



**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 1373rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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**Mr. Chairperson,**

“The world tried to catch me but failed”.

These words belong to Hryhorii Skovoroda, a Ukrainian philosopher and iconic figure in our culture.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May Russia destroyed his museum with a single missile in the Kharkiv region.

Russia can destroy walls. It has enough destructive means and especially a determination to do that. But Moscow will never manage to break the will and aspirations of our people, as 79 days of the struggle have proved so far.

Nevertheless, the saying by Hryhorii Skovoroda fits the best to illustrate the failure of Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Russia is trying to destroy Ukraine's statehood and to break the unity of democracies. But it failed to achieving this goal.

This failure explains Russia's attempt to take revenge on the free people of Europe.

Moscow is still trying to change the outcome of the war by provoking more tension in the region. Russian troops in the Transnistrian region of Moldova have been put in full operational readiness. Belarus, an accomplice of the aggressor, conducts snap military drills including in close vicinity to Ukraine's border that is additional evidence why Minsk should not chair the FSC.

Instead of looking for a solution, Russia further worsens the outcomes for itself.

Putin is still trying to establish full control over the territory of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson regions and maintain the land corridor between these territories and the occupied Crimea.

Just yesterday Russia's puppets said they would ask Moscow to annex the Kherson region even without the referendum.

At least, it shows how unstable Russia feels itself in the occupied territories without any popular support.

With strong pro-Ukrainian sentiments, it is a matter of time when these territories will be liberated.

Russia continues its desperate attacks on the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol. So, the Ukrainian flag is still flying over the city where Putin claimed victory 21 days ago and ordered to stop the operation.

However, only yesterday the defenders of Mariupol survived 38 airstrikes, including four strategic bombings. We call the Russian Federation to cease the attacks and allow safe evacuation of Ukrainian defenders from the plant.

At the same time the Donetsk region, Luhansk region and the Kharkiv region remain under constant shelling.

Recently liberated border areas of the Chernihiv and Sumy regions are regularly shelled from the territory of Russia. They are doing this just to terrorize our people.

With that obsession Russia resorts to shelling of Ukrainian territory. They even started to launch obsolete Soviet-made missiles. This poses additional risks for civilians.

On May 8, St. George's Hermitage, Holy Dormition Svyatohirsk Monastery, was destroyed after Russia's bombing, even though this is a church affiliated to Moscow patriarchate.

This is how the cancellation of culture by Russia looks like in a real life in contrast to a fake world Russia's diplomats are pretending to create in their statements.

With the same aggressiveness, Russia targets our medical facilities.

According to the World Health Organization 200 attacks on health care were verified in Ukraine since Russia's war has begun.

These attacks must stop. Healthcare is never a target, unless aggressor's intention is to undermine the well-being of the entire nation.

Moreover, when the world was commemorating victims of World War II earlier this week, Russia continued killing.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, after the Victory military parade in Moscow, Vladimir Putin laid flowers at the Unknown Soldier Memorial, including the stela of Odesa.

However, how cynical it was given that about 30 minutes before that four Russia's supersonic missiles Onyx hit Odesa.

These missiles were launched from the territory of Crimea, occupation of which in 2014 has become portents of today's all-out war in Europe.

How cynical Russia's care about World War II veterans looks like, after a house of 97-year-old Ivan Lysun was destroyed by Russia's militaries in Zolochiv, Kharkiv region.

How poor is Russia's propaganda that they continue exploiting name of Petro Dziuba, a pilot who shot numerous warplanes during the Second World War, on posters after Russian military bombarded a cemetery in Kharkiv where he was buried? Russians do everything possible just to instrumentalize the victory day.

How dishonorable Russia's statements about neo-Nazism are after the bombardment of Jewish cemetery in Hlukhiv, Sumy Oblast, which was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

While their previous attacks on the Babyn Yar in Kyiv and Holocaust memorial in Drobitsky Yarin in the Kharkiv region are still fresh in our memory.

And how a hard-hearted person has to be to separate a 4-year-old girl from her mother on the International Mother's Day after they had been evacuated from Azovstal in Mariupol.

Being a medical worker in the Azovstal was the only reason to send this woman in the filtration camp.

However, there must be no place for filtration camps and illegal deportations in modern Europe.

We have to do our best in order to erase these filtration camps from Europe's map. In the name of all victims who passed through nazis and soviets concentration camps.

And the mother of 4-year-old Alisa must be released immediately, like other our citizens, including hundreds thousands of those deported to russia.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

Russia has created the cult of "great victory" and instrumentalized it in order to cherish its neo-imperialistic ambitions.

Under this flag russian soldiers are killing Ukrainians with extreme brutality.

As of 10 May, the UN OHCHR recorded 7,256 confirmed civilian casualties in Ukraine: 3,496 killed and 3,760 injured. However, the real figures are considerably higher, as they do not include Mariupol.

And we have to get a good look at what is happening in russia and how these crimes became possible.

It is extremely worrying that today Russia is about the cult of leader, glorification of the past, total control over the media, propaganda of the hatred towards the West and dehumanization of Ukrainians, and fake democratic procedures designed in the interest of only one party.

We have seen all this in the grim past of the European continent.

And we know how this must end. All responsible must be brought to justice who ordered, who committed, and who whitewashed the crimes, especially war crimes and crimes against humanity.

That's why the establishment of a special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine to hold Russian leadership to account should be another part of our joint commitment to ensure that the tragedy, like we are witnessing in Ukraine, would never be repeated again.

However, russia's leadership not only orders to kill Ukrainians but also betrays its own soldiers.

It is emblematic that last week, a father of one of conscripts who served on the Moskva cruiser received an answer that his son was put on the list of missing persons, that he was not engaged in combat activities as the Moskva cruiser was not in Ukraine's territorial waters when it was sunk. What a lie.

According to Ukraine's Ministry of Interior, so far, we have received about 32 000 of requests concerning fate and whereabouts of russia's soldiers.

Kremlin just decided to abandon its soldiers, especially those killed, because it feels too weak to tell the truth about the war and real losses to its own people.

It is how Russia always betrays. Especially its own people.

And I call the russian diplomats to think about that.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

I would like to conclude my statement with another quotation of Hryhoriy Scoworoda.

"Seek what you want but do not lose peace".

Russia started this war. They wanted to conquer the sovereign nation and get the grandeur for their new empire.

It was a choice of the russian people to sacrifice peace for fantasies of their leader.

However, after all crimes committed by ordinary russia's soldiers, after all calls intercepted between soldiers and their wives when wives ask their husbands to rape Ukrainian women and kill Ukrainian children, we, as the international community, have to acknowledge that these fantasies are shared by russian people in general.

At the end they will get nothing but disgrace for generations to come.

And there is only one path to restore peace russia has lost.

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.

**I thank you, Mr Chairperson.**