



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1421<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**4 May 2023**

Mr. Chair,

Once again this week, including last night, the Russian Federation has demonstrated – by raining missiles on cities while people slept – that it has no interest in the peace and security of Europe. This has been perhaps the largest Russian missile attacks against Ukraine this year, targeting Kyiv, Uman, Kherson, Odesa and other cities and town, and killing dozens of further civilians.

Mr. Chair,

Once again, Russian air strikes have been directed, with devastating effect, at civilian objects within Ukraine, destroying homes and apartment buildings far from the front lines of battle. Once again, Russia has shown no regard for international humanitarian law's protections of civilians from the ravages of war. Instead, once again, Russia has made it abundantly evident that its true strategy is simply to take aim at those civilians and to attempt to terrorize Ukrainians into surrender.

But on the front lines, it is equally evident that there will be no surrender, as Ukraine holds firm against a disorganized, inhumane onslaught. They continue to defend their territory, their sovereignty, their language and culture, and their right as an independent state to choose their own path.

Mr. Chair,

This week, the United States released estimates of Russian losses in Bakhmut. They have estimated that In the area of Bakhmut alone, Russia has suffered 100,000 casualties, including 20,000 dead, in the last five months of fighting.

One-hundred-thousand dead or wounded in 150 days – that's over 650 casualties per day.

And that's 130 dead per day – sacrificed by their government in pursuit of Putin's meaningless, neo-imperialist war. And that is only one side.

And why? Because of a military campaign that puts no value on human life. Because of the path that the Kremlin has chosen - to seek death, destruction and destabilization in a twisted attempt to shore up its own political power, while turning its back on its commitments to this organization to work for comprehensive security in the region.

Mr. Chair

I have no doubt that my Russian counterpart will take the floor later today to, once again, perpetuate the Kremlin's lies and disinformation and to push the blame for this conflict to Ukraine and "the West."

I will say, once again, in response, that this is a war of Russia's choosing. It is Russia that holds full responsibility for this conflict in Ukraine, it is Russia that holds responsibility for the deaths of civilians and indeed for the deaths of those citizens of the Russian Federation that it has sacrificed to its war machine.

Mr. Chair,

We call, once again, upon Russia to end its war of aggression by immediately and unconditionally withdrawing all troops and military equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine, including Crimea. We call upon Russia to immediately end the deportation of civilians, including children, from occupied territories, and to end the violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law being perpetrated against the people of Ukraine. Canada stands firmly with Ukraine, and we will continue to do so for as long as it takes.