



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Special Discussion on the Escalatory Use of Strategic Weaponry in Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker to the joint Forum for Security Cooperation and Permanent Council, Vienna, November 27, 2024

For over 1,000 days now, Russia has carried out its brutal full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

Earlier in November, Russia introduced over 10,000 North Korean soldiers into Kursk. This is a serious escalation with security implications in both Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

We're now also seeing media reports that a Houthi-linked company has recruited – under false pretenses – Yemeni men to fight in Russia's war. Many of these men are promised high-paying jobs in Russia. But, when they arrive, they are instead forcibly inducted and sent to the front lines in Ukraine to fight for the Russian army.

On November 21st, Russia launched an experimental intermediate range ballistic missile attack against Ukraine. Russia may be seeking to use this capability to intimidate Ukraine and its supporters, but it will not be a game changer in this conflict.

Chairs, it is Russia that is widening this war. The only sensible decision for Russia is to stop this senseless war and respect Ukraine's right to sovereignty, freedom, and political independence.

Until then, the United States will surge security assistance to Ukraine and provide the support it needs to succeed on the battlefield. This includes providing additional artillery, air defense, armored vehicles, and other needed capabilities and munitions. We will continue to work with the coalition of over 50 partners to ensure Ukraine prevails in its just war of self-defense.

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