone's warhead would not have been powerful enough to cause such extensive damage.

Ukrainian social media users are posting about dozens of such incidents, at the risk of arrest and persecution; some even dare to share photos and videos. Just imagine how ridiculous and criminal your attempts to defend the Zelenskyy regime look in the eyes of the Ukrainians who are suffering at its hands!

Everything I have just said leads to an obvious and highly disheartening conclusion: no matter how hard Zelenskyy tries to portray himself as a champion of peace, no matter how much he insists that Ukraine is ready for negotiations, all that he and his European sponsors are really interested in is freezing the conflict without addressing its root causes, or securing a temporary respite that would allow the Ukrainian armed forces to regroup and replenish their weapons stocks.

I will say it once again: no one will grant such a favour to the criminal authorities in Kyiv. We need a sustainable and long-term peace that recognizes the realities on the ground and resolves the problems that forced us to launch our special military operation. Until that happens, the special operation will continue until all its goals have been achieved, and the aggressive ambitions of the clique entrenched in Kyiv will be resolutely and inevitably suppressed.

Thank you for your attention.