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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1381st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 July 2022

**On the ongoing crimes by Ukraine against the civilian population with the support of a  
Western alliance of OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

A special meeting of the Permanent Council orchestrated by the Polish Chairmanship took place in this room just the day before yesterday. It was obvious that the meeting was a laboured attempt to establish our country's guilt for all manner of crimes against the civilian population in Ukraine – indiscriminate shelling of peaceful neighbourhoods, attacks on civilians, murder, pillage, rape, including the rape of minors, plundering, destruction of cultural heritage, unjustified brutality and suchlike.

We can see how the international community is assiduously trying to peddle the image that a Russian soldier strives only to pillage and make war on women and children. All these examples of Goebbels-style propaganda to demonize the Russian soldier – which actually means soldiers from Russia of different nationalities – are quite familiar. An entire “media empire”, with the support of many Western non-governmental organizations, is working to create fake stories about the actions of our military in Ukraine, while the current masters of the Kyiv regime play, as is customary, a leading role in the dissemination of these stories on international platforms.

While such a propaganda exercise was under way in this room the day before yesterday (5 July), ten-year-old Veronika Badina, a resident of the Voroshylovskiy district of the city of Donetsk, lost her life as a result of Ukrainian shelling. A shell fired by Ukrainian death squads killed the girl in the street, right next to her house at 44 Chelyuskintsev Street.

Veronika was just two years old when the “post-Maidan authorities” who had seized power in Kyiv in the wake of the armed coup d'état announced a punitive military operation to suppress dissent in Donbas. Throughout this girl's short life she never saw a peaceful sky and lived in fear of constant shelling. Her life was cut short by a 155 mm large-calibre shell, shrapnel from which tore her body into three pieces – right before the eyes of her mother. A brutal, unjustifiable, horrific crime by the Ukrainian armed formations. The killers once again targeted a residential building, near which there have never been any military objects.

In addition to Veronika, four more people were killed and at least 14 wounded by Ukrainian shelling on that day alone in Donetsk – the figures continue to be updated. Two further children were killed in a playground and three more were wounded when Ukrainian formations shelled the central district of the city of Makiivka (Donetsk People’s Republic) on 6 July. On the same day, in Skadovsk in the Kherson region, one person died, and a child and a woman were hospitalized in an intensive care unit in a serious condition after a Tochka-U missile fired by the Ukrainian armed forces hit the city.

Think about it: all this in just two days. You again remain silent today about all these victims, as though they do not exist. But we will not allow you to ignore the crimes of the Kyiv regime and the Ukrainian armed formations. There is no doubt that the perpetrators and masterminds of these crimes, including their foreign sponsors, will eventually be held accountable – above all, before the people of Donbas and Ukraine. The West, which through its actions is *de facto* preventing a political and diplomatic solution to the situation, which is demanding that the situation be resolved on the battlefield, which has long been investing heavily in military tension in Ukraine and Donbas and is zealously fuelling the conflict with ever more arms deliveries, must acknowledge its responsibility for the deaths of civilians.

We can guess what motivates your desire to ignore these casualties. However, by turning a blind eye to the truth, you will not succeed in building an alternative reality of your own. The false media picture in the West is shaped not least by the so-called mainstream media. Take the story published on 5 July by the British newspaper *Daily Mirror*, in which a photograph of Donetsk ablaze from Ukrainian shelling using NATO artillery is accompanied by the caption: “Plumes of smoke rise above Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine yesterday after a vicious Russian bombardment.” The authors of the fabrication were not even embarrassed by the fact that in the centre of the photo was a huge poster put up by the city’s public activists, bearing the legend “We are Russian Donbas!”.

In this context, it is worth noting how actively representatives of the Anglo-Saxon countries seek to label everything that does not correspond to their alternative reality as “disinformation”, to use that notorious term. There are attempts at elementary, crude censorship in cyberspace. For example, *The Guardian* recently reported on the preparation by the British authorities of a bill to counter disinformation on the Internet. The rationale behind this was the embarrassing incident involving the UK Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, who unbosomed himself to prank callers via video link about various aspects of his support for the Kyiv regime. There you go – the truth about the events in Ukraine, something that the British Government does not believe the general public needs to know anything about, will now be called “disinformation”.

It should be said that sometimes the dawns of a sober understanding of the situation do manage to make themselves visible after all. An example is the recent report by correspondents for the television channel France 24 from Lysychansk (Luhansk People’s Republic), which has been liberated from the Ukrainian neo-Nazis. The locals with whom the reporters were able to converse noted on camera that they were exceptionally happy at the arrival of the Russian troops and they were indeed celebrating their liberation.

The crude claim made by some of our opponents that the Russian soldiers came to Ukraine only to destroy and kill is easily dispelled by real facts. The Russian armed forces are helping to establish a peaceful life in the liberated territories – construction work on houses and civilian objects is already in full swing. In Mariupol alone, a residential neighbourhood comprising 1,000 apartments is currently under construction (and scheduled for completion by the autumn), along with three concrete factories and other facilities. There will be schools and hospitals there and in other localities where the neo-Nazis will no longer be running the show. In addition, a multipurpose medical centre is being built in Luhansk, a water supply system in Donetsk and so on.

In recent months, over 40,000 tonnes of essential goods, food, medicines and medical products have been delivered to the Donbas republics and to Ukraine; an additional 43,500 tonnes or more have been assembled at collection points in Russia with the assistance of official bodies and community organizations from across our country.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, to date, 46,000 mines and shells have already been cleared from some 3,000 hectares in the area where the special operation is taking place, and demining is also being carried out at sea. The mine threat in the waters off Mariupol has been completely eliminated.

Despite this, in the hope of prolonging the conflict in Ukraine, NATO countries continue to supply arms to the Kyiv regime. In total, more than 28,000 tonnes of military cargo have been delivered in recent months. We emphasize that they will not enable the Ukrainian formations to achieve any serious military successes.

Under these conditions, some of the weapons supplied are going missing – resurfacing in the Middle East for the most part – and are also ending up on the European black market. Kyiv regime officials themselves also acknowledge this: for example, the Director of the Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine, Vadym Melnyk, acknowledged this trend while appearing live on a telethon the other day. Just to quote him: “Even military goods are being sold for cash. We have established such facts.” A similar situation is also unfolding with the arms supplied by NATO countries that were handed out to the population in an uncontrolled fashion. The heads of INTERPOL and Europol have already admitted this.

Nor will the soldiers of fortune arriving from abroad be able to turn the situation around for the neo-Nazis. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, at least 170 foreign mercenaries have been eliminated in Ukraine over the past two weeks, and many of those still alive have refused to take part in combat operations and have left Ukrainian territory. We note in this context the reports of the withdrawal by some US private military companies of their fighters from Ukraine.

We emphasize once again: the objectives of the Russian special military operation – the protection of Donbas, the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, and the elimination of threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory – will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.