



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1405th special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to start with words of thanks to the Chairpersonship of North Macedonia for convening this special meeting.

A lot of developments happened to discuss even over a very short period since North Macedonia has assumed its OSCE Chairpersonship.

Kremlin's statements, ongoing attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure, as well as preparations for the next wave of mobilization testify to the fact that Moscow retains maximalist goals in its war of aggression against Ukraine and prepares for a new escalation.

We have to be vigilant and take preventive steps in this regard.

Just a few facts.

On the eve of the New Year Ukraine was attacked with 20 missiles launched from Tu-95MS bombers from the Caspian Sea and Iskander-M ground-based operational-tactical complexes.

As people were preparing to celebrate, residential areas were deliberately attacked.

In addition, in the first days of 2023, Moscow also attacked Ukraine with 84 Iranian-made kamikaze drones "Shahed-131/136".

A risk of a new air attack remains high across entire Ukraine. As it was the case before, a new attack takes place almost every two weeks.

Apart from that, Russia's terror takes place on a daily basis due to indiscriminate shelling of Ukrainian cities with MLRS and artillery.

The city of Kherson and liberated areas of the region remain under constant fire.

Two days ago, Russian invaders shelled a perinatal center in Kherson. One woman, a staff member at the center, was injured.

On January 9 as a result of a Russian missile attack on Ochakiv, Mykolaiv region, 10 people were injured, including a 2-year-old child.

On the same day, a market in Shevchenkove, Kharkiv region, was shelled. A 10-year-old girl was among the wounded.

And just yesterday we found out that a 6-year-old girl from Avdiivka died allegedly from a heart attack following constant Russian shelling of the city.

From the beginning of 2023, cities and villages of the Zaporizhzhia region have been under fire more than 600 times. In the night of January 12, russians again hit infrastructure facilities in the city of Zaporizhzhia.

Border areas of the Sumy and Chernihiv regions are constantly shelled from the russian federation.

Heavy fighting continues in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Reportedly, russians are preparing “false flag” operations there. For instance, according to available information, one of the russian units, that operates in Donetsk region, ordered for its personnel civilian uniform with logos of certain companies.

Such cities as Bakhmut and Soledar are literally being obliterated by russian occupation troops. They are trying desperately to occupy these cities for months to present, at least, some successes for moscow.

While Bakhmut and Soledar are currently the hottest spots in the russian war, however, it also demonstrates how we can effectively diminish russia’s goals – from ambitions to conquest all Ukraine to attempts to occupy certain cities.

Only supplies of weapons, including modern tanks, artillery and aircrafts, for Ukraine as well as introduction of sanctions against moscow and its international isolation will dry russia’s resources to kill and will force moscow to abandon its aggressive plans.

Dear colleagues,

Yesterday both delegations of russia and Belarus were also complaining that the OSCE has to be a place for a dialogue, where interests and concerns of all are being taken into account.

They believe, this is a justified aggressor’s bill to be paid by other states for peace and stability.

So, if we are about having an open and frank dialogue, so let’s name these “interests” of the russian federation.

These are dismembering of the Ukrainian state, killing of non-loyal Ukrainians, elimination of the Ukrainian political nation and its submission.

And let's be honest - an independent and democratic Ukraine is the main concern of the russian regime.

Do we really need more discussions about these “russia’s concerns”? Will any delegation be ready to tolerate such “russia’s interests” that will bring nothing else but new deaths to my country? Are thousands killed not enough?

Is this what the OSCE should stand for? To be a platform for russia to voice its genocidal intentions to continue the war against Ukraine “until its objectives are accomplished fully”?

I believe we deserved completely different discussions.

Colleagues, I want to put it as clearly as possible, when we hear calls from the russian side, whether here in the OSCE or in moscow, for diplomatic solutions and dialogue, russian invaders do not stop their shelling. Not for a second.

Likewise, a so-called “unilateral Christmas ceasefire” cynically announced by the russian president turned out, as expected, to be a complete lie and manipulation.

No matter what we heard from moscow, russian guns were not silent.

They don't need peace.

Otherwise, they would have reacted to a Peace Formula presented by Ukraine’s leadership.

On December 12, Russia received an offer to begin implementation of the Peace Formula with the withdrawal of occupation troops just on the Christmas Day.

This is a guaranteed and reliable way to cease fire, stop casualties and war in general.

However, the Russians didn't follow. They still believe that they are capable to turn the tide of war.

At the same time, even when Russian missiles and drones are not hitting our cities, the terror in the occupied territories continues.

As the President of Ukraine recently said, "Russians don't give Ukrainians any respite. People are tortured, electrocuted, raped.

This continues every day while the Russian soldiers are on our soil".

Recent illegal decree of the Russian president about enforcing Russian citizenship in the newly occupied territories is yet another evidence of Russia's willingness to continue the war and to assimilate the Ukrainian people.

The most appalling is that this decree aims to legitimize illegal deportation of 14-18-years old children to Russia for illegal adoptions as a part of Russia's genocide of Ukrainians.

As reported the Russian occupiers continue filtration procedures in the temporarily occupied territories of Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions.

Russians has not stopped mobilization in the occupied areas of Luhansk region. The beginning of the next wave of mobilization was reported in the city of Alchevsk since the 9th of January.

The aggressor-state also continues its repressive campaign in the occupied Crimea.

Yesterday, when we were in the inauguration of the Chairpersonship of North Macedonia, a so-called Russian court sentenced yet another Crimean Tatar, 42-year-old Imam Raif Fevziiev to 17 years in prison.

A day before, a Russian puppet court sentenced five other Crimean Tatar political prisoners – Servet Gaziev, Dzhemil Gafarov, Erfan Osmanov, Alim Karimov and Seyran Murtaza – to 13 years in prison each.

And on the 28th of December, citizen journalist Iryna Danylovykh was sentenced to 7 years in prison.

Fight for their release is a test for our Organization. We call upon the OSCE Institutions to address these cases.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, on the occasion of Lithuania's Day of Defenders of Freedom, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the Lithuanian Parliament.

During the tragic events of 11-13 January 1991, the Soviet armed forces killed 14 and injured 140 people because they wanted to live in an independent country.

We express our solidarity with the people of Lithuania.

Today the Ukrainians are also fighting for their free and democratic country. The reason is the same – the Kremlin's attempts to re-create an empire.

This additionally underlines the importance of breaking of a vicious circle of violence by bringing to account those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

This is the best way to prevent such crimes in the future and we must assure such a way to become inevitable for russian perpetrators in Ukraine.

We must ensure that the justice prevail with the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression, with uncompromised defence of our principles, with the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.