



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS  
POST-CONFLICT CONSTITUTIONS  
WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION

**To:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Member States of the Human Rights Council, and The United Nations Human Rights Committee

**From:** The Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors to the United Nations Human Rights Council

**Statement to Support Ukraine in light of the June/July 2022 - 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council/Geneva**

As the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council progresses in Geneva, the Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors to the Human Rights Council expresses grave concern about the catastrophic human rights and humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

Russia has besieged Ukraine with months of unjustified aggression, blocking delivery of crucial humanitarian aid and causing mass transfers of Ukrainian citizens, including children. Russia's war on Ukraine has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, increasing cases of sexual and gender-based violence, and widespread atrocity crimes.

Collectively, we urge the Russian Government:

- To fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- To end its baseless war of aggression against Ukraine and to withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately.
- To fully respect the rights and the dignity of the prisoners of war and treat them under the requirements of the Third Geneva Convention.
- To halt all attempts to set up illegitimate alternative administrative structures in occupied territories and cities, as these acts against Ukrainian sovereignty are in direct violation of international law.

We urge the international community to continue its coordinated economic and political pressure campaign on Russia as it rebukes the norms, values, and rules-based international system. In particular, we call on:

- The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine to thoroughly investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and related crimes in the context of aggression of Russia against Ukraine and establish the facts, circumstances, and evidence given the future legal proceedings.
- Member states of the Human Rights Council to provide for follow-up of the findings and full implementation of the recommendations in the Commission's First Mission Report, ensuring that those responsible for atrocities in Ukraine will be held accountable.
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide full support consistent with its mandate, with a view towards ending impunity and ensuring accountability, including individual criminal responsibility and access to justice for victims.
- Member states of the Human Rights Council to hold a special session to mobilize appropriate international diplomatic action in light of Russia's systematic violations of human rights in Ukraine, countless examples of which have been documented by credible non-governmental organizations, the Ukrainian government, and the press.
- The Human Rights Council to underscore the link between human rights and peace and security and promote continued dialogue on human rights and the prevention of mass atrocities

We call on UN General Assembly member states and all UN agencies to continue close collaboration in support of Ukraine's economic recovery and territorial integrity, stressing the importance of sustained commitment to Ukraine's economy, and democratic rule of law, given Ukraine's key role in the stability of the region.

Out of the world's most serious crises come profound moments for unity and opportunity. Standing together against the Russian Government's aggression and war in Ukraine in the months and possibly years ahead will require a common firmness, steadiness, and patience from members of the international community.

We must prioritize accountability for gross human rights violations, consequences for flagrant breaches of international law, and justice for all affected populations. We must not return to business as usual with Russia. The fate of the international legal and institutional order depends on how each of us chooses to respond to Russia's invasion.

*July 1, 2022*

Names

Signature

Joachim Ruecker

*Former Ambassador of Germany, Co-chair*



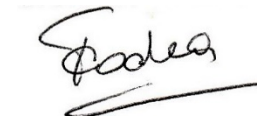
Keith Harper

*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

*Former Ambassador of New Zealand*



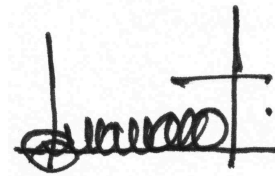
Vojislav Suc

*Former Ambassador of Slovenia*



Jorge Lomonaco

*Former Ambassador of Mexico*

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lomonaco' with a vertical line through the middle.

Zorica Maric Djordjevic

*Former Ambassador of Montenegro,  
Co-chair*

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