



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

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auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1499<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**28 November 2024**

Madam Chair,

Week after week, Russia's illegal, unprovoked, and unjustifiable aggression against Ukraine continues to exact a devastating toll on human life and civilian infrastructure, leaving a trail of destruction and heartache across the country.

On the day of our last meeting, Russian forces reportedly opened fire with automatic weapons on three civilians, killing two and injuring one in a residential apartment building in Toretsk. In Siversk, a missile strike on the city killed one civilian. In the Kherson region, Russian airstrikes killed one person and injured two others, also damaging private property.

The following day, a Russian strike reportedly killed a 55-year-old man and critically injured an 11-year-old boy with guided bombs in the city of Zaporizhzhya. The attack also destroyed fifteen residential buildings, and damaged business warehouses. On the same day, Russia reportedly attacked a residential neighbourhood in Sumy, killing two and injuring at least 12 people. Ukrainian officials have alleged that the attack involved Shahed drones equipped with shrapnel.

On the 23 of November, according to Ukrainian officials, at least four civilians were killed and five wounded in Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure facilities in Kherson. Among the dead was a 70-year man riding his bicycle.

On 24 November, a missile injured one civilian man and destroyed homes and outbuildings in Chernihiv oblast.

The following day, Russian missile strikes on Odesa killed civilians and damaged civilian infrastructure. The same day in Donetsk, one civilian died, and another was injured from Russian attacks.

On the 26 of November, a Russian strike on a bus stop in temporarily occupied Nova Kakhovka killed and injured civilians, turning a public space into a scene of carnage. A UAV attack caused shrapnel wounds to a 27-year-old man and a 60-year-old woman.

Just yesterday, Ukrainian officials reported that Russia's drone attack on Ukraine damaged the grid in Ternopil and cut power to about 70 percent of the region.

And today, the death and destruction continue. Over half a million people are without power in Lviv this morning. Kherson is without power and running water because of Russian attacks on energy infrastructure. We solemnly marked one thousand days Ukrainians' incredible resilience in the face of this horror.

These attacks underscore the devastating loss of human life and the widespread destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure. Entire neighborhoods lie in ruins. Families are torn apart by the deaths of loved ones, and survivors are left with grave injuries, many of them life-altering.

The destruction of homes and Ukraine's energy grid leaves Ukrainians exposed to the harsh winter, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation.

The responsibility for the deaths, injuries, and countless tragedies of ordinary people lies solely with the Russian Federation.

Madame la présidente,

Le Canada reste un allié indéfectible de l'Ukraine. Le soutien le plus récent du Canada comprend la livraison du système national de missiles surface air perfectionné -- ou NASAMS -- soulignant notre engagement à aider l'Ukraine à renforcer ses systèmes de défense aérienne.

En partenariat avec les membres du G7, le Canada continue de plaider en faveur de l'application du droit international. Lors de la récente réunion des ministres des Affaires étrangères du G7, le ministre Joly a rencontré le ministre des Affaires étrangères ukrainien Sybiiha. Ils ont discuté des engagements de Montréal, de l'avancement de la formule de paix et des progrès du plan de victoire. Alors que le Canada se prépare à assumer la présidence du G7, nous réaffirmons notre soutien indéfectible à l'Ukraine.

Enfin, Madame la Présidente,

Vadym, Dmytro et Maksim, les trois membres de la Mission spéciale d'observation en Ukraine détenus par la Fédération de Russie, ne sont pas oubliés. Nous réitérons notre appel urgent à leur libération immédiate et inconditionnelle et nous demandons à tous les États participants de se joindre à nous dans cette demande. Nous ne pouvons pas les abandonner.

Merci, Madame la Présidente.