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ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

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PRESENTATION OF THE ORAL UPDATE

Mr. Erik MØSE, Chair, Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Ukraine

In his oral update on investigations carried out during its fourth mandate, the Chair of the COI draws the Council's attention to the fact that the armed conflict in Ukraine continues to have a **devastating impact on the civilian population**. Attacks with explosive weapons in populated areas remain the leading cause of casualties among civilians. Earlier this month, OHCHR reported that total casualties increased by 40 per cent in the first eight months of this year, compared to 2024. The COI is deeply concerned by the continuing civilian casualties due to relentless attacks with long-range weapons that have intensified throughout the country. It is also alarmed at the escalation in attacks against civilians with short-range drones in front-line areas.

In its May 2025 [conference room paper](#), the Commission documented widespread and **systematic attacks with short-range drones** by Russian armed forces targeting civilians in Kherson Province. The COI concluded that these acts have been committed pursuant to a **coordinated state policy** and amount to crimes against humanity of murder, as well as war crimes of attacking civilians. The Commission also determined that these crimes had the primary purpose of spreading terror among the population, in violation of international humanitarian law.



Russian armed forces have been carrying out attacks from positions on the left bank of the Dnipro River with drones that allow real time observation and tracking of targets. They pursued victims with drones and dropped explosives on them, causing deaths and injuries. Drones have also struck ambulances and other emergency services, preventing them from reaching the victims. Telegram channels run by the perpetrating units of the Russian armed forces themselves or by persons close to them have disseminated hundreds of videos of civilians being killed or injured, which amounts to the war crime of outrages upon dignity. They have posted threatening texts announcing further attacks and exhorting the population to leave.

As regards allegations made by Russian authorities of drone attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces, the Commission has been unable to conclude its investigation due to **lack of access to the territory**, concerns relating to the safety of witnesses, and in the absence of response to the COI's questions addressed to the Russian Federation.

The Commission's current investigations demonstrate that drone units of Russian armed forces have carried out **attacks on civilians and civilian objects** not only in Kherson Province, but also in Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv Provinces. The evidence now confirms that the targeted localities span over 300 kilometres on the right bank of the Dnipro River, which is under Ukrainian Government control. In addition to attacking civilians while walking or using transport, Russian armed forces have targeted a wide array of civilian objects, including residences, critical infrastructure, and other buildings. **Drones** have been directed also against first responders, ambulances and fire engines bearing distinctive marks, preventing them from intervening after the attacks. The circumstances of the attacks show the perpetrators' intention to kill, harm and destroy.

As a result, whole localities suffered damage and destruction and became unliveable; essential services and shops have been unable to operate. A woman from a frequently targeted locality stated, *'Drones chase us, we hide from them. Drones sit on the rooftops, and if they see something, there will be consequences'*. The terror instilled in the population has compelled thousands to flee. In the Commission's view, the conduct of the Russian armed forces may amount to the crime against humanity of **forcible transfer of population**. The Commission will return to this point in its upcoming report to the UN General Assembly.

Turning to areas under Russian control, the Commission is currently investigating a **pattern of deportations and transfers of adult civilians** from the areas of Zaporizhzhia Province that are under Russian control. The investigations on drone attacks and deportations reveal coordinated and organized efforts by the Russian authorities to further capture territory, as well as to consolidate their grip over areas they already control in Ukraine, while compelling local populations to leave.

The violations and corresponding crimes documented have inflicted **unspeakable suffering and hardship** on the affected populations. Recurrent attacks have gradually destroyed entire localities. Many of the victims suffer from the loss of loved ones or of their homes and livelihoods and feel that they have 'lost everything'. Close to the frontlines, older persons have been particularly affected, as many are unable to flee, making them vulnerable to risks of attacks.



It bears reiteration that during armed conflicts, it is imperative for States to respect the obligations to protect civilians, given the heightened risks to which they are exposed. A report from 2024 notes that there were **580 victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war** in Ukraine in 2023, placing it as the country with the fourth highest number of casualties recorded in that year. The Russian Federation has never been a party to the **Mine Ban Convention**. Recently, Ukraine and five other European countries decided to withdraw from this convention.

In closing, the Commission reiterates the importance of **judicial and non-judicial accountability**, as one of the means to fulfil the rights of the victims. Avoiding impunity and holding perpetrators to account is key to securing sustainable peace.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Erik MØSE, Chair of the COI, explains that there are many ways to ensure **accountability**, both international and national. Starting from the international level, the COI has always pointed out the importance of the International Criminal Court in which investigations are ongoing. The COI has also noted the recent setting-up of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression and the COI is following to what extent and in what time span it will be established in practice. At the national level, the Ukrainian Prosecutor explained this morning that several hundred trials related to war crimes are underway and that many of them have resulted in convictions.

It follows from the COI's mandate that it shall **collect evidence** with a view to ensuring that the responsible are held accountable. The COI has been in contact with the ICC and with Ukrainian authorities – referring mainly to national prosecuting authorities exercising extra-territorial jurisdiction. The COI remains available to assist the Special Tribunal once it is established and other national authorities to ensure accountability. Evidence and information gathered by the COI are also useful for other entities. For instance, the Chair notes that the **European Court of Human Rights** recently handed down a judgment about an important interstate case involving Ukraine, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation, where the COI's findings were used actively in the judgment drafting and in reading the judgment.

Turning to **non-traditional accountability**, the COI has previously recommended that Ukraine continue to comprehensively address mental health and psychosocial needs resulting from the armed conflicts by ensuring access to the relevant services. On this issue, the international community can assist in providing financial and professional resources to support the national endeavour by Ukraine. Another important non-traditional accountability mechanism is the **Ukraine's registry of damages** which is now collecting the claims established in 2023. The COI has noted that this registry has launched various categories of claims from individuals who have been most affected by the war as well as claims related to Ukrainian civilian infrastructure.

The **rights of persons in the occupied territories** is a complicated matter as the COI has no access to these territories. Despite this, the COI has been monitoring the situation. It is important to continue establishing the facts in this territory which may have a bearing on accountability and also peace negotiations. In reply to questions on **drone attacks and their impact on victims**, the Chair explains this issue will constitute an important part of the report to the UNGA which is going to be delivered in October 2025.



VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE AS CONCERNED COUNTRIES

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

The delegation of **Ukraine** takes the floor through its **Prosecutor General, Mr. Ruslan Kravchenko**, who depicts the scope and impact of Russian armed attacks since 10 September 2025. More than 181,000 episodes of war crimes have been registered in Ukraine. Russia's aggression has claimed the lives of at least 15,500 civilians, including 653 children, while more than 35,000 others have been wounded. The killing of civilians is a deliberate choice by Russia.

A telling example is the recent strike on the village of Yarova in the Donetsk region. On September 9, Russian forces dropped a guided bomb on the very center of the settlement, at the precise moment when people were standing in line near a mobile post office unit to receive their payments. Ordinary citizens were simply waiting for their pensions. The enemy deliberately chose civilians as the target. As a result of this heinous crime, 25 Ukrainians were killed and another 18 were wounded. This atrocity once again demonstrates that Russia has turned deliberate strikes against civilians into a method of warfare, because its army is incapable of fighting armed Ukrainians on the battlefield.

In addition, crimes involving the use of First-Person View drones (FPV drones) are on the rise. Since the beginning of 2024, more than 5,200 such attacks have been recorded, which have killed over 315 people, wounded more than 2,600, and destroyed thousands of civilian infrastructure facilities. Local residents of the Kherson region say – *'They are hunting us.'* This is not a war fought on the battlefield, but a deliberate campaign of terror against the civilian population.

The Prosecutor General of Ukraine thanks the Commission for its work and its conclusions regarding the presence of elements of crimes against humanity in these attacks. The COI's report issued in May has been included in the materials of the pre-trial investigation, and for the first time following amendments to national legislation, a criminal case has been registered in Ukraine under the article on crimes against humanity. This investigation is ongoing.

Turning to forced deportations, Russia has deported at least 27,700 Ukrainian citizens, including more than 11,000 children. This is Russia's strategy of forcibly separating children from their families and assimilating them into Russian society. At the same time, it has been established that the victims of this category of crimes are most often people with an active pro-Ukrainian position – those who refused to cooperate with the occupying authorities, to accept Russian passports, or to recognize the imposed regime.

The Prosecutor General further draws attention to the executions of Ukrainian soldiers. This constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and has already become a systemic phenomenon. At least 281 defenders are confirmed to have been executed, including the mass killing of 49 prisoners of war in Olenivka in July 2022. The executions of disarmed soldiers are war crimes that have no statute of limitations. At the same time, even under these circumstances, justice is possible. Nearly 1,000 Russian servicemen have been notified of suspicion for war crimes, more than 700 cases have been brought to court, and 200 persons have



already been convicted. This sends a clear signal - impunity will not prevail. Justice for victims and their families is an integral part of a just peace.

The systemic nature of Russia's crimes demonstrates the urgent need to preserve the unity of the international community in supporting Ukraine and defending the international legal order. A crucial component of countering Russia's international crimes must be the demonstration that accountability is inevitable and unlimited in time. This applies first and foremost not to ordinary perpetrators, but to those who give orders, encourage, or justify such crimes. Extending his sincere appreciation to the UN Commission for its tireless dedication and devoted work, the Prosecutor General praises the results of its work closer to the delivery of justice, and will have a lasting and significant impact on ensuring a just peace for Ukraine, and the whole world.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

Albania on behalf of the Group of Friends of Accountability following the aggression against Ukraine¹ vocally affirms that at the heart of international human rights law lies an absolute prohibition of torture under all circumstances without exception. Torture can never be justified. Despite this, Ukrainians have endured grave suffering at the hands of Russian forces. Survivors have described beatings, electric shocks, mock executions, sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which could constitute flagrant violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. It is clear that in their reports, the COI and UNHRC Special Procedures, as most recently the Special Rapporteur on torture - have gathered evidence throughout the years to document this wide range of violations – some of which have been qualified as amounting to crimes against humanity and war crimes. This includes the unlawful deportation and forcible transfer of children. There can be no impunity for these crimes. Alleged violations need to be further investigated and with Russia's recent announcement of withdrawing from the European Convention against Torture, the COI's work becomes even more crucial. The victims deserve justice. And the perpetrators must be held to account. Reiterating its unwavering commitment to the COI's work, the Group of Friends will continue to work collectively to secure accountability, safeguard human rights, and ensure a just and lasting peace for Ukraine. The Group calls for sustained resourcing and unhindered operation of the COI, including safe witness engagement, forensic capacity, and regular public reporting to the UNHRC.

The **European Union** expresses deep concern over the increasing number of civilians killed and injured, due to Russia's use of drones and explosive weapons, including with wide area effect in urban areas, and on other civilian objects, and civilian infrastructure. According to the COI, Russian armed forces perpetrated war crimes by intentionally directing such attacks against civilians. The EU strongly condemns the atrocities committed in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine including arbitrary detentions, unlawful deportations, forcible transfers, extra

¹ Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

judicial executions, sexual and gender based violence and summary executions of prisoners of war held in Russian captivity. According to the commission Russian authorities have acted pursuant to a coordinated state policy and have committed crimes against humanity including by systematic and widespread use of torture and enforced disappearances. The EU reiterates its call on Russia to end the unlawful practice of child deportation, forcible transfers and illegal adoptions and to ensure the immediate return. The EU reaffirms its commitment to ensuring full accountability as well as to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine. Further, the EU strongly condemns Russia's drone incursions into the EU air space. The EU demands that Russia cease its aggression, withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The EU joins Ukraine and international partners in calling for full, unconditional cease fire.

Sweden on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries² deliver a statement through the **Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs**, H.E. Ms. Maria Malmer Stenergard, who stresses that summer 2025 marked a grim milestone. July 2025 saw the highest number of civilian casualties in Ukraine since May 2022. This tragic loss of innocent lives, including children, could immediately end if Russia agreed to a full, unconditional ceasefire as the first step towards meaningful negotiations. However, Russia's recent attacks have made it clear that they are not interested in peace. While Russia stalls negotiations, the reports of human rights violations continue to grow. The Nordic-Baltic countries are alarmed by the situation in the temporarily occupied territories. By the forcible transfers and unlawful deportations of children. And by the torture and executions of prisoners of war, among many other grave violations. Thanking the COI for its vital work in documenting these violations, the Nordic-Baltic countries describe their deeply disturbing reports as strengthening their unwavering support for Ukraine's pursuit of a just and lasting peace. Calling on Russia to stop its war of aggression against Ukraine, respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and agree to a full and comprehensive ceasefire, the Nordic-Baltic states stand - and will continue to stand - fully behind Ukraine.

State Delegations

Albania appreciates the COI's report and its continued commitment to truth and justice. The COI's findings are clear and alarming: Russian armed forces have committed war crimes, including intentionally targeting civilians, as well as crimes against humanity, including murder and forcible transfer of population. The COI's report continue to lay bare that Russia is illegally detaining civilians, thereby violating the right to liberty and security of person. The Russians are responsible for the forced and illegal transfer of thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia. Albania strongly condemns these practices and reiterate its call on Russia to immediately ensure the safe return to Ukraine of all Ukrainian children and other civilians unlawfully expelled and/or transferred. Albania calls for the continuation of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry, so that these crimes are not forgotten and those responsible are identified and held accountable. Justice and reparation are owed to the victims. Finally, Albania reiterates its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders. Lasting peace requires an end to the aggression and justice for the victims.

² NB8, namely Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden.



Australia, appreciating the COI's oral update and its tireless efforts to document Russia's grave and ongoing human rights violations, voices its deep concern over the findings regarding Russia's widespread and systematic use of torture, sexual violence, enforced disappearance and summary executions of Ukrainian prisoners. These acts are abhorrent and demand accountability. Russia's continued attacks on critical and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, are especially alarming amid ongoing discussions to end the war. Any deliberate targeting of civilians is a clear violation of international humanitarian law. The forced transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russian authorities is deeply disturbing, as it undermines family unity and violates core international legal protections. Australia reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ukraine's defence is also a defence of shared values enshrined in the UN Charter. Supporting all meaningful efforts, including those led by the United States and our European partners, towards a just and lasting peace with Ukraine at the table, Australia calls on Russia to comply with its international human rights obligations, engage in good faith and end its war of aggression.

Austria remains gravely concerned over the growing body of evidence of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including torture, extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, forced transfers and deportations. Austria is also deeply concerned by the reported systematic use of torture, including sexual violence, against certain categories of detainees to extract information, coerce, and intimidate. The widespread and systematic drone attacks targeting civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure, all means of transport, and emergency and rescue services is not only terrorizing the population. The damage and destruction of houses, the absence or limitation of services, essential infrastructure, and transport, have rendered the affected areas unliveable and left many residents with no other choice than to seek safer locations. Austria calls on Russian authorities to stop these dangerous attacks immediately and withdraw all troops from within the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine, and to increase efforts in returning forcibly transferred Ukrainian children. In closing, Austria underlines the importance of the continued independent and impartial reporting of the COI, thereby confirming the country's support to all efforts to seek full accountability for these violations and crimes under international law.

Belarus has repeatedly expressed its position on the work of the COI, whose updated information presented today once again raises questions on the effectiveness and purpose of this mechanism. By continuing to condemn only one side, the COI is discrediting itself and not moving the crisis resolution process forward in any way. The COI continues to ignore the systemic causes of the conflict, even though objective critical analysis and elimination of these causes are the key to a long-term settlement. Belarus consistently supports initiatives aimed at reducing military and political tensions, restoring trust at the regional and global levels, and reducing the level of military confrontation. However, Belarus is forced to note that many countries have embarked on a course of increased militarization and are not showing any desire for negotiations, preferring to further escalate the spiral of conflict. Yet again, Belarus calls on countries and international organizations to take real action to reject the logic of confrontation and to support efforts to end hostilities and embark on a path of détente and movement towards sustainable peace.

Belgium expresses concern over the the past years' chilling number of human rights violations committed by Russia in Ukraine, among which extrajudicial killings, torture, sexual and gender-



based violence, grave violations against children, including forced deportations, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. Every year, that list gets longer. The COI has concluded that some of the violations they have documented amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Ms. Alice Edwards, Special Rapporteur on torture, has recently documented a wide pattern of risks of torture, whereby torture is used in order to intimidate, instill fear and control civilians in occupied territory of Ukraine. But instead of stopping this practice and holding the perpetrators to account, Russia decides to go in the opposite direction. Its recent decision to withdraw from the European Convention against Torture will lead to even less scrutiny and less accountability. Belgium calls for an immediate end to these illegal practices and support all efforts to ensure justice and reparation for victims. In closing, Belgium would like to know from the COI which being taken to strengthen the reporting and follow-up of cases of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians, including children, who have been detained, forcibly displaced, transferred or deported by Russia, particularly through a victim-centred approach.

Bulgaria notes with deep regret that Russia's illegal, unjust and unprovoked aggressive war against Ukraine is causing further serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Bulgaria is outraged by the continuing reports of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and persecution of civilians, including members of ethnic and religious minorities, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Bulgaria strongly condemns the forced displacement, deportation and militarization of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation, and demand their immediate and safe return to Ukraine. For this reason, Bulgaria is part and supports the work of the International Coalition for the Repatriation to Ukraine of Illegally Deported and Forcibly Displaced Ukrainian Children. Bulgaria reiterates its call for full and unhindered access for the OHCHR, as well as international and regional human rights organizations and mechanisms, to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. It also reiterates its call for accountability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Supporting all ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the war against Ukraine, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, Bulgaria encourages inclusive dialogue as the only viable path to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace agreement that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the rights of its people.

Canada expresses its gratitude for the hard work of the COI and remains deeply concerned by violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, particularly those affecting children. Illegal deportations and the forced transfer of children constitute serious violations of the Geneva Conventions. Thousands of children have been separated from their families and subjected to indoctrination and militarisation. The nature of these violations reflects a deliberate strategy to erase Ukraine's heritage and compromise future generations. The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for 10 other Russian officials, underscoring the gravity of the situation. Canada, as co-chair of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, continues to support Ukraine's efforts and calls on all states to demand the unconditional return of the children. Children must never be used as instruments of war. Their human rights, dignity and safety must be protected. Canada stands firmly with Ukraine in its quest for justice and accountability.

Colombia expresses its solidarity with the victims of the war and reiterates its call for compliance with the principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and the Charter



of the United Nations. Colombia reaffirms the need to guarantee safe conditions for all people, as well as unrestricted respect for the human rights of the populations of Ukraine and Russia. Attacks against civilians, displacement and forced disappearances, sexual violence, and the deportation of children and young people are absolutely reprehensible acts. They must be subject to independent investigations and those responsible must be brought to justice. Any violation of the territorial integrity or political independence of States is unacceptable, as it constitutes a direct violation of basic international obligations. Colombia reiterates its rejection of the use of force and reaffirms its conviction that the solution to this conflict can only be guaranteed through dialogue and diplomatic channels. In closing, Colombia urges the parties to agree to a cessation of hostilities that will lead to a negotiated, peaceful, and sustainable solution to achieve a swift and definitive end to the conflict.

Croatia condemns in the strongest possible terms the atrocities committed in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The reports of drone attacks targeting civilian populated areas of Ukraine are truly shocking. Moreover, Croatia is appalled by the findings of torture and sexual assaults of civilians, which include rapes, electric shocks to the genitals, beatings and other depraved conduct. Croatia is deeply concerned that these acts, as reported, represent a part of Russian Federation's deliberate and systematic policy of torture. The reports on enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions additionally raise our concerns. All violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Ukraine need to be further investigated and those responsible need to be held to account. Reiterating its unwavering support to efforts aimed at bringing perpetrators to justice and preventing further crimes, Croatia recognizes the work of the International Criminal Court, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry. Croatia strongly supports a just and lasting peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law as the only acceptable outcome for Ukraine and Europe.

Czechia appreciates the COI's valuable work in providing impartial documentation of the continuous gross violations of international law stemming from the Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. By its scaling up indiscriminate attacks on Ukrainian cities, targeting civilian infrastructure, and intentionally directing such attacks against civilians, Russia is killing and wounding even more civilians, including children, in the fourth year of the conflict. Czechia strongly condemns arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and systematic torture of prisoners of war and civilians by Russian authorities as well as forced transfers of population in the occupied territories including Ukrainian children. According to the COI, Russian armed forces perpetrated war crimes and crimes against humanity. Repeating its call for accountability for all these crimes under international law, Czechia asks how to best support accountability for the documented crimes and achieve justice for victims and survivors.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** expresses grave concern over the COI's update, which is based on distorted facts and serves the political purposes of Western countries. The COI ignores atrocities and abuses of human rights committed by the Ukraine's military and leadership including killing of innocent civilians, torture and eliminating of prisoners of war and so-called collaborators and systematic oppression of Russian minorities. It is an undeniable reality that Western countries are using the human rights agenda as a tool to slander and isolate the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation has been making legitimate efforts to safeguard



and security of its people and defend peace and stability in the region. The DPRK resolutely opposes any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states under the pretext of human rights. The DPRK strongly urges the Western countries to respect the sovereignty and independence of Russia and ensure that discussion on this matter are conducted in a fair, impartial and nonpoliticized manner.

France thanks the COI for its oral report, which highlights the massive violations of international law committed by Russia in Ukraine over the past three years. France condemns all violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine. Russian strikes targeting residential areas have intensified in recent months. These crimes, which come on top of enforced disappearances, sexual violence, and deportations, stem from a deliberate desire on the part of the Russian authorities to break the resilience and unity of the Ukrainian people. Thousands of Ukrainian children, illegally deported and forcibly transferred, are still in Russia. In response to the persistence of these war crimes, France will continue, with its partners, its coordination efforts within the International Coalition for the Repatriation of Ukrainian Children. There will be no lasting peace in Ukraine without justice. Russia's crimes must be documented so that their perpetrators do not go unpunished. France reiterated this last March when the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry was renewed: its work is essential to combat impunity for these abuses. Expressing its full solidarity with the Ukrainian people and authorities, France reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and reaffirms its determination to support Ukraine in the long term.

Georgia thanks the COI for its continued efforts in the latest update. Every single day for more than three years Russia's unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine brings nothing but unbearable human suffering and immense scale of destruction. The COI's findings once again confirm the pattern of systematic and widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by Russia, many of which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Georgia strongly condemns Russia's continued attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure would deepen the humanitarian crisis and deliberately target the most vulnerable. Such actions demonstrate the blatant disregard for the principles of international law and the rules-based international order. Georgia further underscores the importance of the COI's work in documenting these violations and contributing to future accountability efforts, ensuring justice for victims and ending impunity remain essential to achieving lasting peace. Finally, Georgia reaffirms its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders extending to its territorial waters.

Germany is appalled by the COI's findings and yet again, it reiterates its deepest concern over the grave violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by Russia in its illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. According to COI's findings, Russian authorities have committed enforced disappearances and torture, amounting to crimes against humanity. Russia has been targeting Ukraine's civilian population through widespread and systematic attacks with disastrous consequences, especially for the most vulnerable groups. These crimes will not go unpunished. Supporting the COI's necessary work to ensure accountability, Germany stands with Ukraine and its people. It joins them in striving for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, and reaffirms its support for Ukrainian independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. In closing,



Germany would like to know from the COI how could the international community support in the long-term Ukrainian civilians scarred by the human rights violations committed by Russia.

Greece expresses serious concern over the continuous widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed by Russia in the context of its war of aggression against Ukraine. Numerous cases of torture, ill-treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention have been reported, while high numbers in civilian casualties from systematic attacks, including on hospitals, energy and other civilian infrastructure by Russia, have been recorded. Greece also voices alarm at reports of military training programmes and prospects of future military service for children in the temporarily occupied by Russia territories of Ukraine. Strongly condemning the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children, Greece underlines the urgent need to ensure their immediate and safe return and family reunification. Greece supports a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, in full conformity with international law, the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions and in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders. An immediate ceasefire is imperative, as a first step toward meaningful peace negotiations. Greece calls on Russia to fully comply with its obligations under international law, while underlining that accountability must be ensured.

Ireland reiterates its condemnation of Russia's unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. We further condemn Russia's occupation of Ukrainian territory and the violations and abuses of human rights that have taken place since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion. Ireland deplores Russia's continued attacks on civilian targets and civilian infrastructure across Ukraine during ongoing international efforts to bring about an end to the war. Russia's attacks continue to bring untold pain, misery and suffering to the Ukrainian people. Standing in full solidarity with Ukrainians in their quest for justice and accountability, Ireland remains concerned by reports of enforced disappearances and torture and the inhumane treatment of prisoners. Deploring the use of sexual violence as a form of torture against both male and female detainees, Ireland further condemns the forcible transfer or deportation of Ukrainian citizens, including children, by Russian authorities, which is a clear violation of international law. Ireland rejects Russia's efforts to alter the demographic composition of occupied territories of Ukraine, including by incentivizing Russian citizens to move to the occupied territories and by pressuring Ukrainian citizens in the those territories to obtain Russian citizenship. Lastly, Ireland asks to the COI what steps could be taken by the international community to defend the rights of civilians in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Japan remains deeply concerned over the humanitarian and human rights situation in Ukraine. More than three and a half years have passed since the start of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which, Japan reiterates, is a clear violation of international law and shakes the very foundation of the international order. Once again, Japan condemns in the strongest terms the actions of the Russian forces, which have led to a large number of civilian casualties in Ukraine. Japan appreciates the investigation being conducted by the COI, whose work is important in identifying those responsible for violations or abuses of human rights and holding them accountable. Japan fully supports the work of the COI and its mandate, and further expresses its respect for the Ukrainian people, who have demonstrated immense bravery in standing up



against Russia's aggression day after day. Japan will continue to stand firmly with Ukraine until a just and lasting peace is achieved in Ukraine.

Liechtenstein notes that the recent escalation and the intensification of Russian attacks against Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure is unacceptable and must stop immediately. Drone attacks on civilians, abductions of children and state-sanctioned sexual violence continue to characterize the Russian Federation's conduct of war. Numbers cannot capture the immense human suffering that the Russian aggression has brought onto Ukraine. Vulnerable civilians like children and older people are forced to spend hours in shelters in their areas of residence during indiscriminate Russian attacks with explosive weapons. Liechtenstein strongly condemns the Russian war crimes and crimes against humanity that are perpetrated in the context of the war of aggression. Liechtenstein expresses its continued solidarity with Ukraine and its people and our strong support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Liechtenstein condemns Russia's airspace violations against Estonia and Poland as clear breaches of sovereignty and international law, particularly the UN Charter, threatening regional stability and security as well as the enjoyment of human rights. Russia must immediately stop its aggression against Ukraine and its provocation of other States in the region.

Luxembourg notes that for three and a half years now, the COI has been meticulously documenting the numerous daily violations of international law. The evidence established in its reports is a key element in prosecuting those responsible for crimes and ensuring justice for victims. COI's reports on serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. These include enforced disappearances and deportations, acts of torture and sexual violence, and extrajudicial executions. Luxembourg deplores the Russian army's systematic targeting of urban areas and civilian infrastructure such as energy networks, hospitals, and ambulances. Luxembourg reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine and strongly condemns these violations, which, according to the COI, constitute war crimes and even crimes against humanity. Luxembourg also expresses its deep concern about the fate of Ukrainian children and adolescents who are victims of illegal deportations. As a member of the International Coalition for the Repatriation of Ukrainian Children, Luxembourg calls on Russia to end these illegal deportations and ensure the immediate return of these children to their families in Ukraine.

Malta remains gravely concerned by the continued Russian aggression against Ukraine, together with the serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law documented by the Commission. Recent abuses include summary executions of prisoners-of-war and civilian detainees, systematic and widespread use of torture, as well as other forms of ill-treatment. Malta calls on Russia to end the unlawful practice of child deportation and forcible transfer, to stop the illegal adoptions of Ukrainian children and to ensure their immediate and safe return to Ukraine. Malta stresses that those responsible must be held accountable for all international crimes and human rights violations committed as well as victims' rights to justice. Expressing appreciation for the COI's vital documentation work to ensure accountability, Malta reiterates its call on Russia to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine and to fully respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.



Montenegro notes with concern that in recent months, Russia has markedly intensified missile and drone attacks across Ukraine, inflicting immense human suffering, heavy loss of life, and widespread destruction. Its drones have even violated the airspace of EU Member States, underlining the gravity of this aggression. Through the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in populated areas, Russia has made Ukraine the deadliest country for cluster munitions casualties for the third consecutive year. While the international community pursues peace efforts, the Russian Federation responds with continued violence and terror. Its refusal to accept a full and unconditional ceasefire as a credible path to meaningful peace negotiations shows that Russia has no genuine interest in peace or a just resolution consistent with the UN Charter and international law. COI's reports have repeatedly documented war crimes by the Russian armed forces, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, as well as crimes against humanity such as torture and enforced disappearances, perpetrated under a coordinated state policy. The human toll is immense - the forcible transfer and indoctrination of Ukrainian children, the erasure of their identities, and the systematic torture, sexual violence, and inhumane treatment of civilians and prisoners of war in Russian captivity. Montenegro reiterates that there can be no lasting peace without justice, nor impunity for Russia's war of aggression. Lastly, Montenegro calls for full accountability and reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine, firmly rooted in the UN Charter and international law.

The **Netherlands** laments that indiscriminate drone and missile strikes - by night and in broad daylight - menace Ukrainians almost daily. The images of their aftermath are devastating - civilians killed, homes destroyed, and families torn apart. Beyond the fear from the skies, people living in the occupied territories endure a relentless series of grave violations. The Netherlands are deeply concerned by the COI's previous findings of widespread and systematic use of torture and ill-treatment by the Russian authorities. Testimonies from released Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees reveal a reality of severe beatings, sexual violence and electric shocks - if survivors are able to recount them at all. These flagrant violations must end. Perpetrators must be held accountable. Ukrainians deserve justice. Without it, there can be no lasting and just peace. The Netherlands will continue its steadfast support for Ukraine's path towards accountability, and commends Ukraine's unrelenting national endeavors to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate of international crimes.

New Zealand stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they endure a fourth year of full-scale Russian aggression and occupation. New Zealand remains gravely concerned by the documented cases of executions, deaths in custody, arbitrary detention, torture, including sexual violence, ill-treatment and enforced disappearances as a result of Russia's actions in Ukraine. The established pattern of these violations and crimes is shocking, and we must continue to highlight and condemn Russia's blatant disregard for its human rights obligations. In addition, 2025 marks a sharp and concerning increase in Russian missile and drone attacks in densely-populated urban areas of Ukraine. New Zealand calls on Russia to end attacks on civilian infrastructure, and fully comply with international humanitarian law. Let us not become inured to the human toll of Russia's destruction in Ukraine. Let us also not forget that Russia started this war, and Russia can end it tomorrow by withdrawing from the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

North Macedonia remains deeply concerned by the continuous suffering endured by Ukrainians. Reports of torture, sexual violence, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, are



appalling. Along with unlawful deportations and the forcible transfer of children, they constitute serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Some of these violations may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. North Macedonia is also alarmed by the sharp increase in civilian casualties caused in large part by the Russian forces intensified reliance on long-range missile strikes and unmanned aerial systems. Equally concerning is the documented pattern of deportations and transfers of adult civilians from occupied areas of Zaporizhzhia Oblast. Accountability is imperative. Victims deserve justice, and perpetrators must be held to account. North Macedonia strongly supports the COI's mandate and reiterates its unwavering commitment to ensuring accountability, safeguarding human rights, and working toward a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

Poland condemns the escalation of Russia's attacks killing civilians, destroying infrastructure and undermining hopes for peace. Recent weeks saw some of the biggest and deadliest aerial attacks since the beginning of Russia's full scale invasion. At the end of August 23 people lost their lives in Kyiv, including four children - killed in their sleep. In early September, Russia struck a government building and a residential area in Kyiv killing a mother and an infant. Just two days later an aerial bomb attack killed 24 and injured 19 people in the village of Yarova. Most of those killed were pensioners. In a clear sign of escalation, Russia also tried to target Polish homes. Last week 19 Russian military drones breached Polish airspace endangering civilians, infrastructure and aviation safety. It is well-known this was not a mistake. Those ceaseless violations of international law reinforce Poland's determination to support Ukraine. Only full respect for human rights, the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity can lay the foundations for a just and lasting peace.

Portugal strongly condemns Russia's brutal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and its serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The documented patterns of torture and forced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, forcible transfers and summary executions of prisoners of war and civilians are a pulling and amount to crimes against humanity. Portugal urges Russia to end the unlawful transfer of Ukrainian children, guarantee their safe return and stop indoctrinating and militarizing children. Russia continues to flout the principle of distinction by deliberately targeting civilians and civilian objects, namely schools, hospitals and other vital infrastructure which amounts to war crimes. Portugal will continue to advocate for full accountability and supports the commission's mandate to ensure justice, truth and redress for all victims. In closing, Portugal reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its international recognized borders.

The **Republic of Korea** remains deeply concerned about the continued reports of civilian casualties resulting from expansive drone and missile attacks in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The deliberate targeting of energy systems and other civilian infrastructure further highlights the severity of the situation under international law. The Republic of Korea is particularly disturbed by the COI's reports of widespread and systematic torture against civilians and prisoners of war, including beatings, electric shocks, mock executions, and sexual violence. It also notes with alarm the recent incidents near Poland's eastern border, which serve as a stark reminder that the war's devastating consequences could spill over beyond Ukraine. In this regard, Korea underlines the urgent need for an immediate halt to attacks on



civilians and civilian infrastructure, full compliance with international law, and accountability for violations. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its solidarity with the international community and stands ready to work closely with all partners to support efforts to end this war without further delay.

The **Republic of Moldova** condemns recent intensification of aerial attacks on Ukraine. The brutal and massive attacks continue to cause deaths and injuries among civilian population, including children. Homes are reduced to rubble ahead of approaching cold season. As stated also by the High Commissioner, civilians continue to be arbitrarily detained by Russia. Moldova condemns the reported widespread and systemic torture and ill-treatment during interrogation and detention of civilians and prisoners of war. Documented cases of sexual violence, willful killings, unlawful confinement and transfers are appalling. Moldova reiterates its call on Russian authorities to provide families with complete information on the whereabouts of those detained as well as to return all Ukrainian children forcibly abducted and transferred to areas under Russian control. Accountability must be ensured. In this regard, Moldova reiterates its support for the mandate of the Commission as well as for the Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. It supports and welcomes all the recent efforts aimed at paving the way for just and sustainable peace in Ukraine. Regretfully, they have not resulted yet in much expected results. Looking forward to the next steps with hope, Moldova stands firmly alongside Ukraine and reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Romania thanks the COI for its continued work in documenting the extensive and grave violations of international human rights law committed in the context of the war of aggression conducted by Russia against Ukraine. Romania stresses that accountability for all crimes is imperative, and the COI's findings will play a vital role in supporting future judicial processes and mechanisms, as impunity must not prevail. Withdrawal from international legal frameworks does not absolve a State from its obligations under international law, nor does it shield it from accountability. Romania remains deeply alarmed by the persistent reports of targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure – the latest aerial bomb attack on Yarova, in the Donetsk oblast, is yet another among many, the number of civilian casualties in Ukraine having reached a three-year high during the summer. The *systemic* nature of these human rights violations, which may amount to crimes against humanity, carried out as part of a *coordinated state policy*, is profoundly concerning and demands urgent justice. Deploring the devastating impact the conflict continues to have on the population, Romania will continue to support all independent monitoring mandates that seek to document and investigate human rights violations and to promote justice for victims.

Slovakia appreciates the COI's valuable work on the deteriorating situation of human rights in Ukraine caused by the unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Slovakia strongly condemns arbitrary detentions, torture, ill treatment, sexual violence, unlawful deportations, forcible transfers and any other widespread violations of human rights. Alarmed by the continuing massive attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure, Slovakia believes that the Russian Federation has no intentions to fully comply with the international monitoring and investigative bodies and to respect international human rights obligations and treaties, including UN Charter and its principles. Hence, Slovakia welcomes the initiative of the international



community to hold the Russian Federation account for its actions. To conclude, Slovakia stresses the key importance of the COI's work as an indispensable contribution to the process of avoiding impunity for the atrocities, achieving peace and restoring justice.

Slovenia commends the COI's impartial and evidence-based approach, which is essential in ensuring that the truth is established. The findings of the Commission, including evidence of widespread war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law, are deeply alarming: attacks against civilians, the destruction of critical infrastructure, and credible reports of torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and the forcible transfer of children. Slovenia is particularly concerned about the new cases of rape and sexual violence amounting to torture against detained women, in addition to inhuman conditions that female detainees are subjected to. Slovenia reiterates its full support for all accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, and stresses that those responsible must be held to account. Slovenia reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Slovenia will continue to stand for protection and respect of human rights of all civilians, unjustly swept into this war of aggression.

Spain thanks the COI for fulfilling its mandate since 2022 to investigate alleged human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law and other related crimes in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The COI's third report found that the Russian Federation continues to carry out enforced disappearances and torture practices that constitute crimes against humanity. In the occupied areas, many civilians have been interned in detention centres, where they have been subjected to all kinds of abuse and harassment, including sexual violence as a systematic practice of torture. Various international mechanisms have also confirmed the forced deportation of Ukrainian children to territory controlled by the Russian Federation. Spain urges all parties to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and demands that the Russian Federation cease its war of aggression and withdraw from Ukrainian territory. The Russian Federation must release the unjustly detained civilian population from captivity and guarantee dignified treatment for all prisoners. Russia must return the deported Ukrainian children to their families. Spain advocates for those responsible for the crimes committed to be held accountable before the courts, as well as for the rehabilitation, reparation and reintegration of victims into their societies of origin. Spain reiterates its support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. It will continue to support Ukraine for as long as necessary.

Switzerland commends the COI's essential work of documenting and establishing the facts, and voices profound alarm at its findings showing that the Russian authorities are committing widespread and systematic crimes of enforced disappearance that amount to crimes against humanity. Switzerland is also gravely concerned about the conditions of detention reported in the temporarily occupied territories and in Russia, marked, among other things, by the systematic use of torture and other methods of ill-treatment, including sexual violence. These practices, which constitute war crimes and potential crimes against humanity, must cease, the victims must be rehabilitated and the perpetrators brought to justice. Finally, Switzerland supports the COI's call for judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms to ensure accountability, establish the truth and provide reparations for victims. Lastly, the Swiss delegation calls on all parties to respect



international humanitarian law and human rights, to guarantee unhindered humanitarian access, and to allow access to detainees as required by the Geneva Conventions.

The **United Kingdom** appreciate the COI's work to highlight serious concerns of violations of international law by the Russian Federation. Since its establishment in March 2022, the COI has documented the worst of Russia's crimes. Russia's policy to deport, indoctrinate and militarise Ukrainian children is deplorable. The COI's report in May this year revealed Russia to be carrying out systematic drone attacks on civilians - innocent civilians intentionally targeted in the street, and ambulances carrying critical medical aid. At the time of reporting, in river front areas under Ukrainian Government control, nearly 150 civilians had been killed by Russian drones. The attacks have only increased in their intensity. Earlier this month, Russia launched its largest air attack of the war, firing 810 drones and 13 missiles into Ukrainian cities, killing five civilians, including a mother and her 2-month-old baby. In another, just 2 days later, a single Russian drone attack killed 25 people as they queued for their pensions. There are multiple such tragic examples which could be cited. According to the COI, these attacks, which are designed to instil fear, amount to both war crimes and crimes against humanity. Those responsible must be held accountable for their actions.

Uruguay expresses its deep concern about the serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, the humanitarian situation, and the violations and crimes committed in Ukraine, which affect the entire civilian population, but in a particularly dramatic way children and adolescents. Uruguay is alarmed by the suffering they endure as a result of the disruption of essential services and displacement during more than three years of conflict, which has turned them into refugees. In this regard, the country calls for the best interests of the child to be guaranteed. Uruguay notes with concern the Commission's observations and conclusions that crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances, torture and sexual violence have been committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population and in pursuance of a coordinated state policy. Uruguay insists on the need to ensure accountability for serious crimes under international law committed on Ukrainian territory. Lasting peace requires that victims have access to justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition. Uruguay reiterates its strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and its call on the Russian Federation to cease hostilities and comply with its international obligations under international law and international humanitarian law.

Venezuela reiterates its deep concern about the conflict in Ukraine, which is the result of years of human rights violations in the Donbass region and the painful loss of human lives, originating in the breach of the Minsk Agreements, instigated by the United States. NATO's continued expansion into Eastern Europe and the growing hostility towards the Russian Federation since 2014 have posed serious threats to regional stability. Added to this is the arms race that has involved the massive supply of weapons to Ukraine, a clear act of provocation that contravenes the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Today, when the possibility of a ceasefire and progress towards the necessary peace is in sight, some European countries insist on prolonging the war, threatening to deploy troops directly 'by land, sea or air' under the pretext of providing security after a possible cessation of hostilities. Today, when there is a glimmer of hope for a ceasefire and progress towards the necessary peace, some European countries insist



on prolonging the war, threatening to deploy troops directly ‘by land, sea or air’ under the pretext of providing security after a possible cessation of hostilities. The UNHRC’s priority must be to help stop the conflict, which requires an immediate end to the massive supply of arms to Ukraine by the hegemonic NATO countries, responsible for a strategy that unnecessarily prolongs the confrontation, with unimaginable consequences. Venezuela rejects the insistence of a group of States on promoting inflammatory rhetoric against the Russian Federation as part of a Western media circus driven by those who have fuelled this crisis. Finally, Venezuela reaffirms its call for dialogue and diplomacy to preserve life, human rights and peace in the region.

UN Entities

UN Women commends the COI for its crucial work documenting grave human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence, in the context of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine. Sexual violence is a gross violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and must be addressed with full accountability for perpetrators and comprehensive redress for survivors. UN Women works alongside Ukrainian authorities, civil society, and survivors’ networks to advance a survivor-centred, rights-based response to conflict-related sexual violence. UN Women supported the development and adoption of legislation establishing urgent interim reparations. An important achievement that requires further support and funding to ensure reparations can be paid and accountability served. Close partnership with survivors’ networks remains central to these efforts. Recognizing Ukraine’s highly digitalized environment, UN Women has leveraged technology to expand access to rights and protections. This includes a pioneering online platform enabling survivors to provide feedback on state institutions, service providers, and UN actors, enhancing accountability and improving responses. UN Women will continue working to ensure that Conflict-related Sexual Violence efforts in Ukraine and globally remain firmly anchored in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and grounded in international human rights obligations.

National Human Rights Institutions

The **Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights** stresses that the Russian aggression against Ukraine has continued for over 11 years. The aggressor state is committing mass human rights violations in Ukraine. As a result, nearly 14,000 civilians have been killed, and over 35,000 have been injured. More than 650 children have died, and nearly 2,200 have been wounded. The youngest victim was just two days old. On 28 August, this year Russia attacked the heart of Europe - Kyiv again. Twenty-five people were killed, including four children. These are not all the crimes. Russia is deporting Ukrainian children - this is an act of genocide. Russia is unlawfully detaining civilians and subjecting them to torture. Russia is executing prisoners of war and torturing them. Since 24 February 2022, Russian forces have killed over 270 Ukrainian prisoners of war. Violations of international humanitarian law are part of Russia’s systematic policy. The Ukrainian Commissioner urges the UNHRC to document these crimes and highlight gaps or outdated norms in international humanitarian law; to support efforts to identify mechanisms for accountability; and to emphasize the root cause – Russia’s aggression and disregard for international law.



Non-Governmental Organizations

Amnesty International underlines that Ukraine's civilians continue to pay a heavy price in the war. Children have been particularly affected, both by direct attacks, and by the destruction of housing, schools, and other civilian infrastructure, as have been numerous other civilians. In the occupied regions, children are compelled to study under Russian curriculum and exposed to indoctrination, while Ukrainian teachers are forced to work in schools and teach the curriculum, or face threats, and violence. Arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment in custody are widespread. In the context of Russia's wider attacks against the Ukrainian people, this amounts to crimes against humanity. Russia has also continued to suppress Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar identities and culture and sought to change demographics of the occupied territories. At the frontline, reports of execution of prisoners of war by Russian military have been persistent. Numerous Ukrainian prisoners of war have faced torture and other ill-treatment, enforced disappearance, prolonged incommunicado detention, and unlawful trial and imprisonment solely for taking part in the hostilities. Amnesty reiterates its on Russia to immediately end its war of aggression against Ukraine, its attacks on civilians and civilian objects, and its other serious violations of international humanitarian law. In closing, Amnesty ask to the COI how could the international community ensure that all victims of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine receive justice and have full and effective reparations.

Human Rights House Foundation remains gravely concerned by the COI's findings of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Federation. New documentation from the Foundation's partners at ZMINA shows how these practices have evolved since 2022, shifting from suppressing active resistance to systematically attacking any civilian perceived as 'disloyal' to the occupation. Their report records at least 572 criminal prosecutions of arbitrarily detained civilians, many on fabricated charges such as 'terrorism' or 'espionage', with the FSB playing a leading role. Such practices reflect a coordinated state policy to erase Ukrainian identity and consolidate control. These prosecutions happen alongside unlawful detention, incommunicado confinement, torture, and intimidation of victims and their families. ZMINA's analysis shows that Russia has institutionalised these practices by extending its legal system and courts into occupied regions, thereby creating a façade of 'legitimacy' for what are, in fact, grave breaches of international humanitarian law and crimes against humanity. The systemic situation is set against the further reports of atrocities by Russia's armed forces. The recent UN expert dossier, published on 21 August and compiled by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, confirmed mounting evidence of sexualised torture by Russian forces against civilians, including in Kherson, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia. These findings highlight the deliberate and systematic use of sexual violence as a tool of torture and intimidation. The Commission has previously underlined the relevance of the International Criminal Court. The Foundation asks the COI how its ongoing investigations, alongside the documentation of civil society, strengthen the evidentiary base for ICC proceedings concerning crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

The **Human Rights Research League** stresses that, from the beginning of its full-scale attack on Ukraine, the Russian Federation has committed grave violations of the most fundamental laws governing war and human rights and the attacks on the civilian population, including by drones and missile, have never been more encompassing. Investigations by the COI, OHCHR, the ICC, and others have documented widespread torture of Ukrainian prisoners of war. Survivors have



testified to brutal beatings, electric shocks, mock executions, sexual violence, and prolonged deprivation of food and water. These actions constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and amount to war crimes. Equally abhorrent is the targeting of Ukrainian civilians in occupied territories. Activists, journalists, community leaders, and ordinary citizens have been abducted, detained without due process, tortured, and, in some cases, murdered. These atrocities committed by the Russian Federation are not the result of battlefield chaos; they are deliberate instruments of a campaign aimed at breaking the will of the Ukrainian people, erasing their culture, and undermining the principles upon which the United Nations were founded. They violate the Geneva Conventions, the ICCPR, and in some instances meet the threshold for crimes against humanity and genocide. These atrocities must not remain unchallenged. The League asks the international community to support and expand independent investigations by UN bodies, the ICC, and other mechanisms to ensure accountability.

The **Institute for Human Rights** draws urgent attention to the Russian missile and drone attack on Kyiv on 28 August 2025, which killed at least 18 civilians, including children, and injured many more. Residential buildings and civilian infrastructure were struck, causing widespread destruction and fear. Among the victims was Dr. Oksana Protsyuk, a well-known rehabilitation physician and neurologist. She dedicated her life to restoring the health and mobility of others, including war-wounded civilians. Her death is emblematic of the indiscriminate nature of this attack and underscores the particular vulnerability of medical personnel - individuals afforded special protection under international humanitarian law. The Institute calls on the COI to investigate whether this attack violated the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution, and to determine accountability at all levels of command. The killing of medical professionals and civilians cannot be normalized, and impunity cannot be allowed to prevail. The Institute urges the COI to recommend stronger international monitoring of attacks on healthcare workers, accountability mechanisms for perpetrators, and support for Ukraine's efforts to protect its civilian population. Justice for victims like Dr. Protsyuk is essential for peace and dignity.

The **International Bar Association** and the Ukrainian Bar Association commend the work of the Commission of Inquiry. We keep condemning the ongoing widespread violations of International human rights and Humanitarian Law amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity in the course of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. The Associations condemn ceaseless attacks on civilians and civilian objects, indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas, forced deportation, coordinated 'widespread and systematic' use of torture, *incommunicado* detention and enforced disappearances by Russian forces. Once again, the Associations condemn the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian occupied territories, and their subsequent indoctrination and militarization. They recall that in March 2023, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, finding reasonable grounds to believe that he bears individual criminal responsibility for crimes under the Rome Statute, in connection with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The Associations urge all states party to the Rome Statute to fulfil their obligations under the Statute and to support the ICC in ensuring accountability for atrocity crimes committed in Ukraine by Russia and support the work of the Special Tribunal on the crime of aggression.

The **International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)** and its Ukrainian member organisations - the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group and the Center for Civil Liberties - thank the COI for



its important update, highlighting the extent of the international crimes committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine. They remain alarmed about the widespread arbitrary detention and severe ill-treatment of civilians in the territories occupied by the Russian Federation, which might, in numerous cases, amount to the crimes against humanity of unlawful imprisonment, enforced disappearance and torture. The Tribunal for Putin initiative has documented more than 1,000 cases of torture against formerly detained Ukrainian civilians, with thousands more remaining in Russian prisons. Additionally, hundreds of interviews conducted with released prisoners of war indicate that POWs detained by Russia endure severe torture, including beatings with rubber truncheons, wooden bats, electric shocks using tasers or attaching live wires to the bodies of victims, and fake executions by shooting. Human rights should be at the heart of any peace negotiations. The FIDH and its member organisations in Ukraine therefore urge all UN Member States to call for the immediate release of all Ukrainian civilians detained by Russia; the repatriation of all prisoners of war; and the liberation of Russians repressed for supporting Ukraine. They also call on all UN member states to ensure justice by supporting all ongoing accountability efforts, including the investigations of the International Criminal Court, the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, and all ongoing investigations based on extraterritorial jurisdiction.

United Nations Watch welcomes the COI's update and is gravely concerned about human rights in Ukraine. Russia's relentless bombardment across Ukraine, deliberately targeting critical infrastructure and indiscriminately killing civilians, has escalated in both scale and brutality. Since the UNHRC's last session, Ukraine has endured its deadliest month since Russia's invasion began, with 286 civilian deaths recorded in July. Only last Wednesday, Russia launched a drone attack in the Poltava region, killing 6 civilians and striking a gas station. The very next day, a wave of strikes hit substations powering Ukraine's national rail network, disrupting infrastructure essential for civilian life and the country's defense. Russia has waged this brutal offensive not alone, but with the backing of UN member states. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to support Russia's war in Ukraine by supplying *Shahed drones* and transferring technology that enables Moscow to manufacture them domestically. North Korea is sustaining Russia's offensive by deploying an estimated 14,000 troops to Ukraine. China continues to fuel this conflict by purchasing massive volumes of discounted Russian crude, remaining Moscow's largest buyer, spending €3.1 billion in August alone. Even children are not spared from Russia's aggression. Thousands of Ukrainian children remain missing, held in over 200 facilities where they are subjected to indoctrination and militarization. The UNHRC must protect Ukraine's civilians, defend its sovereignty, and ensure accountability for Russia and its supporters.

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1 National Human Rights Institution

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