



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE
1496th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 November 2024

Madame la présidente,

Cela fait maintenant près de 1 000 jours que ce Conseil est témoin des horreurs de l'agression illégale, non provoquée et injustifiable de la Russie contre l'Ukraine.

Au cours de cette période, nous avons entendu des récits de souffrances humaines inimaginables dans toute l'Ukraine.

Nous nous souvenons du bombardement par la Russie de la maternité de Marioupol.

Nous nous souvenons du bombardement par la Russie du théâtre dramatique régional de Marioupol, dont le toit portait l'inscription visible « enfants ».

Nous nous souvenons des rues de Bucha jonchées de corps lorsque la Russie s'est retirée.

Nous nous souvenons des missiles russes ciblant une gare animée à Kramatorsk, où 60 personnes, dont des enfants, fuyant les hostilités furent tuées instantanément.

Nous nous souvenons des charniers d'Izyum contenant des centaines de corps, y compris de femmes et d'enfants, dont beaucoup portaient des traces de torture.

Nous nous souvenons de l'attaque d'une veillée funèbre à Hroza, il y a un peu plus d'un an, avec une arme de précision.

Nous nous souvenons du bombardement du plus grand hôpital pour enfants d'Ukraine à Kyiv, qui soignait les enfants atteints de cancer.

Madam Chair,

While these are particularly shocking cases, the truth is that this war produces tragedy after tragedy on a daily basis.

On Thursday November 7, as we gathered here last time, it was reported that the Russian Federation launched five air strikes on Zaporizhzhya, killing 10 people, including a child, and injuring over forty others.

On the following night from the 8th to the 9th of November, Russia attacked Odesa, killing one person, and injuring 13, including two children aged four and sixteen. Casualties include a whole family with the death of a mother, and the injury of the father and child.

On that same night, officials recorded almost 200 Russian strikes on Sumy, which reportedly injured seven people and damaged critical infrastructure, private houses, a business, pharmacy and a school among other objects.

Then, Sunday night November 10, Russian forces attacked Odesa again, injuring two people.

On Monday of this week, yet another reported Russian attack on Zaporizhzhia killed one individual and injured at least 18, including five children. On the same day, another reported attack in Mykolaiv injured four people.

Two days ago, on November 12, in Kryvy Rih, the bodies of one woman and three children were recovered from under the rubble following a Russian missile attack on a residential apartment building. One of the children was not even a year old. Another fourteen people have been injured.

The sky above Ukraine continues to thunder as we sit here today. This detailed list of horrors is strenuous for me to deliver. It is a nightmare for Ukrainians who live through it every day. We call on the Russian Federation to end it now.

Madam Chair,

In closing, I would like to mark the two-year anniversary of the liberation of Kherson.

Kherson has seen some of the worst episodes of this aggression unfold and continues to be under attack by Russian forces. The city was flooded following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam, one of the worst human-made environmental disasters our region has ever seen.

Kherson's liberation came on the 11th of November 2022 – a day of remembrance for many, including my country. Let that also resonate for a moment. It certainly adds weight to the immortal words – Lest we forget. Canada certainly won't.

Thank you, Madam Chair.