



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Special Permanent Council, Vienna
August 26, 2024

We've heard a lot today about Russia's ongoing attacks against Ukraine. They're brutal. They're unacceptable. We condemn them in the strongest terms.

Yet, despite Russia's extreme effort, Ukraine remains sovereign and independent. Celebrating Ukraine's August 24th Independence Day after 914 days of war is a testament to its independence, sovereignty, and its inherent right to choose and protect its democratic path.

I congratulate Ukraine on its independence. This date marks the day in 1991 when Ukraine officially left the Soviet Union and became a sovereign, democratic country. It's a day of pride for Ukraine's resilience, and a celebration of Ukrainian heritage and culture.

I want to honor today all those fighting for Ukraine's independence, democracy, and culture. The courageous heroes on the frontlines. The first responders who are saving countless lives. The energy workers who are keeping the power on. The doctors and nurses who are tending to the wounded. The brave teachers who are enabling children to go to school. And Ukraine's diplomats, including our fabulous colleagues here in Vienna, working bravely to protect Ukraine's sovereignty.

All of these Ukrainians demonstrate they will do whatever it takes to protect their homes, their families, their fellow citizens, their country — their independence.

Madam Chair, Ukraine will remain sovereign and independent. The United States has stood with the people of Ukraine for 33 years. We will continue to stand with them as they defend their freedom and their democracy. We reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine in the heroic defense of their nation, their land, and our shared values.

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