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Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Following a number of letters from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations accusing Russia of intentionally targeting Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure, we want to reiterate that the Russian Armed Forces carry out strikes solely on legitimate military targets and objects that are part of Ukraine's military potential. Our military forces do not target civilian and social infrastructure or residential areas, nor do they carry out strikes against civilians.

We also have to warn about blatant fakes and disinformation spread by Ukraine in its letters to the Council covering up the fact that the Kiev regime is deliberately using civilians as a human shield and knowingly places air defence systems in residential areas, thus clearly breaching international humanitarian law.

For example, according to the reports by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, on 4 April 2025, a high-precision strike by a high-explosive missile was launched on one of the restaurants in the city of Krivoi Rog where the Ukrainian unit commanders were meeting with their Western instructors, which resulted in the enemy's losses amounting to up to 85 servicemen and foreign officers and about 20 vehicles. We have warned on many occasions that gatherings of troops as well as Western officers and instructors sent to assist the Kiev regime are legitimate targets for the Russian army. The intended military target was hit, which was confirmed both by objective monitoring means and by Ukrainian users on social media. Unfortunately, due to unprofessional actions of the Ukrainian air defence placed in the neighbouring area, it was the Ukrainian intercepting missile that caused the death of civilians in the area adjacent to the restaurant. This is clear from the missile fragments that can be seen on the images provided by the eyewitnesses and posted on social media. But despite this obvious fact, the Kiev regime tries to shift the focus away from its tangible military losses only to accuse Russia of targeting the civilian population and civilian infrastructure of Ukraine.



On 13 April 2025, two Russian Iskander-M operational-tactical missiles in conditions of heavy electronic warfare countermeasures and foreign-made air defence systems in action struck the site in Sumy where commanding officers of the Seversk Task Force had a meeting. As a result, more than 60 senior servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine were eliminated.

In both these cases, military meetings were held in an urban, densely populated area, which demonstrates the blatant disregard of the Kiev regime for the lives of Ukrainian civilians, who are being essentially used as human shields to cover for Kiev's military activities. Moreover, in the case of Sumy, the Kiev regime had been deliberately openly advertising the planned ceremony of decorating high-level servicemen and luring civilians there.

We call on representatives of relevant international organizations and United Nations Member States to question any information of this kind being disseminated by the Ukrainian side. The data it presents should be carefully analysed, considering the Kiev regime's vested interest in continuing combat operations, its unwillingness to resolve the conflict through diplomatic means and its determination to drag third countries into direct confrontation with the Russian Federation.

Against this backdrop, the Ukrainian Armed Forces continue their barbaric attacks on Russia's civilian population. On the night of 15 April, the Kursk region suffered from the heaviest Ukrainian drone assault to date, aimed at inflicting maximum damage to ordinary people. A total of 109 drones deliberately targeted residential areas and civilian infrastructure. As a result, an elderly woman lost her life, and nine other civilians were injured, getting shrapnel wounds, traumatic brain injuries and burns. Twenty-four apartment buildings were damaged, three of them severely, as well as three private homes. An ambulance garage was hit, damaging 11 emergency vehicles.

Additionally, in violation of the Russian-American agreement to halt strikes on energy infrastructure for 30 days, beginning from 18 March, Ukraine has continued its attacks on such objects. Despite President Zelensky's declaration that the terms of the "energy ceasefire" would be honoured, the Ukrainian military forces have never stopped their strikes on Russian energy facilities. From 18 March to 14 April, they launched 101 attacks of this nature. Notably, on the night of 24 March, Kiev attacked the "Kropotkinskaya" oil pumping station of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, which includes American companies like Chevron and ExxonMobil among its shareholders. On 21 March, as the Ukrainian Forces were fleeing from the Kursk region, they blew up a gas measurement station "Sudzha". On 28 March, they used HIMARS rockets to destroy this station altogether. This proves the inhumane and terrorist nature of the Kiev regime and its complete unreliability.

I would be grateful if the present communication could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 (a) and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia