



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

### **Statement on the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, to the 1374th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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#### **Mr. Chairperson,**

First of all, I would like to thank to mayor of Okhtyrka Pavlo Kuzmenko for his testimonies.

His presence here reminds that the war is just a few-hours drive from Vienna.

As it was mentioned, five missile hit Okhtyrka a few days ago.

A kindergarten was damaged. There was no military. What was the sense to attack the peaceful city? Does Russia attempt to take revenge on peaceful people who withstood its previous attacks?

This is pure terrorism, isn't it?

And 85 days of ongoing destruction, killing and brutality demand us to step up efforts in order to stop this nightmare in Europe.

Despite its strategic failure, russia's military carries out missile and bomb strikes across the territory of Ukraine

Kremlin continues intensive shelling in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

A number of missile strikes has increased in the south-eastern regions of Ukraine and in the Odesa region.

In most cases russia uses air-launched cruise missiles from long-range aircrafts without entering the airspace of Ukraine.

There is a threat of strikes by naval-based cruise missiles from ships and submarines from the Black Sea and missiles from the Bastion coastal missile systems.

In the north, where we forced the enemy to withdraw, the border areas of Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy regions are being shelled from russia's territory.

At the same time the fame of aggressor accomplice haunts the mind of Belarus as its troops are actively maneuvering along the border with Ukraine. Activity of the Belarusian troops has intensified following the CSTO summit in moscow.

As president Zelenskyy said last week, "russia's strategic defeat is already obvious to everyone in the world [...]. Russia simply lacks courage to admit it so far [...] And they are trying to hide the truth behind missile, air and artillery strikes".

However, this denial of reality leads to massive casualties among the civilians.

So far, russia's war has broken lives of 653 children in Ukraine. 229 of them were killed and 424 injured.

Only this week, a nine-year-old child has been seriously injured when russia's rocket hit the city of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region.

A day before a six-year-old girl was injured in the Odesa region. On that day russia damaged two recreation centres and 15 private houses.

Such a grim reality once again refutes claims by moscow that they do not target civilian objects.

For instance, last week, in Odessa, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission corroborated and documented the recent damage caused by russia's rocket fire.

Mission members visited two houses, a monastery, a shopping center and a hotel on the seaside. According to the Mission, the attacks killed at least nine people - five women, including one child; four men, including one boy. At least 21 others were injured.

Most of the civilian casualties corroborated by the UN Mission in general were caused by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes.

While russia is terrorizing one part of Ukraine, the invaders are trying to consolidate its control over the temporarily occupied territories.

They continue illegal detentions of representatives of local self-governance, media workers, activists, ordinary citizens.

In Kherson region they keep hostage 120 Ukrainian citizens. Only two days ago, invaders abducted Oleksiy Vorontsov, an engineer of the Ukrainian media outlet "Suspilne Kherson".

In Zaporizhzhia region, russian military detained 280 persons. 163 of them were released but 117 are still held hostage.

Earlier this week, on the SHDM margins a father told a story about kidnapping of his 16-year-old son, Vlad Buriak.

It is unacceptable. Children must never be a target of someone's geopolitical games. And we demand his immediate release as well as of all other illegal detainees.

However, this shows how russia's war has touched upon every single family in Ukraine.

And this proves why we should not let this war to enter a protracted phase and why vladimir putin has to lose in Ukraine.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Last weekend we paid tribute to the victims of the Nazi regime in Ebensee and Mauthausen.

Thousands of people never managed to return from these camps where the daily concentration of violence, suffering and pain was extremely high.

However, when passing through the remnants of barracks, one can realize that we experienced similar evil in the East of Vienna, in the soviet camp.

In those barracks people were also exposed to tortures, forced labour and execution.

However, these crimes committed by the soviets were left largely unpunished.

And today we are witnessing their repetition in Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, Borodyanka, Mariupol and other places occupied by the russian military.

These cities added their names to a list of places across Ukraine where thousands of people were executed by the soviets. Among them - Pyatihatki in Kharkiv, Rutchenkove Pole in Donetsk, Demyaniv Laz in Prykarpattia, Sucha Balka in Luhansk region, Khalyavyn near Chernihiv and many other sites.

And today we again are experiencing tortures, summary executions, forced deportation, filtration camps, massive and systematic persecution on political grounds.

Yesterday's commemoration of the victims of the Crimean Tatar People Genocide is another evidence of how the evil replicates itself.

Like 78 years ago, when about 200,000 Crimean Tatars faced ethnic cleansing by the soviet regime, Russia continues its try to destroy their identity.

Like 78 years ago, 64,000 people, including Crimean Tatars, have been forced to leave Crimea since its temporary occupation by russia in 2014.

And again, like during 70 years of soviet regime, kremlin forcibly deports hundreds of thousands of our people to remote areas in russia.

The Ukrainian people has endured through enough of suffering, sacrifice and hardship. This makes us value human life and dignity the most. And Mariupol remains both a bleeding wound and a symbol of resistance of Ukraine. As many other cities.

And here I want to quote President Zelenskyy. And I quote "Ukraine needs Ukrainian heroes alive. This is our principle". End of quote.

This very principle guided our President to take a decision about the evacuation of defenders of Mariupol. And their heroism and bravery will be remembered forever.

The evacuation mission continues, it is overseen by our military and intelligence with the involvement of the most respected international mediators.

And we expect that the norms of international humanitarian law and respective agreements will be respected in due course.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Seeds of unpunished evil will shoot one day with new crimes. That's why we have to break this vicious circle by bring all responsible to account.

To that end, Ukraine is closely working with international institutions, including the International Criminal Court, and with participating States in order to ensure independent and transparent investigation into crimes, human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed in the context of the ongoing Russia's war.

This week a team of 42 investigators, forensic experts and support personnel has been deployed to Ukraine to advance the investigations into crimes falling into the jurisdiction of the ICC and provide support to Ukrainian national authorities.

This represents the largest ever single field deployment by the ICC since its establishment.

According to the ICC Prosecutor's Office, this team will also engage with a team of French forensic experts on the ground in Ukraine in order to ensure continuity and continuation of their work with respect to the identification of remains, ballistics analysis and the storage and preservation of forensic evidence.

While our common efforts focus on alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and crime of genocide, the time has come to complete the architecture of international criminal justice initiated by the 1942 London Declaration.

We need to fill the existing gap and establish a Special Tribunal with a specific jurisdiction over the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

We cannot allow the impunity to flourish.

Russia has to stop the war, withdraw its troops, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and, of course, to assume the responsibility for all crimes committed against the Ukrainian people as well as to provide assurance of non-repetition of the aggression and reparation to the victims and return to the tenets of international law.

And I would like to conclude my statement with appeal of Nariman Dzhelyal, a political prisoner and first deputy head of Crimea Tatar Mejlis, he made to Crimean Tatar people on yesterday's commemoration.

"My people, you have the strength to withstand this new challenge. Don't be afraid of the truth, no matter how hard and painful would be your path". End of quote.

And I believe that we, as international community, have the same strength to force russia to restore justice without compromising on our principles, values and commitments.

**I thank you, Mr Chairperson.**