



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 3, 2024

We meet here today while our colleagues and human rights and democracy champions from across the region are participating in the Chair's Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. They are discussing European security and how to preserve peace through the human dimension by holding Russia to account for its war against Ukraine, supporting Ukraine, and upholding our OSCE values and principles.

We deeply appreciate and value Ukraine's active participation in Warsaw to protect our shared values, even as it bravely defends itself against Russia's war of aggression. Though Russia continues to obstruct the mandated Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in an attempt to avoid criticism for Russia's forces' crimes against the people of Ukraine and its intensifying crackdown at home, the Kremlin will not escape accountability.

In Warsaw, we are spotlighting the tireless work of the OSCE to expose and document Russia's atrocities and abuses, including torture and ill treatment of Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war. The four Moscow Mechanism reports since the start of Russia's war ensure these crimes, and the people so cruelly subjected to them, are remembered. Working together to reinforce international law will make all of our countries safer and more secure.

In Warsaw, as here, we call for the Russian government to immediately and unconditionally release all those unjustly jailed on politically motivated charges, including civil society actors and journalists arbitrarily detained in temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine. That includes OSCE Special Monitoring Mission employees Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov.

The United States remains committed to promoting respect for the human rights of all in the OSCE region. There cannot be lasting security without respect for the rights and dignities of all who call it home.

As President Biden said on September 26 while welcoming President Zelenskyy to the White House, "for nearly three years, the United States has rallied the world to stand with the people of Ukraine as they defend their freedom from Russian aggression, and it has been a top priority of my Administration to provide Ukraine with the support it needs to prevail. In that time, Ukraine has won the battle of Kyiv, reclaimed more than half the territory that Russia seized at the start of the war, and safeguarded its sovereignty and independence." We will continue to support Ukraine's efforts to secure a just and enduring peace and to defend itself against Russia's attacks.

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