



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
1425th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 June 2023

Mr. Chair,

On Friday last week, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE Secretary General, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and its Secretary General made a joint statement denouncing Russia's intensified missile attacks against Ukraine. They underlined that these attacks constitute "major human rights violations, are contrary to international humanitarian law, and achieve nothing but indiscriminate death and destruction, including on civilians – women, men, boys and girls." We join them in condemning this senseless violence, committed against a civilian population that continues to pay a terrible price in this war.

Last night, another wave of ballistic and cruise missiles was fired on Kyiv, reportedly killing two women and an 11-year-old girl. Sadly, we understand that this child lost her life today, June 1st, the Day for the Protection of Children, a day that we note was first established by the Women's International Democratic Foundation in Moscow in 1949. The irony and tragedy of this runs thick.

Mr. Chair, in May alone, the residents of Kyiv were terrorized by Russian drones and missiles seventeen times. On May 30, 31 drones were reportedly launched at Kyiv, with 29 shot down. On the night of May 29, Russian forces launched up to 40 cruise missiles and 35 drones into Ukraine, 40 of which were directed at Kyiv. On the night of May 28, Russia launched 54 drones, with again more than 40 targeting Kyiv on the day it was celebrating its 1541st birthday. Before that, on May 26, the Russians launched eight S-300/S-400 missiles into Dnipro, hitting a medical facility. And this is all only in the time that has elapsed since we met in this Council one week ago. The World Health Organisation reports that Russia has carried out 1 000 attacks on Ukrainian medical facilities since launching its full-scale invasion. And while the Ukrainian Armed Forces are doing a remarkable job defending civilian infrastructure, each wave of attacks brings further destruction, injury, and death to innocent civilians.

Like the OSCE leadership, Canada continues to stand with Ukraine and remains committed to supporting its people. For us, this means raising the plight of Ukrainian civilians suffering from senseless attacks, from human rights abuses, from torture, and from displacement in fora such as this. It means supporting a range of international accountability efforts to bring possible war criminals to justice. We also continue to support the Government of Ukraine financially so it can dispense vital services to its civilian population, and we contribute to humanitarian efforts providing much-needed sustenance, shelter, and health services to those in the most vulnerable situations.

And, Mr. Chair, we, together with our partners around this table, continue to provide Ukraine with the training and military hardware that it needs to defend itself from Russia's ongoing aggression. During last week's Ukraine Defense Contact Group (UDCG) meeting, Defence Minister Anita Anand announced that we will send additional Canadian Forces medical trainers to Poland to double the number of potential Ukrainian Armed Forces graduates from the advanced medical skills training program. The Canadian Forces are also sending 43 AIM-9 missiles to help Ukraine secure its skies and its people in the face of ongoing Russian attacks. These are in addition to machine guns, assault rifles, cleaning kits, magazines, and ammunition which continue to be delivered since April, with all 21,000 small arms and 2.4 million rounds of ammunition expected to be in Ukraine by the summer. Finally, the Royal Canadian Air Force, based out of Prestwick, Scotland, has transported over nine million pounds of Ukraine-bound military aid donated by Canada and others within Europe. Canada will continue working closely with Ukraine and our partners to provide Ukraine with the support it needs as it continues its brave fight against Russia's illegal and unjustifiable war.

Mr. Chair,

Russia can end this war now by unconditionally withdrawing all troops and military equipment from all occupied Ukrainian territory, including Crimea. We call on it to do so immediately, to release all SMM staff and assets, and to abide by its obligations under international law and by its commitments to OSCE principles.