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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1418th (SPECIAL) MEETING
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 April 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the
Western alliance countries to escalate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Western countries are obstinately causing the situation in Ukraine to reach the point of no return. Their plying of the Kyiv regime with weapons has acquired monstrous proportions. The overall volume of military aid from the NATO member countries has already reached the mark of 65 billion euros (with their combined financial, economic and military assistance totalling around 150 billion euros). The European Union has contributed 12 billion euros, including 3.6 billion euros under what must count as one of the most objectionable militaristic structures, namely the “European Peace Facility”. The general thrust of such “assistance” is by no means humanitarian. It includes lethal offensive weapons, such as missile systems, artillery and heavy weaponry. Not a week goes by without the US Government announcing ever new plans for the provision of military supplies. The goal is obvious and is not being hidden, that is, not to allow the armed conflict to calm down and to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia. The Ukrainian Government is overtly being spurred on to work towards large-scale military escalation.

All this is fostering false hopes among the members of the Kyiv regime that victory can be achieved on the battlefield. They are evidently not concerned at all by the prospect of many thousands of Ukrainian soldiers being killed, which would become inevitable in the event of a large-scale escalation – soldiers who would be sacrificed to the geopolitical interests of the regime’s Western patrons as they seek to “vanquish Russia in battle”.

So as not to allow any chance of the Ukrainian leadership coming to its senses and stepping back from the brink, its foreign handlers are doing everything they can to rule out the very possibility of the conflict being resolved by diplomatic means. During a live broadcast on Sky News on 28 March, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak openly stated: “Our job, as I see it, is to put them [Ukraine] in the strongest possible position to have that conversation [about a peace settlement] at a time of their choosing, to ensure that they can win this conflict.” On that same day, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the following: “And so what seems to be appealing on the surface – who wouldn’t want the guns to be silent – can also be a very cynical trap that we have to be very, very careful of.”

To justify this militaristic course in the eyes of domestic public opinion, the West is deliberately organizing provocations. The scripts of the NATO political strategists remain the same: only the *dramatis personae* and the decors change. After the staging in the village of Račak in Kosovo and the spectacle mounted by the White Helmets in Syria, the “experts in special effects” have now come to Ukraine as well. A few days ago, on 31 March, the Kyiv regime organized a political show to commemorate the anniversary of the latest such performance, namely the staging of a massacre allegedly committed by the Russian military in Bucha in the Kyiv region. The fact that there were no complaints about the actions of Russian military personnel while they were in Bucha and immediately after they left the place did not prevent political labels from being pinned on them. Neither has the fact that to this day there has not been a proper official investigation, one with lists of the victims and involving analysis of the corpses of those killed. Nor the fact that all details were immediately blurred out. All this suggests that the events in question were a staged propaganda campaign undertaken to wreck the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations, which were then developing in a positive direction. And also to launch the latest package of anti-Russian sanctions, which had been prepared by the Western countries in advance. It is unacceptable that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, Bujar Osmani, participated in the political spectacle of 31 March, thereby grossly violating the mandate of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office.

In an attempt to “outlaw” the Russian Federation, propaganda narratives are deliberately spun against our country that cynically exploit the civilian population’s suffering due to the conflict fuelled by the Kyiv regime and its sponsors. One of the most tragic aspects is the plight of children. Those who spread sweeping accusations against Russia, claiming that it has engaged in so-called “forced abductions”, do not even try to make sense of the situation or to study the background history. Rather, they are deliberately distorting the facts. In all the nine years of the Ukrainian Government’s punitive operation against the population of Donbas, no one in the West has been concerned about the protection of children exposed to suffering and death, no one there has stopped to think why there is an Alley of Angels memorial in the city of Donetsk.

The answer to that question is very simple: those children’s lives had no propaganda value for the West’s representatives. Things changed, though, after the start of the special military operation, when the Ukrainian Government and its sponsors urgently needed stories with which to demonize Russia. Saving children was declared a crime. The phrase “forced deportations” began to be used to refer to the Russian authorities’ effort to evacuate children – in the overwhelming majority of cases together with their families, accompanied by their parents or guardians – from the zone of hostilities, where they were at direct risk of being killed by NATO weapons. In addition, pseudo-judicial proceedings were rolled out against the Russian leadership.

However, the representatives of countries from the anti-Russian alliance are doing everything they can to prevent the public, not least in their own countries, from hearing the truth. That is evidently why they pulled out all the stops to try to derail the United Nations Security Council’s meeting of 5 April on the evacuation of children from the zone of the special military operation. But they did not succeed in that. The meeting took place and was live-streamed. A comprehensive picture was presented of what is going on. There was a detailed account relating how children have been killed as a result of the Ukrainian armed forces’ shelling of cities in Donbas from 2014 onwards; how the Ukrainian formations are remotely mining residential areas with anti-personnel mines; how children are being taken away from Ukrainian refugees in European countries; and also how real measures are being taken by the Russian authorities to save children. We advise everyone to study the materials from the meeting.

The Western countries’ attitude towards respect for human rights is starkly illustrated by their position on the arbitrariness that is currently taking place in Ukraine when it comes to the faithful of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime is assiduously striving to extirpate the Orthodox faith from Ukraine. Very soon after the start of the special military operation, an

adviser to Mr. Zelenskyy, Mykhailo Podolyak, actually said that it was necessary to “purge” the UOC. Meanwhile, over in the US Department of State they disingenuously – and quite true to form – say that they “know nothing” of any attack on the UOC.

Monks and believers are firmly withstanding the coercive pressure exerted by the Zelenskyy regime and schismatics, who are trying to squeeze them out of the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves. All efforts directed at a settlement have failed. Mr. Zelenskyy refused to meet with the Primate of the UOC and members of its Synod and to listen to their arguments; he ignored the opinion of millions of believers, parishioners and hierarchs from several other Orthodox churches. Instead, the Metropolitan Pavel was placed under house arrest with the obligation to wear an electronic tag. We demand that the Metropolitan Pavel be released immediately and that he be provided with adequate medical care.

Here we may note – not for the first time – the disgraceful conduct of those who still make up the OSCE leadership. Instead of condemning the Ukrainian authorities’ arbitrariness as these suppress religious freedoms, instead of attempts to help to resolve the situation, what we have is merely silence and excuses to the effect that “the OSCE is monitoring the situation.” Where do we find a meaningful response by the Chairmanship, which likes to talk about standing up for “OSCE values”? Where is the response of the Secretary General and the human dimension institutions?

Nor do the Kyiv regime’s overtly terroristic methods of combating dissent elicit any censure from the West. After the shutting down of television channels and reprisals against journalists in Ukraine itself, new “heights” have been reached with the assassination of unwelcome journalists abroad. We note the shameful silence of Western representatives and OSCE structures with regard to the terrorist act in St. Petersburg on 2 April that claimed the life of the well-known Russian correspondent Maxim Fomin, who went by the *nom de plume* Vladlen Tatarsky.

And now to conclude. The complete disregard by the West for massive and gross violations of human rights in Ukraine, the systemic deterioration of human rights standards in Western countries themselves and their whipping up, at the same time, of a large-scale hybrid aggression against Russia constitute a very sinister trend indeed. When representatives of the Western alliance level accusations against Russia to the effect that “internal repression leads to external aggression”, they are in fact talking about themselves. The Western elites are exploiting the Russian special operation as a pretext for a forcible “reset” of their own societies so as to establish a neoliberal dictatorship aimed at retaining the global geopolitical dominance that is slipping away from them.

As a result, thanks to the efforts of the anti-Russian front, the West is witnessing a dangerous debasement of universal human values and human rights standards. The colonial philosophy of dehumanizing entire nations is being revived. While denying Ukrainians and Russians the right to a peaceful life in good-neighbourly relations with other nations, the Kyiv regime’s Western sponsors are unrelentingly driving the inhabitants of Ukraine to their slaughter and using them as a “battering ram” against Russian statehood. At the same time, they are trying to destabilize other regions in the post-Soviet space.

The Russian Federation will not allow itself to be dictated to by those who have long since completely discredited themselves through their inappropriate attitude to human rights and international law. No amount of military “beefing up” of entities that are hostile to our country and are externally controlled will prevent Russia from consistently defending its legitimate interests and safeguarding the security of its citizens by all available means. These tasks will be fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.