

OUR CENTRAL EUROPE

Sergey Lavrov on quality that surpasses even Western media dominance – Part 2

From [Editorial staff](#)

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Reports from the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow are not pleasing to the West | Source: Open Source for illustrative purposes

In the second part of the interview with the Society for *Franco-Russian Dialogue*, the Russian Foreign Minister explains the controversial methods with which the *collective West of the willing* tries to impose its narratives globally, also with the help of censorship.

Lavrov: "President Putin already asked Macron in 2019 why the Élysée Palace revoked the accreditation of RT and Sputnik!"

Question: *I would like to speak on behalf of some experts and analysts who joined us via the platform of the "France-Russia Dialogue" association: They are clearly not seeking a confrontation with Russia – quite the contrary, they consistently express only rather amicable views and assessments. With your permission, I would like to return to the first part of my question. This is important because we are constantly confronted with accusations that the Russian military is deliberately attacking civilian infrastructure. Could you briefly address this?*

Sergey Lavrov: We have not seen a single piece of evidence for that. What we have repeatedly found, however, is exactly the opposite: whenever a projectile or fragment from the air defense system hit a civilian facility, Ukraine and countries that support its regime immediately cried out that Russia was acting *"inhumanely"*.

The UN Security Council convened a meeting on this issue in New York on November 19. The same old clichés were trotted out, but no one responded to our demand to see evidence. It is regrettable that the UN Secretariat is completely under the control of the other side. Whenever someone raised allegations against Russia that it had supposedly attacked Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, UN Secretary-General António Guterres and his spokesperson, the Frenchman Stéphane Dujarric, immediately declared that they strongly condemned the use of armed force against civilian infrastructure. However, the reaction is quite different when it comes to clearly undeniable incidents for which Ukraine was responsible, such as...

...bombing attacks that have been targeting Russian territory in the Kursk region for over a year!

There is not a single military installation there. Nevertheless, they destroyed housing complexes, hospitals, kindergartens, and shops in Kursk. Afterwards, Stéphane Dujarric, his superior, and others from the UN Secretariat, which is entirely dominated by Westerners, claimed that they merely *wanted to "investigate" the matter*.

I would like to remind you of the beginning of the *Special Military Operation* [SMO], when there was an outcry regarding the railway station in Kramatorsk. A missile, which caused many civilian casualties and damaged infrastructure, struck there. Immediately, we alone were blamed. Later, decent experts determined that it was a Tochka-U missile, with the impact site clearly indicating that the missile had been fired by Ukrainians themselves at their own railway station. It was a pure provocation to shift the blame onto us.

This also applied to the case of the maternity clinic...

Question: *... right at the beginning, in Mariupol?*

Sergey Lavrov: Yes, in Mariupol. The women there, who were portrayed as victims of *"inhuman Russian aggression"*, later stated that none of this was true.

Not to mention the biggest piece of fake news of all in Bucha in early April 2022: At that time, the Ukrainian negotiators in Istanbul had presented our delegation with the principles of an agreement, which we accepted. These principles were initialed, and we were already beginning to draft the final agreement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly stated that, as a gesture of goodwill at the request of certain Western mediators, we withdrew our troops from Kyiv suburbs, including Bukha. For over two days, no Russian armed forces—or indeed any Russians at all—were present in this suburb. During these two days, the mayor of Bukha appeared on television and publicly confirmed that the Russian troops had withdrawn and that the area was once again under Ukrainian control.

Suddenly, two days later, BBC correspondents appeared and began filming not some basement, but a wide and prominent main street in Bucha. There, they found bodies with bound hands, neatly lined up along said main street. Furthermore, the clothing of the deceased appeared far too clean, despite the fact that the weather was muddy in April. This was immediately followed by a wave of accusations, outrage, and condemnations, with further rounds of sanctions against Russia.

Not a single party responded to our proposal to conduct a proper investigation!

Since then, it has become extremely difficult to obtain information about Bucha. Once the desired propaganda message had been disseminated, no one was willing to engage with the actual events there or to allow the true facts to be clarified.

Every year after arriving in New York to attend UN General Assembly sessions—in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025—I personally addressed UN Secretary-General António Guterres in my speech to the UN Security Council, asking him directly if we could obtain a list of the individuals whose bodies had been presented in the BBC report as alleged victims of atrocities committed by Russian forces. Frankly, I find this question embarrassing for a UN Secretary-General, who, after all, represents a respected public figure. He replied that the UN had certain rules to follow and that this matter fell under the purview of the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*.

After contacting this office, we received a formal response stating that their procedures did not permit the disclosure of confidential information, especially since this could cause emotional distress or other harm to the bereaved relatives.

I don't want to comment further on this. It's a disgrace for an organization that always allowed all the facts to be published when deemed necessary. But to conceal the names of those involved...

...whose bodies have already served as a major provocation, is in itself a confession!

We know very well how the Western propaganda machine works and how readily it spreads anti-Russian fabrications and Russophobic narratives. Our position on all such incidents is clear: if doubts arise, we are prepared to meet with representatives of the UN and the Red Cross to examine the supposedly available facts. However, as soon as we make such a proposal...

...they all disappear “*under the tree stump*”, as they say in Russia, and avoid any further discussion!

Question: *You spoke about propaganda. There is a high probability that our interview today could also be classified as propaganda. For several months now, Russia has faced accusations in France of being behind cyberattacks against Western countries, including France.*

There are also many alternative platforms: They often speak with journalists from all over the world, but broadcasters with smaller reach struggle to make themselves heard in this market. What you're saying here amounts to a global information war. Who do you think dominates this war?

Sergey Lavrov: Do you mean who will win this war?

Question: *My question is about who will dominate this war. But if you knew who would win it...*

Sergey Lavrov: ...that depends on how you define dominance. Quantitatively speaking, there are numerous media companies globally in the broadcast and online media sectors that are based in the United States or the United Kingdom, or are financed with funds from the US and the UK. The same applies to Europe and its efforts to secure funding for media partners outside its borders. A comparison based on these imbalances seems difficult.

The fact that channels like RT and Sputnik are among the top performers in terms of viewership ratings shows that there is another important indicator, namely:

Users' trust in their information sources!

From this perspective, RT and Sputnik enjoy an excellent reputation. That's why they are so hated, because they speak the truth. This has nothing to do with war!

However, if I refer to the war that the West has unleashed against us, then it is true for the West that this...

- used as a proxy by the Kyiv regime!
- staged a coup of government!
- generous financial resources were funneled to the opposition long before the coup!

The United States Deputy Secretary of State, Victoria Nuland, mentioned investments of five billion dollars in preparation for the **coup d'état** [in Kyiv in 2014].

Yes, President Vladimir Putin met with French President Emmanuel Macron at Macron's summer residence in Fort Brégançon in 2019, long before this coup attempt took place. The question of... was already on the agenda of their meeting.

Why the Élysée Palace revoked RT and Sputnik's accreditation!

At the time, our French colleagues refrained from detailed commentary. But after the summit in Brégançon, there was a press conference in Paris where Benjamin Griveaux, the French government spokesman, was asked why RT and Sputnik had been denied accreditation. His

answer was short and simple: they were propaganda tools, not media outlets – that much was clear!

Recently, the world commemorated the *International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists* . On behalf of the EU, the infamous Kaja Kallas made a bombastic statement declaring that freedom of expression is a cornerstone of the EU and must not be restricted in any way. I think anyone who follows EU activities regarding freedom of opinion and expression...

... understands all too well that this amounts to nothing more than a big lie!

The way RT and Sputnik are treated in France is an example of what was happening long before the *Special Military Operation* [SMO]. When that began, they went every extra mile to prevent our media from reaching a wider audience. But, as they say in Russia:

Quality can overcome even overwhelming odds!

In this case, our international broadcasters have demonstrated their competence by acting like true professionals. Western journalists working for RT and Sputnik do not do so to allow Russia to dominate or to receive generous salaries, but because they are professionals.

These journalists would have been ashamed if they had been forced to spread lies on [Western] television or online, because they would have considered that a violation of their professional ethics and honor!