



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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We are approaching three years since the Kremlin's full-scale war of aggression, which it continues to brutally wage in contempt and blatant contravention of all ten Helsinki Final Act principles. And today we conclude another year in this Council of documenting Russia's atrocities and abuses, of Permanent Council meetings highlighting Russia's culpability, and Ukraine's courageous defense of its sovereignty and our shared values.

We've witnessed repeatedly over the last year what Russia's war has meant for the security of the OSCE region and our people. Take the example of Kherson: Between July 1st and October 31st, Russia reportedly surged drone attacks against civilian infrastructure in the city. City officials recorded more than 5,000 drone attacks which killed 30 civilians and injured more than 400 others.

In one of these attacks, Angela Dobrovolsky watched her husband Serhiy die. Serhiy had stepped into his back yard to chat with the neighbor when a Russian drone dropped a grenade on him.

Russia is unrelenting in deploying waves of missiles and drones against Ukraine. On December 15th, Russia reportedly launched 132 kamikaze drones at targets in Ukraine. The following day, it launched another 100.

All of this is not a sign of strength, but rather of the Kremlin's weakness and desperation. The Kremlin is facing the massive strategic failure of its war of conquest. It has lost hundreds of thousands of troops to injury or death, forcing it to mobilize and recruit convicts from the prison system. Its defense budget is the largest since 1991, skewing Russia's economy in ways that prioritize the Kremlin's war of aggression rather than the needs of Russia's citizens.

Putin has no friends, only countries that will do business with him. Because of his aggression, Russia is more isolated than ever and is reduced to deepening partnerships with the world's most unsavory regimes – like the DPRK and Iran. Russia has sourced drones from Iran; it has become increasingly reliant on the People's Republic of China and others to feed its defense industrial base; and now, it has deployed over ten thousand DPRK soldiers to Kursk.

Madam Chair, there have been zero indications this year that Putin has changed his war objectives, or that Russia is willing to engage Ukraine in good faith. Indeed, last week

Putin's Security Council Deputy Head Dmitry Medvedev threatened that other unspecified "new" and "very close regions" might forcibly become part of Russia.

So, while Mr. Putin carries out his brutal war into the new year, the United States stands with over 50 nations providing assistance to Ukraine. We stand united in upholding the sovereign right of all countries to defend their territorial integrity and to chart their own future.

We stand with Ukraine.

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