



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine on the current issue
“Wounding and illegal detention of the Georgian citizen by the Russian
occupation forces”**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1275th meeting of the Permanent Council,
16 July 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the statement made by the European Union. Now let me add few points in my national capacity.

Ukraine strongly condemns the reported illegal actions by Russia-led occupation forces in Georgia, which resulted in shooting, wounding and detention of a Georgian citizen Zaza Gakheladze near the administrative line of the Georgian region of South Ossetia, occupied by Russia.

This act of provocation is just another evidence of Russia’s aggressive policy, which is detrimental to the European security. By realizing the practices of detentions, abductions, tortures and killings, Russia continues systematically and unprecedentedly to violate the norms of international humanitarian law.

International community must not leave this and other examples of the ongoing Russian aggression against independent states in the OSCE area without a strong-willed reaction.

We call upon the Russian Federation to fulfill its obligations under the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement, withdraw its armed formations and occupation administrations from the temporarily occupied territories of Georgia and provide unhindered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected areas.

Ukraine consistently reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and demands that the Russian Federation immediately cease its destabilizing actions against the Georgian civilian population, provide unimpeded access to Georgia's occupied territories for the international human rights and monitoring organizations as well as ensure the return of the detained and wounded Georgian citizen.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.