



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1394<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**13 October 2022**

Mr. Chair,

We met two days ago in this body to urgently address Russia's mass missile strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure across Ukraine. Unfortunately, this urgency remains. Russia has not relented its ruthless attacks, seemingly trying to cripple the Ukrainian economy and make living conditions untenable in its major cities as winter approaches. The Kremlin claims to be fighting "Nazis" by firing on civilian centers, it claims to be liberating Donbass by destroying infrastructure over 1000 kms away in Lviv, and it claims to be defending itself from the West by decimating playgrounds, pedestrian bridges, and other so-called "military targets". In the face of military defeats, global alienation, economic decline, and domestic opposition, Putin is taking out his failures on the Ukrainian people. As Ukrainian Presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said this week "they want to just kill our people with cold and hunger... They want to kill. They don't even want to scare." In the face of Russian intimidation, Ukrainians tirelessly demonstrate continued resolve to defend their democracy and freedom. Canada will be there beside them every step of the way.

Yet, Mr. Chair, even in Russia, where there is no freedom of the press or expression, signs point to decreasing support for President Putin and his murderous and losing war against their sovereign neighbour. The Nobel peace prize that went to the Russian human rights organization Memorial, an organization we spoke of and defended here in this Council long before the war, is a demonstration of the struggle civil society is facing. There is also the pandemic of defenestration among an ever-growing number of Russian oligarchs, and the hundreds of thousands of Russians refusing to fight in Putin's war. Potential conscripts are fleeing Russia rather than be compelled to serve in the army. Others made their opposition to the mobilisation even more explicit by attacking conscription offices, with at least 25 enlistment offices damaged across Russia. Summons have reportedly been sent to people without military experience, who did not serve in the army, including those over 60 years old and the fathers of many children. Some who refuse conscription are publicly beaten, while others intentionally injure themselves so they cannot be mobilized. And we hear of conscripts coming back in body bags from suicides and unknown causes before they're even sent to the front. This war is also a tragedy for many, many people in the Russian Federation.

Mr. Chair,

There is also evidence that the call-up is disproportionately targeting Russia's ethnic minorities. According to one report, over a thousand Crimean Tatars received conscription notices within just one day. And conscripts are being used as cannon fodder. New recruits are sent to the front line ill-equipped, poorly-trained, and unfed. Years of corruption and decay in Russia's military means that its leadership is failing in their responsibilities to supply recruits with food, clothing, safety gear, and other resources, with many even told to purchase their own gear when drafted.

We have also heard reports of the Russian military using "barraging military units" to block their soldiers fighting on the frontline from a massive retreat. Russians are hearing of the brutal onslaught against Ukrainians on Ukrainian sovereign territory and they do not want to be part of the Putin regime's imperial conquests. They do not want to kill.

Mr. Chair,

Canada condemns the continued and deliberate targeting of civilian and humanitarian targets during this brutal war of aggression in Ukraine by Russia. We deplore Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including attempts to claim ownership over Ukrainian territory through sham referenda, which the global community made even further clear yesterday they will never recognize. That the global community will never recognize this can be seen in yesterday's UNGA resolution condemning Russia's attempted annexation of Ukrainian territory. This was supported by 143 countries, and only two OSCE participating States voting against - Belarus and Russia, together with North Korea, Syria and Nicaragua

We call on Russia to release the three members of the SMM still illegally detained, to abide by its OSCE and other commitments, to end escalatory measures, and to immediately remove all Russian troops from Ukraine. We also reiterate our call on Aleksandr Lukashenko to refuse to cave to pressure from Putin to join his war against Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.