



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Deputy Assistant Secretary Sharon Hudson-Dean
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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On July 11th, 2022, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan publicly warned that the Iranian government was preparing to imminently transfer several hundred kamikaze attack drones to Russia to use in its war against Ukraine. Iran's Foreign Ministry strenuously denied this for months.

Since then, Ukraine reports Russia has launched over 8,000 Iranian-developed drones at targets across Ukraine. In other words, Russia deployed an average of 300 of these drones each month against Ukraine since July 2022, wreaking death and destruction on Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, and other cities across the country.

The United States and its partners have since shared evidence that Iran continues to transfer weaponry to Russia. On September 10th, we confirmed that Iran sent shipments of Fath-360 close-range ballistic missiles to Russia and assessed these could be deployed against Ukraine within weeks. This would enable Russia to use these short-range missiles against targets close to the war's front line while preserving longer-range strike capabilities for targets deeper in Ukraine. As we've seen, Russia often uses its long-range missiles to attack civilian infrastructure.

Iran persists with its weapons transfers to Russia despite repeated international calls to stop. This represents a further escalation of Iran's military support for Russia's war against Ukraine.

Iranian, North Korean, and the People's Republic of China's support to Russia which we have previously raised at the Permanent Council further the Russian war of aggression. A war that is in contravention of the UN Charter and in contempt of the Helsinki Final Act.

In contrast, Madam Chair, the assistance that the coalition of over 50 countries provides to Ukraine supports the defense of its people, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, in compliance with the UN Charter and consistent with Helsinki Final Act principles. Our support helps Ukraine intercept the drones Iran ships to Russia. Our support helps Ukrainians survive harsh winters when Russia attempts to freeze them into submission. Our support, including that provided by the OSCE, helps the people of Ukraine deal with the trauma inflicted on them by Russia.

We do this because we are committed to upholding our shared values and principles and international law. We will work with this coalition to support Ukraine as it pursues a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace to end Russia's war.

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