



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 1360th special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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Mr. Chairperson,

I want to start with expressing condolences to the entire OSCE team. The Russian war has claimed the life of Maryna Fenina, a national member of the OSCE SMM. She died, as many other civilians, under heavy and targeted shelling of peaceful Kharkiv.

This is an ugly face of a full-fledged and total war of aggression that was launched by Russia against Ukraine precisely a week ago.

Since then, we have learnt more than enough about Kremlin's plans.

As secret documents captured yesterday by the Ukrainian armed forces revealed that a military intervention was approved on 18 January. It means that planning of operation itself was conducted long before.

Some Russian regional media, having been isolated from reality by 'successes' of Kremlin's propaganda, even started making publications that certain Ukrainian regions have declared the establishment of so-called federal republic of Ukraine.

And how many times were the Russian diplomats telling lies to us saying that there are no such plans? No preparations? No invasion?

Now it is clear that these plans are about toppling of democratically elected government and dismantling of the Ukrainian state.

But there is one folk wisdom and I am pretty sure that in the Russian Federation as well.

They say, one has to be careful what you wish for.

Distinguished colleagues,

Kremlin's war is accompanied with heinous war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Russia's missiles and air strikes have indiscriminate character.

Kharkiv and Mariupol, Kherson and Sumy, Okhtyrka and Izuim, Mykolaiv and Chernihiv, are under massive and systematic attacks.

Sartan, Vasytkiv, Shchastya, Borodyanka, and others were already levelled by Russian terrorist forces.

Can Russian diplomats explain why you are shelling them? Because they are not enough "Russian" and they do not want to throw flowers on Russian tanks?

Nevertheless, Russia's war crimes have no limits.

A maternity home in Zhytomyr was destroyed with the Russian missiles Calibre two days ago. A day before, a maternity home was hit in Kyiv area.

The number of kindergartens, schools, universities and hospitals shelled by Russian occupiers has exceeded 80.

It keeps growing every day.

To understand why they are doing so, it is enough to listen to what Putin said about Ukraine in recent days. And what he is saying is insane.

We all believed that there is no place for such ideas in Europe anymore.

But Putin is obsessed about a final solution of the so-called Ukrainian issue.

He wants to complete what the Soviet Union failed to do during the Holodomor – a planned genocide of the Ukrainians in 1932-1933.

And my question to the Russian delegation is what makes you different from the Nazi who also sought a final solution for other nations during the Second World War?

Unfortunately, history repeats itself.

On 1 March, the Kyiv TV tower situated on the territory of Babyn Yar was hit by a Russian missile.

Five people were killed and five wounded.

Let me quote a statement by Yad Vashem issued in this regard.

And I quote: "As we view images emerging from Ukraine showing innocent civilians fleeing from their endangered homes and pictures of the deadly Russian attack on the vicinity of the Babi Yar Holocaust memorial site, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, voices its vehement condemnation. [...]"

Babi Yar, was the site where over a two-day period in September 1941, special Nazi killing squads conducted a murderous action murdering some 33,000 Jews as part of the ideology of genocide perpetrated by the German Nazis and their collaborators. History must be remembered accurately and its moral lessons must be implemented truthfully by all". End of quote.

So far, 352 people including 16 children were killed. As well, 1684 people including 116 children were wounded during seven days of the Russian invasion.

These number keep growing. Many people have lost their homes.

According to the UN data, as the result of the war, 677 thousand Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes and to move.

More than 160 thousand became IDPs.

It is all you need to know about Kremlin's peaceful and limited military operation conducted with so-called precise weaponry, as it is widely advertised through Russian TV.

Furthermore, Russian army is met with widespread popular resistance in Ukraine. Whatever Russia's propaganda says, no single village and city in Ukraine want to see Russian occupants on their soil.

The latest example is when about 20 thousand of civilians are not allowing the Russian soldiers to enter Energodar, where the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe is located.

Pictures, showing that Russian soldiers are met with no flowers but with resistance, already went viral across the globe.

However, Putin does not care about his soldiers. Some of the units were sent through the Chernobyl exclusion zone, where they were exposed to a deadly increased rate of radiation due to the move of heavy military equipment.

So, my question is to the Russian diplomats. Are you fine with that? Just to know that your compatriots were sent by your own leadership to certain death? For what? Because of someone's fantasies from the past centuries?

Because someone is obsessed with such aberrations, like territorial ambitions, aggressive nationalism, re-creation of spheres of influence, totalitarian ideologies?

But Putin is not only in war with Ukraine and the whole world, but he is also in war with the Russian people, including with children.

Two days ago, 7-year-old David and Sofia, 9-year-old Matvey, 11-year-old Gosha and Liza spent a night behind bars in Moscow for their 'NO TO WAR' posters.

I even do not have words to properly describe it. What traits should a man have in order to go after children?

Regime of Putin is really afraid of the Russian people getting aware about the real consequences of the war he launched against Ukraine.

So far, according to independent monitoring data, almost 7000 peaceful protesters were arrested between in about 70 cities across Russia.

The Russian leadership attempts to conceal real losses of the Russian troops in Ukraine, afraid of mass anti-war protests.

Still, truth cannot be hidden. Sooner or later a moment of clarity will come.

And it is a good sign that even students of the MGIMO, a key university for the Russian diplomats, stand against the war. Because they understand that the launch of this unprovoked aggression destroys the future of the Russian people.

Distinguished colleagues,

Yesterday the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding from the Russian Federation to cease the use of force against Ukraine and withdraw Russia's military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

A day before the European Court for Human Rights asked Russia to refrain from military attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including residential premises, emergency vehicles and other specially protected civilian objects such as schools and hospitals, and to ensure immediately the safety of the medical establishments, personnel and emergency vehicles within the territory under attack or siege by Russian troops.

We call upon the Russian Federation to faithfully implement these decisions.

Especially, we call upon the Russian Federation to immediately cease its hostilities in Kharkiv and Sumy so that we can arrange the evacuation of the civilian population, including foreign students, to safer Ukrainian cities.

They cannot leave the area because of the indiscriminate shelling and barbaric missile strikes by the Russian Armed Forces on residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

Apart from that, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has decided to proceed with opening a formal investigation. It means that the whole world is closely watching crimes Russia is committing in Ukraine.

And last but not least, according to Ukraine's request, the International Court of Justice will hold public hearings on 7 and 8 of March.

Russia must be held accountable for manipulating the notion of genocide to justify its aggression against Ukraine.

Russia's top military and political leadership will be held accountable for every crime committed.

This will be the Nuremberg trials of the 21st century.

And it is time for the Russian diplomats to decide on which side of history they would like to be – with the Free World or with Russian war criminals by following their immoral instructions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.