



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
POST-CONFLICT CONSTITUTIONS
WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION

PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council Statement in Response to the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

The Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council reiterates its support for the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, which has submitted its [second report](#) to the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council regarding events between 24 February 2022 and mid-January 2023.

The report has identified several critical findings. The evidence indicates that Russian authorities have committed a wide range of international human rights and international humanitarian law violations in many regions of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The report finds that some incidents amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including willful killings, attacks on civilians, unlawful confinement, torture, rape, and forced transfers and deportations of children. The report has also found reasonable grounds to conclude that the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and Russian armed forces' attacks against Ukraine's territory and armed forces, qualify as acts of aggression against Ukraine.

The findings of the Commission are particularly important in light of the recent news that the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, based on their responsibility for the war crime of unlawful deportation and transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. The Circle of Former Ambassadors supports the ICC decision to issue arrest warrants, and urges State Parties to assist the Court in securing the arrests, according to their obligations.

In light of the above, the PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council:

- Notes with approval the Commission's recommendations on the need for parties to the conflict to take necessary steps towards satisfying victims right to truth, redress and remedy, including the provision of compensation and rehabilitation;
- Strongly supports the Commission's recommendations on the identification of victims and the immediate provision of assistance to Ukraine to initiate efforts and support any action in this regard, even as the conflict is ongoing;
- Strongly supports the Commission's recommendations regarding the search for Ukrainian citizens, particularly Ukrainian children transferred to Russian territory, and the immediate identification of their families and communities;
- Commends the Commission's outstanding effort in meeting and interviewing victims in different regions and communities;
- Recommends and supports the coordination of international efforts to assist victims in their recovery; and
- Reiterates that by launching and continuing its unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, with the complicity of Belarus, Russia has challenged the core norms, principles, and commitments on which European and international security is built. These principles are enshrined in the UN Charter and the founding documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.

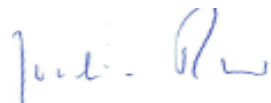
In advance of the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council's upcoming vote, the Circle urges the UN Human Rights Council members to vote to renew the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. The Circle calls on the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the resources and capacities of the Commission of Inquiry, providing all support required by the Commission of Inquiry as it carries out its responsibilities.

March 21, 2023

Zorica Maric Djordjevic
Former Ambassador of Montenegro, Chair



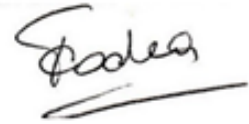
Joachim Rucker
Former Ambassador of Germany



Keith Harper
Former Ambassador of the United States of America



Filloreta Kodra
Former Ambassador of Albania



Tudor Ulianoschi
Former Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova

Tudor Ulianoschi

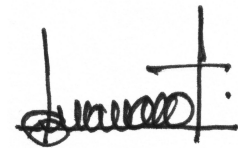
Amanda Ellis
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Former Ambassador of Guatemala



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