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Buantoscáireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria

Statement by Ireland

OSCE Special PC on 6 October 2023

Mr Chair,

Ireland fully aligns with the statement made by the EU and I would like to add some comments in our national capacity.

Ireland condemns in the strongest possible terms attacks against civilians and civilian objects, which are prohibited by international law.

We are appalled by yesterday's attack on civilians in the village of Hroza and further tragic attacks overnight in Kharkiv.

The scale of human suffering unleashed by Russia's war of aggression on families and communities across Ukraine is indefensible. Our thoughts and condolences are with the families of the victims.

Those who order and carry out such attacks will be held accountable for their actions and the devastation caused.

This week, the Permanent Mission of Ireland heard the testimony of a Ukrainian mother who was arbitrarily detained by Russian Armed Forces, kept in captivity in appalling conditions, denied urgent medical treatment and forced to listen to her son being tortured.

We also heard the plea of a mother whose son, a civilian, was shot at whilst taking his step-mother shopping in Bucha. Some days later, he was taken captive and, more than a year later, remains in detention in a Russian prison.

He, like thousands of others, is being held hostage by the Russian Federation and used as a pawn in its despotic campaign.

Ireland commends the bravery and fortitude of these women, who travelled to the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference this week to bear witness to Russia's war crimes.

Mr. Chair,

The world sees what Russia is doing.

The world sees an expansionist power carrying out an unprovoked, unjustified and brutal aggression against its neighbour.

The world sees Russia inflicting terror on Ukraine's civilian population including the most vulnerable – children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

No amount of historical distortion, no amount of obstruction in this forum or in other fora, and no amount of cynical accusations of the bad faith of others can justify or change the reality of what is happening in Ukraine.

The world sees what Russia is doing and Ireland will continue to work with international partners to ensure that Russia is held accountable for its actions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.