



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  
1384<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**28 July 2022**

Mr. Chair,

I would like to thank you for your opening remarks today, and to express Canada's full support for them. I would also like to congratulate the Ukrainian delegation on their first Day of Ukrainian Statehood. It will be the first of many to come for future generations of Ukrainians.

Mr. Chair,

Last Friday an agreement was reached promising to ease the global food crisis created by Russia. We salute the diplomatic efforts of Türkiye and the United Nations who brokered this agreement to unblock the export of millions of tons of Ukrainian grain. However, this "beacon of hope", as UN Secretary General Guterres described it, was immediately threatened following Russia's attacks on Odessa port on Saturday.

Once more, Russia has acted in contravention of an agreement that they themselves negotiated and agreed to, in this case only hours later. Once again, as we have seen over and over in this Council over the past five months, Russia has shown complete contempt for its international commitments. Its actions have repeatedly demonstrated the challenge facing both Ukraine and the international community in trusting Russia to act or negotiate in good faith.

Mr. Chair,

The recent interim report resulting from ODIHR's human rights monitoring in Ukraine confirmed and reinforced the findings from both reports of the Moscow Mechanism, namely that Russia is not complying with its obligations under International Humanitarian Law, and that its actions may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The report also provides critical assessments of the use, by Russia, of siege tactics to prevent civilians from fleeing combat; the non-voluntary evacuation of civilians to Russian-controlled territory; enforced disappearances; sexual and gender-based violence against civilians; and the ill-treatment of prisoners of war. All of these actions are abhorrent.

In the temporarily occupied territories, the Russian Federation is attempting to forcibly assimilate the Ukrainian population. The Russian government is limiting access to Ukrainian and independent information, taking control of telecommunication towers, and forcing local companies to work through Russian networks. The report informs that *“most of the residents of occupied territories experienced restricted or no access to electricity, internet and telephone connection, and Ukrainian media were increasingly replaced with pro-Russian broadcast coverage.”*

The interim report notes that Russian forces are abducting or detaining locally elected officials and replacing them with illegitimate proxies or officials brought in from Russia. They are replacing school curricula and textbooks with Russian curricula. They are putting the ruble into circulation to replace the hryvnia. They are changing street names. They are using graft and are stealing Ukrainian state assets and local revenue streams. Based on eyewitness interviews, many local businesses have suspended their activities due to the reported extortion by the Russian military forces.

More troubling still, Russia is forcing Ukrainians to apply for Russian citizenship, and has forcibly deported millions of Ukrainians from the occupied territories to Russia, including hundreds of thousands of children, according to reports. These deportations occur after a brutal “filtration process” confirmed by the interim report and the two Moscow Mechanism reports.

Yesterday many of us here had the privilege of hearing from survivors of the so-called “filtration camps”. Ukrainian civilians are forcibly detained in these camps, have their privacy violated, and are physically and psychologically abused. After the filtration process, many Ukrainian civilians are sent to prisons where they have given testimony of further torture, mistreatment, humiliation, and deprivation of food, water and medical care. These barbaric practices have no place in today’s world, and those responsible will be held to account.

Mr. Chair,

These practices violate Ukraine’s sovereignty, and are in contravention of occupying power obligations under the Hague Regulations on military occupation, and the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as customary international humanitarian law.

Annexation is also an illegal act prohibited by international humanitarian law. Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, and Crimea are Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied by Russia. They are not Russian territories, and will never be Russian territories. Canada will never recognize any attempt to annex Ukrainian territories into the Russian Federation.

The sham referenda Russia is reportedly planning to hold in the temporarily occupied territories will not deceive anyone. This is Russia's annexation playbook from 2014, which we know now well. Such referenda are illegal and their results will never be internationally recognized. Russia knows this.

Mr. Chair,

What Russia did last weekend, signing the agreement to release Ukrainian grain exports, then bombarding the infrastructure that enables grain ships to leave Ukrainian shores is simply inexcusable.

The international community has seen, repeatedly, that Russia chooses aggression and destruction over diplomacy. Given this, we have little interest or patience for discussions about "off-ramps" or "saving face" for Vladimir Putin. Mr. Putin chose to launch this brutal war, a war that has already cost Ukraine so much. It is up to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and to them alone, to determine on when and how to end this war. Canada will support the decisions of Ukraine in their fight for survival.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, we strongly condemn the unfounded accusations against a national member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, and we reiterate our call on Russia to immediately and unconditionally release all three national SMM members.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.