

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1205/22
1 September 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1387th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 September 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In the annals of world history, 1 September is a memorable and tragic date. It is destined to remind us of how more than eighty years ago, Nazism led to such terrible consequences for Europe and the whole world. The hate-filled essence of Nazism was comprehended far too late by many people, both in Germany itself and beyond its borders. There were also those who to the last preferred not to notice the Nazi regime's crimes at all.

Unfortunately, in our own times, neo-Nazism has reared its ugly head in certain countries in the OSCE area. Many are pretending that the problem does not exist. In a number of cases, neo-Nazism is receiving support from the authorities. As a result, under banners and slogans of Nazi accomplices, crimes are being committed today against human rights and freedoms, among which the right to life occupies the most important place. The gravest case is Ukraine, where the Kyiv regime continues with its attempts to remould by force the identity of the country's inhabitants, undertakes discriminatory practices, foments the ideas of national exclusivity, destroys monuments to those who fought against Nazism, and year in, year out, rebuffs international efforts to combat the glorification of Nazism.

We recommend studying a report issued on 30 August by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the situation regarding the glorification of Nazism and the spread of neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. A lengthy section in that report is devoted to Ukraine.

Over the past few days, the regime of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, supported by armed neo-Nazi formations, has made attempts to conduct offensive operations in the area of Mykolaiv and Kryvyi Rih. This display of foolhardy militaristic bravado was evidently undertaken at the instigation of the regime's foreign handlers. As a result of this failed adventure, the Ukrainian armed forces suffered losses of more than 1,700 killed in just two days. The territory of the Donetsk People's Republic was also subjected to massive shelling. The Ukrainian military again inflicted extensive damage on civilian infrastructure. There was targeted shelling of critical facilities, and civilian casualties were recorded.

All this is taking place in a context where the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime, together with a number of other NATO countries, are actively dissuading the Ukrainian Government from participating in political and diplomatic efforts to bring about a settlement, stressing that the time for dialogue has allegedly not yet come and that results need to be achieved “on the battlefield”.

We are seeing how key NATO countries continue to invest in maintaining military tensions as they seek to organize and foster a protracted conflict far away from their own borders. Last week, the US Government announced that yet another package of so-called “military assistance”, worth 2.8 billion dollars, had been earmarked for the Kyiv regime. Based on information from the White House, since January 2021 the United States of America has provided Ukraine with military funding and weapons the volume of which is three times the Ukrainian annual budget for military expenditure. According to some estimates, the United States and its satellites have spent around 20 billion dollars in total on military support for Ukraine over the past few months.

We have taken note of US media reports that the Pentagon is working on various options for deepening its involvement in the armed confrontation in Ukraine. They mention plans to launch some sort of mission to provide military and technical assistance to the Kyiv regime. The mission is meant to receive a code name and a Pentagon official will be appointed as the handler in charge of that programme. There are also plans to swamp US firms with orders for the manufacture of weapons that are to be subsequently deployed in Ukraine. As is known, courses for the training of Ukrainian armed formations are already being conducted in a number of NATO countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Canada and Latvia. Similarly, officials in Brussels have now begun talking about setting up a training mission that would be deployed in the name of the European Union.

All these are elements of the “proxy war” that a number of countries from the collective West are seeking to carry out so as to inflict damage on the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. Which once again goes to show that they wish to wage this proxy war “down to the last Ukrainian”, so to speak.

We must emphasize that neither large-scale military funding, nor the training of Ukrainian military personnel and the co-ordination of their actions, nor the supply of weapons and military equipment to the Kyiv regime, nor the participation of foreign mercenaries can have any effect on the resoluteness with which the Russian special military operation to protect Donbas is being conducted. It will be completed when its objectives have been achieved.

On 30 August, the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances was observed. In the areas still controlled by the Kyiv regime the organization of such disappearances has become routine practice as part of the persecution of dissent. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), more than one thousand citizens suspected of collaborating with Russia were detained by the Ukrainian police and units of the Ukrainian Security Service in the first six months of 2022 alone. (Incidentally, it was the Ukrainian Security Service that spied on and shadowed various OSCE staff members in Ukraine.) The OHCHR points out that the subsequent fate of these detainees is unknown. Various representatives of the Kyiv regime in the Kharkiv, Sumy, Odessa and Mykolaiv regions have repeatedly announced the conduct of certain “checks” and “filtration measures”, as well as round-ups of local residents whom they suspect of having sympathies for the “Russian world”.

In the absence of significant “victories on the battlefield”, the Kyiv regime has switched to overtly terroristic methods. The aim is to intimidate the inhabitants of the liberated territories and those regional public figures who have not abandoned their fellow residents, and indeed all those who are helping to

establish a peaceful life. We have already mentioned the failed attempts using explosives to assassinate, among others, the head of the Kherson regional administration, Volodymyr Saldo; the head of the Zaporizhzhia regional administration, Yevhen Balytskyi; and the chairperson of the Melitopol district administration, Andrii Sihuta.

Unfortunately, terrorist attacks have claimed the lives of the director of the families, youth and sports department of the Kherson regional administration, Dmytro Savluchenko; the head of the administration of the settlement of Velykyi Burluk, Yevhen Yunakov; and the deputy chief of the traffic police in the city of Berdiansk, Oleksandr Kolesnikov.

Literally at the same time as the last meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 24 August was taking place, the car of Ivan Sushko, the head of the administration of the settlement of Mykhailivka in the Zaporizhzhia region, was blown up. Mr. Sushko was killed. Yesterday, in the city of Donetsk there was a commemoration for the head of the Donetsk People's Republic, Alexander Zakharchenko, one of the officials who signed the Minsk agreements, who was basely murdered in Donetsk four years ago. It is one and the same pattern everywhere: all these terrorist attacks were committed using explosive devices that had been planted ahead of time.

On 28 August, Oleksii Kovalov, the deputy head of the Kherson regional administration, was killed together with his girlfriend (in this case a firearm was used). A former ally of Volodymyr Zelenskyy and member of the pro-presidential party Servant of the People with a seat in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), Mr. Kovalov had stayed on in the Kherson region to work for the good of his fellow citizens there.

All these brutal murders were of course carefully planned and prepared. After every one of them, representatives of the Kyiv regime appearing on Ukrainian media did not conceal their joy as they discoursed on the success of certain "special operations". The facts showing that the Ukrainian intelligence services were involved in these terrorist forays are being studied by the investigating authorities.

We must emphasize that the current criminal tactics of the Kyiv regime and the indifferent, if not directly pandering, attitude of its foreign handlers towards these tactics are bound to lead to the self-destruction of Ukraine and also to serious consequences for those steering the country from outside.

The Ukrainian armed formations continue to use residential buildings and social facilities, including hospitals, schools and kindergartens, as military objectives, setting up strongpoints inside them. They are striking with particular frenzy at educational institutions in the areas liberated from the Ukrainian armed forces, which seems especially egregious given that a new academic year is just starting.

The situation around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) is extremely concerning. The actions of the Kyiv regime are evidently aimed at provoking an emergency situation during the plant's operation. Since 18 July, Ukrainian armed formations have been methodically shelling the site of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, using, *inter alia*, heavy artillery of NATO-standard calibre, foreign unmanned aerial vehicles and loitering munitions. Power lines have been repeatedly destroyed, as noted by the plant's personnel, who have also recorded damage to the special building for the storage of spent nuclear fuel, the building where solid radioactive waste is processed, the cooling system infrastructure and other facilities situated in close proximity to the operating reactor units.

Moreover, on 28 August, the Ukrainian armed forces carried out artillery strikes on residential areas of Enerhodar, the city near which the Zaporizhzhia NPP is located, using US-made M777 large-calibre

howitzers. As a result, seven local residents were injured, two of whom are in a serious condition. Yesterday, a fresh strike was launched on the building of the city administration.

By the look of things, the Kyiv regime does not care what happens to the people living near the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Just as indifferent, it seems, are those NATO countries whose weapons and ammunition are being used by the Ukrainian formations to shell the plant. What is more, during a briefing a few days ago, the Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the US Department of State, Vedant Patel, effectively justified shelling of the kind carried out by the Ukrainian armed forces. As for the European Union, instead of compelling their protégés in Kyiv to stop their attacks on the Zaporizhzhia NPP, they recently took the decision to dispatch 5.5 million potassium iodide tablets to Ukraine for use in the event of an accident at the plant.

We trust that the visit to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant taking place today by representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a team led by Director General Rafael Grossi will help in objectively examining the facts and assessing the consequences of weapons being used to shell the plant, and that it will be conducive to putting a stop to the Kyiv regime's nuclear blackmail and its striving to provoke a disaster. Over several months, Russia consistently advocated a visit by such a group of experts. I would remind you that all the conditions to ensure the safety of their visit were provided by the Russian side long ago. However, the originally scheduled visit in early June was scuppered not through Russia's fault.

In the current conditions, what is called for is a calm, professional analysis of the situation around the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Russia is undertaking efforts to ensure that the visit by the IAEA specialists proceeds safely and is a success. Significantly, a group of Ukrainian saboteurs was detained in Enerhodar yesterday: they had been preparing to carry out a terrorist attack on the Zaporizhzhia NPP using three foreign-made NLAW grenade launchers, firearms and explosive devices. All this was meant to have been put into play at the very moment that the IAEA specialists arrived there.

This morning, the Kyiv regime attempted a major provocation to thwart the arrival of the IAEA working group. It was an unprecedented and cynical provocation, as opposed to spontaneous actions. It had been carefully prepared and was carried out at the direct behest of those steering the Kyiv regime.

Specifically, the place near the city of Vasylivka where the IAEA group were to be met by Russian specialists was subjected to artillery shelling. Two sabotage groups from the Ukrainian armed forces comprising up to 60 personnel travelling on seven speedboats landed to the north-east of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Slightly later, there was a tactical landing by a party that had left Nikopol on two self-propelled barges. Thanks to the members of the Russian National Guard who were guarding the plant and units of the Russian armed forces who joined them as reinforcements, the sabotage groups were prevented from advancing and the barges sunk. The attempt to capture the plant on the day that it was to be visited by IAEA specialists was foiled. Most of the saboteurs were eliminated, but some were taken captive and it will be most interesting to see what they have to say about the tasks they were set.

In these circumstances it is natural to ask what the true purpose is of these attempts to destabilize the situation around the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Why does the Kyiv regime persist so stubbornly in seeking to frustrate a visit to the plant by staff members of the relevant international organization?

We stress once again that the Russian special military operation is aimed at protecting Donbas, denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and eliminating threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory. These objectives will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.