



United States Mission to the OSCE

On Russia's Intensified Missile Attacks Against Civilian Infrastructure of Ukraine Amidst Russia's Ongoing Aggression

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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Last night's heinous attacks on Ukraine by Russia – President Zelenskyy reported Russia launched more than 60 Shahed drones and nearly 90 missiles – mark another dark chapter in the ongoing aggression against Ukraine and its civilian population. Reports are still coming in, but it is clear these attacks led to yet more civilian death and injury. The attacks reportedly struck numerous critical infrastructure sites, including the Dnipro hydroelectric power plant, resulting in damage, destruction, and degradation of internet, water, and heat supplies in multiple regions.

The Russian Federation has long engaged in a systematic and deliberate strategy to cripple Ukraine's power supply and, by extension, its people and economy. On March 4, before yesterday's horrific attacks, the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab identified and verified 223 attacks against Ukraine's power infrastructure across 23 of 24 of Ukraine's oblasts. The Yale researchers have been able to mathematically show that there was widespread and systematic bombardment of Ukraine's power generation transmission infrastructure in frontline and non-frontline areas from October 2022 to April 2023.

These attacks, including last year's devastating attack on the Nova Kakhovka dam, are a grim reminder of President Putin's playbook and reveal a callous disregard for human life. How else can we explain the indiscriminate attacks resulting in rampant death and destruction, or civilian infrastructure routinely targeted by Russian strikes, which has caused food and energy costs to rise, not only across Europe but around the world.

Russia's brutal campaign has inflicted an untold number of casualties. While we await the precise toll of this latest assault, the pattern is clear: Russia is responsible for horrifying loss of life. Its attacks must cease immediately. It is imperative that we, as the OSCE, hold Russia accountable for these actions, actions that starkly contravene the commitments all participating States, including Russia, have made in this organization.

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