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**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**U.S. Statement for the**  
**Forum for Security Co-operation:**  
**General Statements –**  
**Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine**

FSC 1091, October 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

The March 2022 massacre of civilians by members of Russia’s armed forces at Bucha is one of its largest and most well-documented atrocities since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Images of dead bodies in Bucha’s streets were captured by satellite as early as March 11. These bodies of unarmed Ukrainian civilians were later found in the same locations and positions by investigators after Russia’s withdrawal on March 31. Satellite images of Russia’s military vehicles and personnel were also captured in Bucha during the time the atrocities were committed. Journalists and residents also documented through videos and photographs the presence of Russian troops and the aftermath of their actions, including mass graves and bodies lying in the streets. These visual records have been widely circulated and have been verified by media organizations and independent investigators.

Numerous eyewitnesses, including local residents and survivors, have provided detailed accounts of the actions of Russia’s soldiers in Bucha. These testimonies have been documented by international human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, as well as by journalists from reputable news outlets. Mass graves were later discovered at the locations of the Russian units’ headquarters.

Forensic experts, including those from independent international organizations, have conducted autopsies on the bodies found in Bucha. Reports from these investigations reveal evidence of torture, gunshot wounds to the back of the head, and other forms of violence consistent with war crimes against non-combatants. The analysis also identified the types of weapons and ammunition used, which match those used by Russian forces.

The New York Times, which the Russian Federation cited as an authoritative source in two of its most recent statements to this Forum, conducted an extensive investigation that concluded the perpetrators of a massacre of three dozen innocent people along Yablunska Street were Russian paratroopers from the 234th Air Assault Regiment led by Lt. Col. Artyom Gorodilov. In recognition of his actions against defenseless civilians, Lt.Col. Gorodilov was promoted to Colonel shortly after the Russian withdrawal from Bucha and northern Ukraine. Another New York Times article — one of several in the series of outstanding documented journalism — was titled, “New Evidence Shows How Russian Soldiers Executed Men in Bucha.”

Intelligence agencies, including those from Ukraine and third countries, intercepted communications between Russian military personnel discussing operations in Bucha. These intercepted communications have been used to corroborate evidence and provide further proof of Russia’s forces full responsibility for the massacre.

The details of these crimes and more are documented in OSCE Moscow Mechanism reports. They have also been documented in UN reports on human rights violations and abuses in Ukrainian territory occupied by Russia’s forces.

Mr. Chair,

In the face of overwhelming evidence, our colleagues from the Russian delegation appear impervious to facts, no matter how many times the truth has been presented to them in the last 32 months. When the Russian delegation faces an irrefutable truth, they create a monstrous lie to attempt to deflect, obfuscate or fabricate counter allegations. The Russian delegation’s lie — and that is what it is when they claim that the massacre of Ukrainian civilians in Bucha simply did not happen — is a grave insult to the dead, their families, this forum, and all humanity.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.