



**EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

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PRESS RELEASE ON SITUATION AROUND UKRAINE

On 21st of May, the Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova issued the statements regarding the situation around Ukraine at briefing:

**Fake news disseminated by US and Canada on the work of
the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine**

We have noted another example of misinformation and blatant propaganda by representatives of the United States and Canada in the OSCE.

On May 14 and 15, during a meeting of OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and a briefing by Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine Yasar Halit Cevik for OSCE member states, the United States and Canada made an attempt to accuse Donetsk representatives of aggressive actions towards OSCE observers. This allegedly took place during the mission patrol's monitoring of the territory. US and Canadian representatives claimed that on May 8 the mission representatives, who were launching a drone over Gorlovka, were attacked by members of self-defence forces, who "seized the observers, threw them face down in the mud, twisted their arms and pulled guns on them."

This false information was refuted by Yasar Halit Cevik, who said that Mission members overall feel comfortable in Donbass, with local residents showing no aggression, while the self-defence forces' members did not pose any threat. In fact, according to Mr Cevik, the incident on May 8 was solely a misunderstanding between the self-defence forces and the mission observers, which led to a three-hour patrol

delay. After these facts were made public, our US colleagues started accusing everyone of conducting 'disinformation campaigns.'

The fact of such appalling lies by officials who represent two large powers in the major European organisation is simply outrageous. Their attacks are particularly reprehensible as Donetsk representatives had no opportunity to respond to them. We urge our partners to refrain from resorting to rumours, unconfirmed facts, fake and false information and innuendos as this all turns into absolutely outrageous and blatant propaganda. We call for focusing on constructive efforts to facilitate settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict in Donbass.