



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on the Oral Presentation of the High Commissioner on Ukraine and Interim Report of the UN Secretary-General on Human Rights in Crimea

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PRESENTATION OF THE ORAL UPDATE

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Since March 2025, ceasefire talks have stalled and the fighting has escalated with a **serious increase in civilian casualties**. Along the front line, Russian armed forces have continued their push to acquire control of further territory. Attacks with short-range drones have killed and injured hundreds of civilians, particularly older people. In April, May, and June, nearly 50% more civilians were killed or injured than in the same period in 2024. More than 90% of these casualties were in territory controlled by Ukraine. The trend over the past two years is that civilian deaths and injuries have peaked in the summer months.

In April, OHCHR documented that some of the missiles that struck cities were equipped with warheads that exploded in the air, scattering fragments across large areas. In some cases, several drones struck the same hospital. In the night of 16th to 17th of June alone, an hours-long attack killed more civilians in Kiev than any other attack in nearly a year. These **attacks are instilling terror and anxiety in cities** across Ukraine. OHCHR calls again on the Russian Federation to cease the use of force against Ukraine immediately, in line with UNGA resolutions, the UN



Charter, and other applicable international law, including the binding order and provisional measures of the International Court of Justice.

There is some positive news. The ceasefire negotiations have facilitated the return of hundreds of prisoners of war, the bodies of deceased soldiers, and some civilian detainees. Families who lived in uncertainty and anxiety for many months or even years finally have some answers about the fate of their loved ones. Soldiers have reunited with their families. The exchanges have allowed many to escape torture, ill-treatment, and otherwise inhuman conditions of captivity.

From these last rounds of exchanges, OHCHR interviewed more than **117 Ukrainian former prisoners of war**. They provided detailed, consistent accounts of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, including sexual violence in Russian captivity, often corroborated by their injuries, and the accounts of other former prisoners. These accounts confirm that torture and ill-treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) continue in numerous detention facilities, patterns that OHCHR repeatedly documented and reported. Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS reiterates the High Commissioner's call on the Russian authorities to ensure that POWs are treated in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

The law is equally binding on the Ukrainian authorities. OHCHR continues to interview **Russian prisoners in Ukrainian captivity**. Although the scale is not comparable, OHCHR has documented cases where Ukrainian authorities have used torture and ill-treatment in the early stages of captivity in unofficial places of detention. Ukrainian authorities have launched investigations into several of these allegations. OHCHR calls on them to ensure that these investigations are carried out in line with international standards.

UNSG'S INTERIM REPORT ON THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR

Despite repeated requests, the Russian Federation has regrettably not granted OHCHR access to these territories. Therefore, OHCHR has continued its monitoring based on remote methodology. The Russian Federation continues to violate its **obligations as an occupying power** under international humanitarian law, notably by imposing its legal and governance system in the occupied territory, compelling inhabitants to swear allegiance to it, and transferring protected persons within occupied territory and deporting protected people to the Russian Federation. In the last six months, OHCHR has also documented an increase in efforts by the Russian Federation to unlawfully expropriate the private property of people who have been displaced, which is also a violation of international humanitarian law. OHCHR is concerned that the Russian authorities have set in train processes that will facilitate expropriations on a large scale in Mariupol.

The Russian authorities continue to impose **severe restrictions on civic space** in the occupied territory, in particular on the exercise of freedom of expression. Legitimate criticism of the occupying authorities, disagreement with policies, or even simple expression of sympathy with victims of the war are often met with administrative court proceedings and fines and, in worst-case scenarios, harsh prison sentences. This is irreconcilable with international human rights law.



At the last session of the UNHRC, the High Commissioner called for an end to attacks on civilians and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. He called for torture and mistreatment of POWs to end and for the Russian Federation to respect the human rights of people in areas under its occupation. He further emphasised that **peace is more imperative than ever**. Those calls are even more urgent today.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Starting from accountability, **Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS** declares that OHCHR will continue to call the international community to pursue a just and sustainable peace in line with the UN Charter and international law. This includes the diplomacy and dialogue. But **justice and accountability** for those very grave violations and war crimes committed in Ukraine, including in occupied territory, are of course indispensable for achieving lasting peace. That includes ensuring accountability for all serious grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including conflict-related sexual violence.

The mechanisms for justice and accountability shall have a **victim-centred approach**. They should promote truth, justice, reparations at its centre. OHCHR encourages the international community to continue the efforts to support law enforcement efforts to document and investigate, by utilising a survivor-centred approach, and to adapt assistance to the survivors through targeted assistance to their various needs. There is a significant number of men survivors that should also be taken into account when planning assistance programmes.

The capacity of Ukrainian institutions and the need to strengthen them remains on the agenda, most notably the **capacity to investigate and to prosecute** violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in accordance with international standards, in order to contribute to the accountability and to reinforce the independence of Ukraine's judiciary system and the rule of law in this regard. Looking forward, the international community should also help Ukraine put in place **measures to rebuild communities**, facilitate the reintegration of persons who lived under occupation and foster social cohesion.

The **human rights mechanisms** documenting violations need to receive support and adequate funds, also including OHCHR's Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the UNHRC-mandated Commission of Inquiry as well. There is a continued engagement with and support for international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and the role of all those who are engaged. Many delegations also mentioned the stress that civil society is under, but also the role that they need to have and the support they need to have in this regard.

On **access to occupied territories**, OHCHR will continue to consistently request access in its communication with the Russian Federation. In the meanwhile, OHCHR remains committed to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in the occupied territory, in an independent and impartial way. OHCHR has a standard rigorous methodology for monitoring overall, also including a **methodology for remote monitoring**, that means gathering and verifying information from using different sources. That includes witnesses, victims, satellite imagery, open source materials, but also information made available by the state authorities and by the occupation authorities.



Turning to **remedies and reparations**, in particular referring to the confiscation of property of Ukrainians, and specifically in Crimea, OHCHR knows that the Russian Federation has taken significant steps to **expropriate private property** in occupied territory of Ukraine - a clear violation of international humanitarian law. Some recent confiscations have occurred mainly in Donetsk, Kherson and Luhansk regions, but those practises began already in 2014 in Crimea, where property was sold or provided to Russian citizens and military personnel without compensation to the original owners, residents of Crimea.

At the **Ukrainian level**, individuals whose property was damaged or destroyed in government-controlled territory after 2022 have access to compensation. In December 2024, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a law on compensation for property lost in occupied territory, including through confiscation. However, this law has not been signed by the President and has not entered into force. At the **international level**, the Council of Europe established a registry of damage to serve as a record of damage, loss and injury caused by aggression of the Russian Federation. These mechanisms cover property confiscated by the occupation authorities after 24 February 2022. OHCHR calls on the Russian Federation to refrain from confiscating private property in occupied territory, and encourages the international community, as well as Ukraine, to include people who lost their property in the occupied territory before 2022 in all compensation and reparation measures in order to ensure **equal treatment of victims** in this regard.

Turning to the **preservation of identity under occupation**, OHCHR has documented a systematic suppression of Ukrainian culture, language and identity in the occupied territory of Ukraine. These are clear violations of an occupying power's obligations under international humanitarian law. Beyond the legal implications, there are also long-term consequences such as the social fabric issue itself; the destruction of society and communities themselves; the fragmentation and the threat to the identities - the Ukrainian identity and community identities; the cultural heritage that risks being lost; and linguistic diversity. There is a potential **long-term and intergenerational effect** on this pressure on Ukrainian identity and culture itself and language that needs attention. There is a climate of fear, of oppression.

Social divisions will only increase from those kinds of tensions and that clearly makes any future reconciliation and reintegration much more complicated. OHCHR encourages the international community to support civil society and cultural organisations to work on all of these issues and the **support for Ukrainian culture and language** on the occupied territory. Regarding children in an educational context, support needs to be targeted to maintain these aspects of cultural identity. That would also include those civil society organisations that are active outside of the occupied territory so that language, history, traditions and other parts of identity can be preserved. OHCHR further encourages the international community to engage with the Russian Federation to urge full compliance with international humanitarian human rights law and the implementation of OHCHR's recommendations outlined in the reports presented today.

There needs to be a **strong international support for accountability mechanisms**, including both international and domestic accountability measures. We need to deliver justice for victims and lay the foundation for long-term reconciliation.



OHCHR will continue to closely monitor the **use of Ukrainian children by Russia** in the context of the war of aggression and the overall impact of the ongoing conflict on children in Ukraine. Clearly, that is an issue of well-being, on the safety of children and their fundamental rights. As mentioned in the reports, there are cases of unidentified individuals who have contacted children in Ukraine through social media, partly they have been offered money to commit acts of sabotage, acts of arson and other acts of aggression, and also deployment of improvised explosive devices against Ukrainian military targets, as well as civilians. Some children have been killed doing this, and in other cases they have been detained, in which case they also face very serious criminal charges. OHCHR urges states to remember to argue for children being treated as victims, with the adequate protection they need and rehabilitation.

With regard to **transferred and deported children**, OHCHR has been trying to verify these allegations and admits it is a complex issue. In this regard, OHCHR urges the Russian Federation to submit information to the Central Tracing Agency about all the children evacuated, including the forcible transfer from the territory of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. There needs to be a family-based focus when calling for the return to their families, but even in those cases where that is not possible.

Finally, OHCHR is **committed to dialogue** with the Russian Federation and believes that bringing information and evidence is precisely the basis for this dialogue. A dialogue at all levels – at the higher level, political, strategic, but also technical - needs to be continued. Human rights need to be at the centre of any decision-making around the future of the Ukraine. Much work needs to be done such as looking at future peace and at how to rebuild a society that is cohesive, thereby taking account the rights of all persons as well as the severe and potentially intergenerational damage. When it comes down to the **diversity of society** such as Crimean Tatars and other minorities also, the international community needs to go towards and supports Ukraine's path toward that strengthening of a future Ukrainian society that is inclusive, that takes into account the need for the promotion of Ukrainian culture and language, also encompassing the full respect for the rights of national minorities and all ethnic groups.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE AS CONCERNED COUNTRIES

The delegation of the **Russian Federation** is not present.

The delegation of **Ukraine** expresses its commends the work of the HRMMU, whose evidence-based reporting, produced under the most challenging conditions, is not only a record of truth, but a foundation for future justice. The delegation is deeply grateful for this commitment to exposing the realities of Russia's war against Ukraine. The office of the HRMMU is situated in Podil district at the heart of Kiev. Just like all residents of Kiev, its staff are subjected to daily attacks by drones and ballistic missiles launched by Russian armed forces targeting civilian objects, with the aim of killing, injuring and terrorising as many Ukrainians as possible, and of wiping the ancient capital of Ukraine off the face of the earth. The latest figures contained in the report are alarming. The **overwhelming majority of civilian casualties** occurred as a result of Russia's intensified relentless aerial attacks. While its missiles strike hospitals and playgrounds, Russia



continues to falsely claim it targets military infrastructure. This is not warfare. It is terrorism celebrated with impunity.

The delegation of Ukraine also takes note of the information of the **alleged violations from the Ukrainian side** and will examine them with full seriousness, in line with its international obligations. Even under siege, Ukraine upholds its commitments under international humanitarian and human rights law, and reiterates its demand for the Russian Federation to do the same. As occupying power, it bears full responsibility for the human rights situation in the territories under its temporary military control.

Ukraine strongly condemns Russia's **continued denial of unimpeded access** to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, despite persistent requests from OHCHR. This deliberate obstruction seeks to conceal the grave human rights violations committed in those territories. It is not only a violation of international law, but a direct affront to the values of the United Nations. The country is witnessing the **systematic erasure of Ukrainian identity**.

As outlined in the UNSG's interim report, Russia has imposed its political, legal and administrative systems in occupied regions, following the same destructive pattern it has used in Crimea since 2015. The March 2025 decree redefining the legal status of Ukrainian citizens, the recent ban on Ukrainian language instruction in schools, and the illegal expropriation of property belonging to displaced Ukrainians all point to a **policy of demographic engineering**. These acts risk irreparable harm to future generations and jeopardise prospects for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Torture, summary executions, arbitrary detention, sexual violence and enforced disappearances remain defining features of Russia's war. One of the most harrowing recent cases is that of **Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna**, whose body was returned to Ukraine in February 25, months after her death in Russian captivity, showing signs of torture and mutilation. Viktoria had travelled to the Polesia to report on the torture of civilians. Instead, she was detained, transferred across the border and perished in the very system she sought to expose.

The delegation of Ukraine warns that the international community must not allow Russia's crimes to be normalised or forgotten. The forcible deportation of children, attacks on civilian infrastructure, torture of POWs and cultural erasure are not isolated incidents. They are part of a **coordinated strategy to destroy the very fabric of the Ukrainian nation**.

On 25 June 2025 in Strasbourg, the President of Ukraine and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe signed the agreement between Ukraine and the Council of Europe on the establishment of the **Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression** against Ukraine. The Special Tribunal is the first international judicial body since World War II with jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute individuals, regardless of their position, suspected of committing the crime of aggression. The establishment of the Tribunal marks the culmination of years of legal work carried out by Ukraine and its partners - the Council of Europe and the European Union - to ensure justice for the victims of Russian aggression. Justice must be sought for every life destroyed, every child taken, every community left in ruins. Together, we have the **moral duty** to ensure that these grave crimes do not go unpunished and that those responsible are truly held to account.



INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Albania supports the work of the HRMMU and calls for unfettered access to all occupied territories for international human rights monitoring mechanisms. Remaining concerned by the ongoing and systematic violation of international humanitarian law by the Russians in Ukraine and in temporarily occupied territories, Albania strongly condemns the deliberate and repeated attacks by the Russian Armed Forces against civilian populations, civilian infrastructure and healthcare facilities with devastating consequences for the civilian population. The widespread using of drones from Russian forces by targeting ambulances, humanitarian convoys and public transportation and to scatter landmines in populated areas may amount to war crimes and must be thoroughly investigated, with perpetrators held accountable. In the temporarily occupied territories, Albania deplores the continued force imposition of Russian citizenship, arbitrary detention, torture, sexual violence and the deportation of Ukrainian children. Albania stands in full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and will continue to support all efforts to ensure justice, accountability and lasting peace.

Australia notes with concern that more than three years on, Russia's blatant disregard for its international humanitarian law and international human rights law obligations continues. Amid the countless violations outlined, Australia remains deeply concerned by Russia's violations of the rights of POWs outlined in the reports, including widespread and systematic torture and ill-treatment. Australia is appalled by the deportations of Ukrainian children by Russia, and equally alarmed at Russia's abhorrent and ongoing missile strikes on Ukraine. Any direct targeting of civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law. Civilian casualties are increasing at an alarming rate. These attacks demonstrate Russia is not serious about wanting to end its illegal and immoral war. OHCHR's documentation of human rights violations is essential to efforts to hold Russia accountable for its brutal invasion. Australia supports Ukraine's right to defend itself, which is why we will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes, and calls on Russia to comply with its international human rights obligations, engage with negotiations in good faith and fulfil any commitments made.

Austria reiterates its full support for the work of the HRMMU and remains gravely concerned by the humanitarian consequences amongst the Ukrainian civilian population. The findings of the report document a 37 percent increase in civilian casualties with the vast majority of casualties being the result of military operations by Russian Armed Forces in Ukrainian territory, including through the use of explosive weapons in urban areas and the increased use of short-range combat drones. Nearly half of all civilian casualties were caused by missiles, loitering munitions and airdrop bombs in densely populated areas. Austria is alarmed by the devastating impact of the war on Ukrainian children. In this regard, Austria hopes for concrete follow-up to recent negotiations in Istanbul by Russian authorities to safely return deported children to Ukraine. Further, serious violations against POWs remain a major concern. Deeply alarmed at accounts of continued torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence and dire detention conditions in facilities managed by the Russian Federation, Austria calls for full respect of international humanitarian and human rights law, accountability for all violations and unhindered access for humanitarian actors and independent monitors.



Belarus believes that the latest UNSG's report and oral update from the High Commissioner once again are noteworthy by their lack of balance, their bias, and one-sided accusations against the Russian Federation - once again, an instrument of pressure intentionally discrediting one sovereign state. Belarus recalls that accusations of this kind do not bring peace closer. Belarus notes the multitude of violations by the Ukrainian authorities; the rampant Russophobia and hate speech can all be seen as persistent in Ukraine; and repression on political grounds, such as the situation of the Kononovich brothers for whom Belarus demands their immediate release. Belarus considers that many of the problems are outside the agendas of human rights structures. Noting that a principled, objective, and unbiased evaluation of them has not yet been produced, Belarus calls for that to happen. Belarus once again supports initiatives to lessen tension in the region. Standing ready to provide comprehensive support for all humanitarian contacts between sides, Belarus calls upon other countries and international organisations to work in the interest of de-escalation and a rapid peace settlement.

Belgium firmly condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine as well as its ongoing violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed in complete impunity. Russia's escalating and systematic attacks on residential areas and civilian infrastructure clearly demonstrates its continued lack of sincerity regarding any path towards peace. While welcoming the recent exchange of prisoners, Belgium remains deeply concerned by those still held in Russian captivity and calls for the immediate return of all POWs, unlawfully detained civilians and children unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred. Belgium is equally alarmed by the coercion of residents in Russian-occupied territories into accepting Russian citizenship and by systematic indoctrination of children. Russia must immediately end its war of aggression, withdraw unconditionally from the entire territory of Ukraine and put an end to the unbearable suffering it continues to cause. Belgium remains fully committed to a just and lasting peace grounded in international law and full accountability for war crimes and other grave violations.

Bulgaria reiterates its strong condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and remains deeply concerned by the violation of international human rights and humanitarian law by the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, such as disrespecting the laws enforcing the country, forced deportation and especially that of children, ill-treatment in places of detention, confiscation of property, violation of the freedom of expression, media and religion. Calling for effective investigations, Bulgaria is deeply concerned by the systematic violations of the ethno-cultural rights of the Bulgarian national minority in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Russian authorities have severely restricted and subsequently banned the teaching of the Bulgarian language. The activities of the Bulgarian Sunday schools and cultural centres have been suspended, while at the same time Russian curricula have been imposed in local schools. Bulgaria is deeply worried about the human rights situation of children in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including those placed in social centres and with Russian families. Bulgaria remains consistent in its unwavering support for Ukraine, for its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, as well as for its European and Euro-Atlantic perspective.

Canada is profoundly concerned as to the ongoing violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed by the Russian Federation in the temporarily



occupied territories of Ukraine. Canada is alarmed by the transfer and forced deportation and militarisation of Ukrainian children and also by the imposition of Russian citizenship and a persistent use of torture, arbitrary detention and sexual violence. Canada echoes the call for free unimpeded access for OHCHR and other monitoring mechanisms of an international and regional nature to all of the temporarily occupied territories. Urging all states to continued joint support for efforts aiming to monitor, document and respond to these violations, Canada reiterates its unwavering support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and shall continue to defend justice, accountability and protection of all victims.

Croatia notes with concern that Russia continues conducting unlawful attacks with explosive weapons and drones in populated areas of Ukraine. Such attacks cause numerous casualties and a wide-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, contributing to the unnecessary suffering. Croatia remains deeply concerned by the scale of human rights violations, including the use of children to commit acts of sabotage and arson, and executions of Ukrainian military personnel captured by Russian armed forces. Despite numerous reports of Russia's grave violations of international law, its aggression persists. While welcoming the recent agreement on the exchange of POWs, which has enabled the return of combatants to their homes, the Russian Federation has yet to show a genuine commitment to peace. Croatia continues to call for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, in line with the principles of the UN Charter and international law, with respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Cyprus condemns Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory in violation of the UN Charter and international law. Cyprus is deeply alarmed by the steep increase in civilian casualties resulting from the intensification of Russia's military operations. It is also appalled by the report's findings detailing Russia's ongoing use of torture and acts of sexual violence committed against Ukrainian civilians and POWs. According to credible reports, Ukrainian children have been recruited by Russian state actors and used in armed conflict in violation of the prohibition in international law on the recruitment and use of children in hostilities. Cyprus reiterates its call on Russia to immediately end the unlawful practise of deportation and forcible transfer of children and to ensure their prompt and safe return to Ukraine. Illegality resulting from invasion, occupation and the use of force can never be accepted or normalised. As a country that continues to endure the consequences of foreign invasion and occupation, Cyprus stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Czechia appreciates the update by Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS and reaffirms the importance of the HRMMU, whose documentation work covering human rights violations remains a crucial part of this technical mandate. Czechia strongly condemns Russia's intensified attacks against civilians in Ukraine, including the use of drones and explosive weapons in residential areas. Deliberate targeting of civilians, including children, constitutes a war crime. Czechia is deeply alarmed by the widespread and systemic torture of Ukrainian POWs by Russian armed forces, including through sexual violence and the high number of reported summary executions. In the temporarily occupied territories, the rights of Ukrainian citizens are being gravely violated. Czechia is particularly concerned by the forced transfers and constriction of children, which are in clear breach of international humanitarian law. Calling upon Russia to release POWs and all arbitrarily



detained civilians, including children, Moldova highlights the cases of Halina Dovopola, Irina Danilovich and Irina Horovsk Horovskova, whose courage deserves recognition and support.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** states that UNHRC Agenda Item 10 was conceived to address technical assistance and capacity-building for countries concerned in order to contribute to improving the situation of human rights on the ground in line with the principles of genuine dialogue and cooperation, taking into account national needs and priorities. However, this debate and related resolution distort the essential mandate of technical assistance, capacity building, and reduce increasingly into establishing a scenario of instrumentalization for the geopolitical interests of a specific group. This is an obvious manifestation of politicisation and double standards. This selective and discriminatory practise should not be continued. Furthermore, all reports before the UNHRC should be based on objective, balanced, and impartial assessments on the ground. Politically motivated initiatives or unbalanced and biased approaches are not conducive but counterproductive to the dialogue and cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Eritrea underscores the need for all UN reporting and engagement to be guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity and respect for sovereignty. The decision of the people of Crimea in 2014 to reunify with the Russian Federation was the result of a democratic process and a legitimate expression of popular will. This reality, however inconvenient to some, should not be dismissed or misrepresented. It is unacceptable to subject Crimea, an integral part of the Russian Federation, to scrutiny within the framework of another state's internal affairs. Eritrea is deeply concerned that Agenda Item 10 is being instrumentalised for political purposes that undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. Therefore, Eritrea calls for adherence to the UN Charter and for an end to the practise of selectivity targeting states, including Russia, under the pretext of human rights through unbalanced and biased reporting that does not reflect the realities on the ground.

Finland on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic States takes the floor through **H.E. Ms. Elina Valtonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs** of Finland, who stresses that Russia continues its ruthless attacks against civilians, demonstrating its unwillingness to seek peace. The Nordic-Baltic states condemn the devastating airstrikes across Ukraine, which may amount to crimes against humanity. Remaining deeply alarmed about the unlawful deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children, they urge Russia to ensure their safe and immediate return. The Nordic-Baltic states commend progress in the exchange of POWs, while remaining gravely concerned by reports of the systematic torture and execution of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians. Finally, the Nordic-Baltic states support all efforts towards a sustainable and lasting peace in Ukraine. Any solution must fully uphold Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. They will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes.

France emphasizes that summary executions, the massive and systematic use of torture, inhuman treatment, sexual violence against Ukrainian prisoners are continuing in a systematic manner as you underscore. In violation of international humanitarian law, Russia continues to target civilians as demonstrated by the massive attacks targeting Kiev in the night of 17-18 June which caused more than 28 deaths. France firmly condemns these practises. France also condemns the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia, and remains mobilised to



encourage the return of Ukrainian children to their families. In the illegally occupied territories under Russian control, the populations are forced to accept Russian nationality to have access to healthcare or to work. The forced recruitment and transfer of protected persons must cease and all restrictions on the fundamental rights should also cease. France reasserts its unwavering support for Ukraine and its people which are resisting with remarkable courage the war of aggression waged by Russia. In closing, France calls for the swift establishment of a ceasefire and the launch of negotiations between Ukraine and Russia for a solid, lasting settlement of the conflict.

Georgia stresses that the latest report presents alarming evidence of systematic human rights and humanitarian law violations by the Russian Federation in temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories. Particularly disturbing are violations that constitute war crimes and are manifested in deportations and forcible transfers of Ukrainian children, many of whom have been subjected to unlawful changes of identity and citizenship. The report also outlines Russian-generated systematic human rights violations in occupied Ukrainian regions, including forced citizenship, property seizures, torture, ill-treatment and discrimination on ethnic grounds, especially against Crimean Tatars. Georgia reiterates its strong support for OHCHR and other monitoring mechanisms in documenting violations and promoting accountability and emphasise the need of immediate, safe and unfettered access to be given to the OHCHR and other international humanitarian organisations to Crimea and other Ukrainian regions temporarily occupied by Russia. In conclusion, Georgia reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty, interdependence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, including its territorial waters.

Germany notes with concern that Ukrainians continue to be attacked, wounded and killed every day by Russia's military as part of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. All of these human rights violations are meticulously documented by the HRMMU. In spite of all these violations, the people of Ukraine are resisting aggression and intimidation, and Germany pays tribute to their courage, while calling on Russia to comply finally with international law and engage in serious negotiations. But while atrocities continue, we must continue to document them and push for accountability. For this reason, Germany supports the continuation of the High Commissioner's updates on Ukraine.

Greece expresses serious concern over the findings of both reports and the continuous widespread violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by Russia in the framework of its war of aggression against Ukraine. Greece remains gravely concerned by the high numbers of civilian casualties from systematic drone attacks and attacks on hospitals, energy and other civilian infrastructure by Russia. Greece is equally alarmed by the situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Reports indicate numerous cases of torture, ill-treatment, sexual violence and forced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention. Ukrainian children are reported to have been forcibly transferred within these territories or deported to the Russian Federation. Deeply troubled by reports of military training programmes and prospects of future military service for children in these areas, Greece underlines the urgent need to ensure safe return and family reunification for all affected children. It reiterates the importance of ensuring accountability for all violations and calls on the Russian Federation to comply fully with its obligations under international law. Finally, Greece reiterates



its support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in line with the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Ireland reiterates its condemnation of Russia's unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine and condemns Russia's occupation of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea, the human rights violations and abuses that have occurred in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and all human rights violations and abuses that have been carried out during the course of Russia's war. Ireland is also concerned at reports of the torture and ill-treatment of POWs. Ireland condemns the forcible transfer or deportation of Ukrainian citizens, including children, from Ukraine to Russia by Russian authorities and this constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law. It further deplores efforts by Russia to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territories of Ukraine and are concerned by the removal of land ownership rights of Ukrainian citizens by Russian authorities in Crimea. Ireland also voices alarm at Russia's enforcement of military conscription in the occupied territories and the promotion of a militarist culture among children in these territories. To conclude, Ireland is appalled by the reports of the recruitment of Ukrainian children to commit acts of sabotage against Ukrainian military targets and civilians.

Japan appreciates the reports prepared by the UNSG and OHCHR depicting the dire human rights situation in Ukraine and in occupied Crimea. More than three years have passed since Russia launched its aggression against Ukraine, which is a clear violation of international law and shakes the very foundation of the international order. If such violations were tolerated, they would set a very dangerous precedent. Japan once more condemns in the strongest terms the actions of the Russian forces, which have led to a large number of civilian casualties. Japan supports the monitoring and technical assistance provided by OHCHR and Ukraine's efforts to uphold human rights in cooperation with international mechanisms. Japan further expresses its respect for the Ukrainian people, who have demonstrated immense bravery in standing up against Russia's aggression day by day after day. Japan will continue to stand firmly with Ukraine and the international community until a just and lasting peace is achieved in Ukraine.

Liechtenstein remains deeply concerned by the serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by the Russian Federation in the context of its unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. It strongly condemns the continuing and brutal assault on Ukrainian civilians and its civilian infrastructure. The lack of credible commitment by the Russian Federation to a settlement of the conflict and the continued brutal attacks undermine a just and lasting peace. Ukrainian citizens in temporarily occupied territories may not be forced to acquire Russian citizenship, nor should they be pressured into military service to take up arms against their own country. Liechtenstein decries Russia's practise of indoctrinating Ukrainian children through so-called patriotic military education and urges the Federation to reinstate the Ukrainian state curriculum. It is egregious that Ukrainian children are not only being forcefully transferred into the Russian Federation, but also being instrumentalised for a war that threatens to destroy their future. In closing, Liechtenstein reiterates that the perpetrators of these violations of international law must be held to account and justice must be served.



Luxembourg welcomes the UNSG's report and reiterates its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol, which are temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. The conclusions of the report are in line with the case law and jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, which document grave and systematic violations of human rights, arbitrary detentions, torture, forced transfers, particularly of Ukrainian children, repression of minorities, in particular the Crimean Tatars, the imposition of Russian law, attacks on fundamental freedoms and persecutions motivated by language, ethnic origin or political positions are unacceptable and run counter to international humanitarian and international human rights law. These elements fully justify following up on all reports and interactive dialogue as provided for by UNHRC resolution 53/30. Luxembourg calls upon technical assistance to be provided to Ukraine to support democratic institutions, transitional justice and complaint mechanisms and the rigorous documentation of international crimes. Luxembourg supports fully international efforts to guarantee accountability, in particular through specialised mechanisms, and encourages cooperation between international jurisdictions, human rights institutions and civil society.

Malta laments the use of Russian Federation legislation in the occupied territory, including to restrict freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, is contrary to international law. Echoing the UNSG's call for the full respect of international human rights and humanitarian law, Malta calls for the immediate and unconditional release of those arbitrarily detained. It also reiterates the importance of full, unimpeded access for international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms to Crimea, in line with UNGA resolutions and recommendations addressed by UN human rights mechanisms. Reaffirming its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, Malta calls for the protection of civilians and for accountability for all violations and abuses of human rights.

Moldova continues to strongly condemn the brutality of the Russian aggression and is deeply alarmed by the high number of civilian casualties reported, which represents a 37 percent increase compared with the same period of last year. The continued use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas is unacceptable and must cease immediately. Moldova condemns drone attacks against civilian targets and considers the Russian attacks on healthcare facilities as an unacceptable and clear violation of international humanitarian law. Moldova continues to condemn summary executions, patterns of widespread and systemic torture and ill-treatment by Russia against civilian detainees and POWs. These practises must stop as well. The reported allegation of the Russian Federation use of Ukrainian children to conduct surveillance and commit acts of sabotage endangers the physical and psychological well-being of children and would be in violation of international law. Moldova supports all the efforts aimed at achieving a ceasefire and bringing sustainable, just peace to Ukraine, and welcomes the exchanges of POWs. At the same time, Moldova reiterates its call for immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine.

Montenegro is deeply alarmed by Russia's intensifying massive ballistic missile and drone attacks on numerous urban areas across Ukraine, resulting in the appalling 37 percent increase in human casualties during the reporting period. These barbaric attacks have killed and injured nearly 6,000 civilians, including women and children, mostly from major cities across Ukraine, including Kyiv. The death toll and the deliberate shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure are



a clear demonstration of Russia's contempt for international law, a blatant disregard for human life, and a lack of sincere intent regarding a ceasefire and peace negotiation leading to comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with the UN Charter and international law. While welcoming the recent exchange of POWs, Montenegro points to the report's references to many Ukrainian civilians and POWs in Russian captivity who continue to be subjected to widespread and systematic acts of torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence and suffering human conditions in violation of international law. Once more, Montenegro appeals for the full exchange of POWs and for the immediate release and safe return of all Ukrainian children and other civilians unlawfully deported, forcibly transferred, or arbitrarily detained by Russia. There can be no lasting peace without justice, nor impunity for crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression. In this regard, recent progress in the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe is a significant step forward.

Netherlands notes that more than three years since Russia's illegal and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine and more than 11 years after its annexation of Crimea, Russia continues to rip Ukrainians from their identity, culture, and land. For the 12th time already, the UNSG's report details human rights violations committed by Russia in the temporarily occupied territories, including in Crimea. The Netherlands strongly condemns the torture, ill-treatment, sexual violence, arbitrary detention, russification attempts, and the forcible transfer and deportation of civilians, including children, as described in the UNSG's report. The report also makes clear that violations identified in previous reports have not been investigated or prosecuted by the Russian authorities. Instead, legislation has been adopted granting immunity to perpetrators of human rights violations. This underlines the need to support efforts at the international level to bring perpetrators to justice. The Netherlands will remain committed to restore justice for the people of Ukraine.

Netherlands on behalf of the group of friends stresses that throughout Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the HRMMU has continued to document a wide array of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by Russian authorities. With this latest report, the UNHRC is once more confronted with independently gathered and verified evidence of Russia's disregard for civilian safety. The HRMMU has assessed inter alia that the targeting by drone operators has, in practise, violated the rules of international humanitarian law governing the conduct of hostilities, in particular the principles of distinction and precaution. Furthermore, the HRMMU has found that some incidents may amount to the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against civilians. These attacks not only cause death and injury, they exacerbate an already critical humanitarian situation by limiting civilian access to essential services, to humanitarian aid and medical care, affecting a wide range of human rights. These violations, as well as other violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, need to be further investigated. Those responsible need to be held to account. The group of friends reiterates its unwavering commitment to supporting efforts aimed at bringing perpetrators to justice and preventing further crimes.

New Zealand noted praises the ongoing reporting work on the human rights situation in Ukraine, including in the temporary occupied territories, and deems it essential to ensure accountability for human rights violations. The update today and the Secretary-General's report detail that the



human rights situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine continues to deteriorate and that this is largely due to the Russian Federation's disregard for its responsibilities under international humanitarian law as an occupying power. New Zealand remains gravely concerned by the documented cases of executions, deaths in custody, arbitrary detention, torture, including sexual violence, ill-treatment and enforced disappearance in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. New Zealand calls for the Russian Federation to fully uphold its obligations under international law, including international human rights law. Russia's presence in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine is the result of multiple violations of Ukraine's territorial integrity since 2014, which have been consistently condemned by UN member states.

North Macedonia remains deeply concerned by the grave and persistent violations of international human rights and humanitarian law outlined in the UNSG's report on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The report details systemic abuses of the occupying authorities of the Russian Federation, including forced citizenship, conscription, arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearances. The continued transfer of Ukrainian detainees, including children, to Russian territory is a clear violation of international law. Freedom of expression, religion and association is being suppressed, particularly targeting Crimean Tatars, journalists and human rights defenders. Ukrainian institutions are being dismantled and property rights eroded to facilitate democratic changes. North Macedonia joins the Secretary-General's call for immediate and federal access for independent international monitoring maps to all occupied territories, the cessation of all violations and full accountability for those responsible. To conclude, North Macedonia reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Poland fully supports the work of the HRMMU and expresses alarm at the growing number of civilian casualties, including through an increased use of short-range drones. Drones have been used to deliberately attack Ukrainian civilians engaged in everyday activities. Those individuals, clearly unarmed, trusted, would not be targeted, and yet they were. Poland condemns in the strongest terms Russia's use of Ukrainian children to commit acts of sabotage. This is unacceptable under any circumstances. Children must never be used as tools of war. Russia demonstrates a blatant disregard for human rights and humanitarian law. Its repeated rejections of numerous calls for ceasefire and targeting of civilians make it clear Russia would rather wage war than pursue peace. Poland remains steadfast in its commitment to accountability. Those responsible for international crimes perpetrated in and against Ukraine must be brought to justice. To conclude, Poland welcomes the recent progress made on the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe as an important step towards preventing impunity and rebuilding confidence in the international rule-based order.

Portugal commends the ongoing efforts to shed light on Russia's systematic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, despite its lack of cooperation. Portugal remains concerned by the widespread repression of fundamental freedoms. The reports of arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances, and forced conscription are unacceptable. As evidenced by the accounts of persecution against journalists, lawyers, civil society actors, and Crimean Tatars, there is a pattern of targeted discrimination and intimidation



by Russian authorities. Portugal is appalled by the documented cases of forced transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children. Equally troubling are the reported violations of the right to education, including the imposition of Russian curricula and restrictions on the Ukrainian language. Portugal urges the Russian Federation to end its occupation and to comply with its international obligations to ensure unimpeded access to monitoring mechanisms. In closing, Portugal reaffirms its commitment to accountability and justice for all victims, as well as its support to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

The **Republic of Korea** takes note of the recent, albeit limited exchange of POWs following the peace talks in Istanbul, which may serve as a step toward rebuilding trust. However, such progress remains fragile as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine persists. Reports of continued attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including through the use of express weapons, point to tens of thousands of casualties and grave impact on public health, education, and basic services. Korea is particularly alarmed by reports of unlawful killings, torture, enforced disappearances, and the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children. Korea also shares the concerns raised in the UNSG's report regarding the lack of access for international human rights monitoring mechanisms. Against this spectrum, Korea underlines the urgent need for compliance with international law, accountability for violations, and unrestricted monitoring access. In closing, the Republic of Korea will continue to work with the international community to help secure a lasting peace in Ukraine.

Romania notes that the latest reports underline a marked increase in civilian casualties during the last year in Ukraine due to intensive Russian attacks using wide-area explosive and short-range drones in populated areas, with direct attacks on critical civilian infrastructure, including five hospitals, which violate international humanitarian law. Swift and impartial investigation into alleged human rights violations, some executions of POWs, torture and sexual violence are mandatory, and perpetrators need to be held accountable before independent tribunals. Romania will continue to support all independent monitoring mandates that seek to document and investigate human rights violations and to promote justice for victims. Romania salutes the recent signing of the founding documents for the Council of Europe Special Tribunal for Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, with the aim of establishing the criminal accountability in the case of those individuals who bear the greatest responsibility for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. Romania further reiterates its grave concern over the systematic process of forced russification in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the ideological coercion of children imposed through the so-called military patriotic Russian education.

Slovakia appreciates the OHCHR's valuable work in Ukraine. The devastating impact of the Russian aggression does not seem to diminish. Despite all the efforts, including direct talks between Russia and Ukraine, the situation shows no sign of de-escalation. Ukrainian critical and civilian infrastructure is even more intensively targeted, and sadly, the number of civilian casualties grows daily. Equally, the level of human rights violations continues and increases. It is unacceptable that accounts of torture, sexual violence, ill-treatment of POWs, and civilians are present in every report. Justice and accountability are an integral part of any post-conflict and comprehensive peace solution. It is important to hold all the perpetrators accountable and have eyes and ears on the spot. Slovakia calls on Russia to provide the HRMMU with safe and



unhindered access to the occupied territory of Ukraine. Slovakia remains firmly committed to supporting further efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine. Slovakia reiterates its belief that the solution must be based on the UN Charter and must respect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Slovenia, while welcoming POW exchanges, remains deeply concerned by reports of torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, sexual violence and of arbitrary detention of civilians, including journalists. Such acts constitute clear violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. They must cease immediately and those responsible must be held accountable. Slovenia reiterates that forcible transfer or deportation of protected persons from occupied territory are prohibited under IHL. All protected persons, among them children, previously transferred within or out of the illegally and temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine must return to their homes. Slovenia calls on the Russian Federation to refrain from making any changes to the personal status of the forcibly transferred Ukrainian children. All measures in this regard are unacceptable, illegal and must stop. Reaffirming its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, Slovenia will continue to stand for protection and respect of human rights of all civilians unjustly swept into this war of aggression.

Spain notes that the Russian delegation's absence from the UNHRC shows a lack of respect; a clear sign of its unwillingness to cooperate; and its determination to use the institution for spurious reasons and to manipulate it. Spain also notes that the credibility of the UNHRC is often attacked due to alleged double standards. Beyond the specificities of each context, Spain asks to Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS to possibly identify patterns or parallels of systematic human rights violations in the context of alien or foreign occupation, namely, on the one hand, the occupation of Ukrainian territories by Russia and, on the other hand, the occupation by Israel of Palestinian territories.

Switzerland appreciates the oral update and the UNSG's report illustrating the grave and persistent violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law by the occupying authorities from Russia, including arbitrary detentions, torture, sexual violence, forced displacement of civilians, including children, the forced granting of Russian nationality, discriminatory restrictions to access to vital services for non-Russian nationals, and violations of fundamental freedoms. Switzerland firmly denounces these violations by the authorities and Russian armed forces. OHCHR's report underscores an alarming increase in attacks against civilians and civilian property, in particular on essential infrastructure, throughout the whole of Ukraine. Switzerland condemns these. They are a manifest violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the principle of distinction. These attacks must immediately cease and those responsible must be brought to justice. Switzerland calls upon all parties to fully respect their international obligations.

Türkiye notes that from the very first day of the Russia-Ukraine war, the Turkish government has maintained a principled and humanitarian approach grounded on international law in pursuit of peace and stability in the region and beyond. Türkiye sought to bring the sights around the negotiating table and supported all other genuine initiatives aimed at this. Türkiye considers the



recent rounds of negotiations as the most significant breakthrough in the four-year-long war. These talks provided a window of opportunity for ending the prolonged conflict, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives once and for all. It has yielded concrete results, such as deals on prisoner exchanges and repatriation of fallen soldiers. It is important that the international community continues to encourage both sides to remain committed to the continuation of negotiations. A just and lasting peace is also an outcome that the Crimean Tatar people have been yearning for many years. Crimean Tatars have the right to live in their ancestral lands freely, securely, and peacefully. Instead, they are subjected to consistent intimidation, mistreatment, and persecution. Türkiye will continue its efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of Crimean Tatars, especially for those who live in the occupied Crimea.

The **United Kingdom** recalls that in June 2024, the European Court of Human Rights found Russia to have committed multiple human rights violations since its illegal annexation of Crimea. In May 2025, the Council of Europe urged Russia to restore Ukrainian law in Crimea and end the use of torture and ill-treatment. There were very concerning reports of civilians being detained and taken across the border into Russia, where they have been convicted on spurious charges. This includes those who work in critical civilian infrastructure, such as the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, and journalists. The UK notes the report's assessment that targeted use of drones, including attacks that have killed civilians while delivering humanitarian aid, has violated IHL principles of distinction and precaution. Russia must comply with international law. Rapid and unimpeded passage for humanitarian relief for civilians is needed. Those responsible must be held to account for the appalling forcible transfer of Ukrainian children and the enlistment of these children into military patriotic training programmes, potentially then being sent to fight against their own country.

Uruguay is grateful for the High Commissioner's oral update and the presentation of the UNSG's report. It voices concern over the international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international law violations by the Russian Federation on Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied as documented in the reports. Uruguay appeals to the parties to ensure that UNHCR and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms have unfettered access to Ukraine's temporarily occupied territories. In view of the effective application of UN resolutions, Uruguay reiterates the need for accountability for the serious international law crimes committed in Crimea and Ukrainian territory. Reaffirming its firm support to the sovereign integrity of Ukraine within its internationally established borders, Uruguay appeals to the Russian Federation to fully abide by its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law throughout the territories under its control.

Venezuela points out that Agenda Item 10 was designed to tackle technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights situations in the countries concerned with their cooperation through dialogue and cooperation. However, it deplores the fact that under Item 10, initiatives far from these clear parameters have been promoted, which is precisely what caused the demise of the now defunct Human Rights Commission. Venezuela reiterates that politicisation, slavery between double statuses do not contribute in any way to the promotion and protection of human rights and in no way benefit vulnerable people or persons. It also deplores the fact that Ukraine has become an instrument for NATO expansion, putting at risk the human rights of all of its people to foster aggression against Russia in an attempt to expand the strategic



lines of this military alliance. This aggression is reflected in an increase of anti-Russian sentiment, attacks against the Orthodox Church and its faithful, and the growing practise of torture, including for foreign journalists. As a firm defender of the UN Charter, Venezuela will always advocate for dialogue to guarantee peace.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** shares your alarm over the increasing number of civilians killed and injured due to Russia's use of drones and explosive weapons with wide area effect in urban areas. OHCHR's report also indicates the widespread violations against Ukrainian soldiers captured by Russian armed forces continues. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the increasing number of summary executions of POWs as well as systemic and widespread use of torture against them. According to the reports of the Commission of Inquiry, the Russian authorities committed crimes against humanity. The EU also continues to strongly condemn the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, arbitrary detentions, unlawful deportations and forcible transfers. Discrimination and other violations directed at civilians in the temporarily occupied regions of Ukraine. The EU further expresses its grave concern at the militarisation and indoctrination of Ukrainian minors and youth by Russia. All Ukrainian children and civilian detainees held by Russia must be returned to Ukraine immediately and safely.

The **Sovereign Order of Malta** continues to deploy the ongoing war in Ukraine, where millions of civilians are directly affected in their everyday life. The Sovereign Order's humanitarian assistance will be tirelessly pursued, both in material and in psychosocial support. As a family as such constitutes the essential structure of our societies, the Order of Malta gave special attention to 33,000 children since the beginning of war, and made of the healing of child war trauma a key priority. The Sovereign Order deplores that during hostilities children have been separated from their parents without a possibility to return home, whose reunification with their families should be expedited without delay. One of the Sovereign Order's goal is also to provide support to lonely elderly people. Reiterating its appeal to the parties for the respect of international humanitarian law and human rights law, the Order of Malta calls for an immediate ceasefire and a genuine negotiation process between the parties going beyond the initial steps reached so far. An approach based on the respect for the dignity of each individual should and can inspire a process leading to a true and long-lasting peace.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights** thanks Ms. Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS for her important work and systematic reporting. For 11 years, the Russian Federation has grossly violated human rights in our country. Killings, deportations, torture, sexual violence, unlawful detentions, and executions have become a widespread phenomenon. The civilian population is the main target. Russia systematically shells civilian infrastructure. People are killed and injured daily because of the aggression of the Russian Federation. Among them are innocent children. The Commissioner therefore calls on OHCHR and the HRMMU to continue and strengthen their efforts to protect human rights in Ukraine, and in particular highlight in reports the systematic shelling of civilian infrastructure and other crimes committed by the aggressor state; conduct monitoring visits to places of illegal detention on the territory of Russia and demand access to



them; and urge stronger international diplomatic and sanctions pressure on Russia to stop the crimes. Human rights must be protected and international humanitarian law must be respected.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

War Resisters International (WRI) expresses its solidarity with the people of Ukraine suffering from the military aggression of the Russian Federation and call for an immediate ceasefire and peace negotiation. WRI raises concern over the Russian Federation forcibly imposing military registration conscription in occupied territories, pressuring civilians to sign military contracts, and indoctrinating children militaristically. In Crimea, four Jehovah's Witnesses have been imprisoned and illegal mobilisation produced over 500 criminal cases. Russian soldiers mobilised in the self-proclaimed republics in eastern Ukraine are unable to refuse military service. In the event of desertion, they face criminal prosecution in Russia and suspicion of treason from the Ukrainian side. As a result, they have virtually no opportunity to apply for asylum in a safe country and their relocation is nearly impossible. In Ukraine, there are still no effective procedures for consensual objection claims and exemption from military duty. Fifteen prisoners of conscience detained in prisons and military units should be released and an objector accused of draft evasion acquitted. The lack of recognition of the human right to consensual objection has also been reported in OHCHR's periodic report as well as late cases of torture and ill-treatment of consensual objectors and pressure by military recruiters and members of the legal profession. WRI urges the full implementation of the human right to refuse military service and hopes Constitutional Court of Ukraine will promptly satisfy complaints lodged by consensual objectors.

Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) asks what can be done to persuade it to adhere to its own human rights obligations, while upholding Ukraine in the face of continued Russian aggression. CPTI awaits anxiously the Constitutional Court decision on the complaint lodged by Dmitry Zelensky regarding the non-availability, during martial law, of alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors to military service, on which hinges nothing less than a right which inheres in the freedom of thought, conscience and religion guaranteed by the ICCPR which is also being disregarded by Russia. In March 2025, over a dozen Ukrainian conscientious objectors were under sentence of three years' imprisonment for their refusal of military service. No less than 182 further cases were currently before the courts and more than 500 criminal investigations were underway on Jehovah's Witnesses alone. Other objectors, having been forcibly recruited, were facing even harsher military penalties for disobedience. Unless the Constitutional Court halts this trend, the number of imprisoned objectors will, by the end of the year, be in the hundreds. This would constitute a repression of minority beliefs on almost a Russian scale.

The **World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organisations** is gravely concerned about the continued and massive aerial attacks on Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the intensified use of long-range missiles and systematic drone strikes have led to a dramatic 50% increase in civilian casualties this year. The Federation condemns in the strongest of terms these actions, including the deliberate targeting of residential areas and civilian infrastructure, transportation networks and emergency and rescue services. Widespread and systematic use of enforced disappearances and torture in occupied territories must stop. The international community and the UNHRC must intensify efforts to secure the release of all Ukrainian civilians unlawfully detained. Currently, 37,000 Ukrainians are registered missing and 16,000 Ukrainian civilians are



known to be detained by Russia, though the actual number is likely much higher. Many have been held for years without trial, subjected to torture, inhumane conditions and unlawful transfer to the Russian Federation. The tragic case of Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna, who died in Russian captivity showing clear signs of torture, underscores the urgency of international action. The detention of civilians is a grave violation of international law. Civilians must not be included in prison exchanges. They must be released immediately and unconditionally. Continued efforts are necessary to ensure access to occupied territories for the monitoring of human rights. The Federation fully supports the position of the Government of Ukraine in its efforts to negotiate a ceasefire and a just and lasting peace, as well as the recent establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. All those responsible for the crime of aggression and war crimes must be brought to justice.

The **Human Rights Research League** is appalled by Russia's ongoing aggression and speaks out against the horrific crimes committed by Russia in its war against Ukraine, which amount to crimes against humanity. One of the most disturbing perpetrations is Russia's systematic kidnapping of Ukrainian children from occupied territories. The children are taken from orphanages or separated from their parents and guardians, transported to Russia, stripped of their identities, and illegally adopted. This is a state-sponsored child trafficking. The ICC issued arrest warrants for war crimes for key state actors in Russia involved in these abductions. These crimes may also amount to genocide by erasing Ukrainian identity. The brutality extends to Ukrainian civilians abducted, tortured, and killed in Russian captivity. The recent murder of journalist Viktoriya Roshchyna, tortured and mutilated in captivity, is heartbreaking. Ukrainian POWs face torture, starvation, execution, in violation of the Geneva Conventions. These abuses are systemic and approved by Russia's leadership. The League stands with survivors and families demanding justice and action. The international community must hold Russia accountable, not just for past crimes, but for the ongoing aggression. Russia's war must not continue unchallenged.

Human Rights House Foundation welcomes the UNSG's report and its detailed focus on the deteriorating situation in Crimea. Over a decade of occupation has produced a near-total collapse of civic space in Crimea and what its partner, the Crimean Human Rights Group, calls a prison for the residents of the occupied territory. They documented at least 47 new cases of pressure on professional and citizen journalists in Crimea between May 2024 and May 2025. Seventeen journalists remain political prisoners. Among them, Irina Danilovich, Remzi Bekirov, Ahmed Suleymanov, and Timur Ibrahimov require urgent care. Mr. Bekirov is repeatedly confined to a punishment cell. Human Rights House Foundation calls for his immediate release. Human rights lawyers and defenders are likewise targeted. Recent searches and disbarments of Crimean Tatar lawyers and the closure or sanctioning of independent media exemplify Russia's deliberate dismantling of fundamental freedoms of expression, association, and assembly. Human Rights House Foundation further notes with alarm the UNSG's documentation of forced conscription and indoctrination of children, mass confiscation of property from Ukrainians who refuse Russian citizenship, and the continued denial of OHCHR and other independent monitors' access to Crimea. Human Rights House Foundation highlights the report's findings that such persecution is systematic and its Ukrainian partners now make a clear case for such persecution as amounting to a potential crime against humanity.



CIVICUS and the Centre for Civil Liberties remain concerned about the massive and systematic human rights violations in Crimea, including political persecution of dissent, destruction of independent media, censorship, closure of religious organisations, and discrimination against the Crimean Tatar people or the indigenous people of the peninsula. In the occupation, the Centre has been keeping reports of civil society actors and human rights defenders facing reprisals for their nonviolent activities in defence of human rights. Many have been subjected to enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and unlawful imprisonment on fabricated criminal charges, including Crimean Tatar activists, cultural leaders, journalists, and volunteers on the peninsula. CIVICUS also remains gravely concerned about the forced mobilisation of Ukrainian citizens into the Russian army and the relentless militarisation of Crimea, as well as about the forcible displacement policy to substitute the population in Crimea with citizens of the Russian Federation. CIVICUS urges states to make human rights violations and abuses occurring in occupied Crimea more visible, to support civil society with flexible and long-term funding, and to support the extension and adequate funding of international investigative efforts to ensure accountability for crimes against civil society.

Lawyers for Lawyers jointly with Rights Watch Canada, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, Frontline Defenders and the Council of Bars and Law Societies in Europe, remain deeply concerned about the ongoing persecution of lawyers in occupied Crimea. Those representing Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians, and civil society actors in politically sensitive cases are systematically harassed, threatened, and prosecuted. Their homes and offices are raided, access to clients and case materials obstructed, and their licences revoked, effectively preventing them from defending political prisoners. Bar associations and the occupying authorities no longer function independently. Disciplinary bodies are routinely weaponised to interfere with lawyers' work, often at the direct request of the Russian Ministry of Justice. These politically motivated proceedings lack due process and greatly violate international standards and the independence of the legal profession. This has led to the disbarment of lawyers Lilia Hemedzhy, Rustem Kyamilev, Nazim Sheikhmambetov, and Aleksey Ladin, all targeted for their legitimate work. Such harassment, along with arbitrary sanctions like fines, administrative detention, and unlawful surveillance, has deterred other lawyers from taking up certain cases, making access to independent legal representation virtually impossible, as reflected in the UN Secretary General's report. The NGOs jointly urge the UNHRC to call for independent review of all disbarment cases in Crimea and other occupied territories in Ukraine, demand reinstatement of unjustly revoked licences, and publicly condemn the misuse of legal tools to punish lawyers and human rights defenders.

Ingénieurs du Monde stresses the long years Ukraine has been enduring Russia's brutal and unlawful invasion. Each passing day not only claims more innocent lives, but it deepens the failure of the UNHRC to uphold its mandate. The findings in the UNSG report are abhorrent and demand immediate action. The testimonies in this report reveal that both Ukrainian civilians and POWs are being raped and sexually assaulted at the hands of Russian forces. The UN has documented Ukrainian civilians dying in Russian custody after being tortured, abused, and denied even the most basic principles under international law. Ukrainian children have been stolen from their homes and transferred to Russia. Their whereabouts remain unknown as Russian authorities obstruct the efforts of the Red Cross. Meanwhile, inside Russia and across



the territories it illegally occupies, fundamental freedoms of expression are under siege. Ukrainian identity is criminalised. The international community can no longer remain idle. Russia's aggression is not only a war on Ukraine, it is a war on human rights, on accountability, and on the very principles this Council was created to defend. 1,226 days.

The **Next Century Foundation** expresses grave concern over the growing use of autonomous technologies in warfare. Through the conduct of the Ukraine war, we have seen a troubling rise in drone systems and artificial intelligence used in targeting and operations. Though often justified by efficiency or precision, these tools have diminished accountability and normalised remote, dehumanised conflict. Inexpensive drones have been proven highly effective at halting vehicles. Their use against individual soldiers, however, raises serious ethical concerns. These troops often have no means of defence or chance to surrender, rendering them helpless. Using such weapons in this context can be seen as disproportionate, making the battlefield deadlier for individuals. While recognising that drones and autonomous weaponry can keep combatants out of direct harm's way, and that efficiency in warfare has its place, the dangers of detached warfare necessitate urgent regulation. The Next Century Foundation urges the group of governmental experts to conclude formal discussions on the regulation of autonomous weapons and provide clear guidance to nations on their use through an addition to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Covering AI and Drones. It also urges states to follow these guidelines. The wielders of these weapons have a responsibility to act accordingly. Clear international norms are needed to protect civilians, uphold humanitarian law, and prevent a future where machines fight with little human control.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

40 State Delegations

2 Inter-Governmental Organizations

1 National Human Rights Institution

9 Non-Governmental Organizations