



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

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Madam Chairperson,

A few days ago, it was reported that Ukrainian journalist Viktoriia Roshchyna died in Russian captivity. Viktoriia was born on 6 of October. She didn't live to see her 28th birthday just days or weeks. She had worked as a journalist since her 16.

Her latest materials were focused on life under the occupation, as she believed that it was important not to forget about the people there.

Viktoriia was illegally detained by the Russian Federation in 2023.

According to Ukrainian NGOs, Viktoriia was held in, at least, two places – the penal colony in temporarily occupied Berdyansk and pre-trial detention centre in Taganrog, in the Rostov region.

Taganrog is also known as one of the most brutal places of detention for Ukrainians in the Russian Federation.

In both facilities, the Russians have been holding prisoners of war and civilians, including women, since the first months of their full-scale invasion.

The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine has initiated the investigation into the death of Ms Viktoriia Roshchyna under the articles on the violation of the laws and customs of war and premeditated murder.

This gross violation of the norms of international humanitarian law is not an isolated case and confirms the findings of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Report presented to the Permanent Council in April.

As concluded in the report, the arbitrary detention of civilians by the Russian Federation has been conducive to serious violations, including torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, sexual violence and other forms of ill-treatment.

In view of this, we are grateful to Canada and Norway for co-organizing a thematic conference on the fourth point of the Peace Formula "Release of Prisoners and Deported Persons" at the end of October. We should continue to look for solutions for all groups illegally detained by Russia, including civilians, prisoners of war, and children.

At the same time, we believe that the OSCE and ODIHR will remain seized of the matter and take further steps to address it, including by collecting and verifying data on civilian detainees and calling on the Russian Federation to release them immediately.

In addition, the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Mission “has also recorded cases of extrajudicial killings of arbitrarily detained Ukrainian civilians”.

This finding on extrajudicial killings is particularly relevant today, as the number of executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russians has sharply increased in 2024.

Just at the previous meeting, we informed about 16 Ukrainian defenders executed at once.

Now there are reports about nine POWs executed by Russians.

According to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General, summary execution is a systematic policy used as a weapon of war and intimidation.

One should also not forget the illegal use of chemical substances by Russia on the battlefield, in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

From 17 February 2023 to 16 September 2024, 4,228 instances of the use of chemical substances by Russia have been recorded.

This is to say nothing of Moscow's use of chemical weapons against its opponents and opposition politicians.

In view of this, we are grateful to the United Kingdom for imposing of restrictive measures against the Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defence troops of the Russian Federation and their commander for the use of chemical weapons in Ukraine.

We call on others to follow the case, including by speaking with one voice against Russia's election to the OPCW Executive Council for 2025-2027.

Unfortunately, this complete disregard for international humanitarian law also has global implications, as Russia has intensified attacks on Ukrainian port infrastructure and civilian ships.

Just a few attacks that took place in October.

On 2 October Russia attacked the port infrastructure near the border with Romania. Two drivers were injured. On 6 October, Russia attacked the Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged ship. On 7 October, the ship flying Palau flag was hit, one person was killed. On 9 of October, yet another civilian ship was hit, while eight people were killed in the port. On 14 of October the Odesa sea port was again attacked.

According to Ukraine's Ministry of Infrastructure, in total, Russia has already damaged 22 civilian vessels.

These attacks are a stark reminder that Russia has never given up its plans to weaponize food, by restricting Ukraine's food exports, thus undermining global food security, and threatening the supplies people worldwide depend on.

These gross violations of international law are also a stark reminder that the so-called “Russian troika”, consisting of the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister, must be held accountable, including through the establishment of a Special tribunal.

They must respond for the crime of aggression.

Distinguished colleagues,

Back in 1999, Vladimir Putin, at the beginning of his political career, warned that the main problem for Russia was its heavy imperial legacy.

However, 15 years later, with the occupation of Crimea followed by the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, this imperial legacy has been fully reincarnated by his regime through the persecution of the Crimean Tatar people and the massacre in Bucha, the

filtration of the disloyal and the deportation of children, the obliteration of entire cities for resisting the occupation and forced assimilation and so on.

And today, for Ukrainians, this struggle against Russia's imperial legacy has become a struggle for their identity, right to exist and for their future.

At the same time, the growing involvement of Iran and the North Korea makes the outcome of the Ukrainian battle also crucial not to open the Pandora's box.

Our intelligence observes not only the transfer of weapons from North Korea to Russia, but also the transfer of people. Workers for Russian factories to replace Russian citizens killed in the war. And personnel for the Russian army.

Moreover, Moscow's intention to ratify a treaty with the North Korea, which, among other thing, provides for assistance in the midst of imposed sanctions, is also a blow to the non-proliferation regime.

As President Zelenskyy said yesterday, "Russia and its allies want more wars. [...] The more time they have to learn how to bring only ruins, the more the world will pay later, unfortunately, for the right to life, for the right to peace".

That's why, the only realistic way to restore a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine was and is the Peace Formula, which is based on respect for the UN Charter and the full restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders.

So, we are grateful to the partners for helping Ukraine to implement its Peace Formula.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the French delegation for hosting the Nuclear Safety Conference in Paris.

The nuclear safety matters to all. The seizure of NPPs, as Russia has done with the ZNPP, or threats, with winter approaching, to attack facilities critical to the safe operation of other NPP in Ukraine is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated by the international community.

Also, unwavering solidarity with Ukraine in rebuilding it on its European path is also an integral part of our common victory.

Having said that, we are grateful to Switzerland for organizing the Mine Action Conference which opens today in Lausanne.

Humanitarian demining is essential to the reconstruction of the successful and prosperous Ukraine and contribution to global food security through the rehabilitation of environment and agriculture.

As President Zelenskyy stated, "Russia does not seek a just peace", however, "We all have to change the circumstances so that Russia is forced to peace".

This is the main idea of the Victory Plan presented by President Zelenskyy.

It means providing Ukraine with strong and consistent military support, lifting all restrictions on attacking legitimate military targets in Russia, increasing pressure on Russia through diplomacy and sanctions, holding the Russian leadership to account, and fully integrating Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

This will help to implement the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine, as the only path to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, rather than freezing and postponing a wider war.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.