



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
ON RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

1103rd FSC Plenary Meeting
(02 April 2025)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Three years ago, on 31 March 2022, Ukrainian forces liberated Bucha. With this liberation, the world came face to face with the horrors committed there. For 33 days, Bucha was under Russian occupation – 33 days that turned a once-quiet town into a symbol of war crimes are being committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

When journalists and Ukrainian troops entered the city, they discovered evidence of mass executions. Bodies lay on the streets—some with their hands tied behind their backs, executed in cold blood. During the Russian occupation of Bucha, 381 people were killed. In the broader Bucha district, the number exceeded 1,000, including 12 children. These were ordinary civilians – defenceless in the face of the aggressor's brutality.

Russia continues to deny responsibility, but the facts speak for themselves. Independent investigations by the UN, human rights organisations, and international media have confirmed that Russian forces committed these atrocities. Satellite images, eyewitness testimonies, and forensic evidence leave no doubt—these were deliberate war crimes, not fabrications.

Justice must be served. Ukraine's Prosecutor General continues to investigate Russian war crimes, and in January 2025, Ukrainian law enforcement identified seven

more Russian soldiers involved in the Bucha atrocities. Five servicemen have been charged with violations of the laws and customs of war, while indictments against two others for the murder of a civilian have been submitted to court.

One case involved Russian paratroopers who shot a man looking for food near a supermarket. Another involved the execution of a Ukrainian couple who refused to speak Russian. These were not acts of war—they were acts of terror.

The claim that the Bucha massacre was staged is yet another blatant lie in Russia's long history of disinformation.

Regrettably, Bucha is not the only place that has suffered from Russia's brutality. The horrors of occupation have unfolded in many other Ukrainian cities and villages—from the village of Yahidne in the Chernihiv region, where Russian troops locked hundreds of civilians, including children, in a school basement for weeks, to the city of Mariupol in the Donetsk region, where entire neighbourhoods were incinerated by Russian bombs. And the suffering continues.

On 28 March, a Russian drone strike on the city of Dnipro killed four people and wounded 24, including a pregnant woman. The next day, Russia attacked Kharkiv, killing two and injuring 55, including five children. That same day, a missile strike on Kryvyi Rih claimed five more lives. And on 30 March, an airstrike on Kupiansk killed three more.

Last night, the Russian army continued using strike drones against Ukraine. A total of 74 drones were deployed, 54 of which were "Shahids". There was a targeted attack on Kharkiv involving at least 14 drones. Unfortunately, some drones hit their targets, leaving several people wounded, including three children. All are receiving the necessary assistance

There were also strikes against the Odessa and Sumy regions, including a targeted hit and damage to energy facilities. In the Sumy region, an FPV drone hit a substation, and in Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region, an artillery strike damaged a power line. Almost 4,000 households in these two regions were left without electricity due to these strikes.

Russian air bomb strikes are also ongoing—in the Sumy region alone, between yesterday and this morning, the Russians used almost 50 guided air bombs.

Russia is deliberately targeting civilians, destroying homes, and crippling Ukraine's infrastructure. As President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently stated: *"These strikes are not just attacks on Ukrainian civilians, but also on all international efforts—on the very diplomacy we are trying to use to end this war. Russia is striking at the positions of everyone who wants to end this war."*

By relentlessly attacking civilians, Russia exposes its true intentions: dragging out the war, inflicting maximum destruction, and taking as many lives as possible. If the world is serious about peace, then real pressure must be exerted on Russia.

Mr Chairperson,

Russia's cruelty is not limited to missile strikes. Another weapon in its arsenal of terror is its inhumane treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war.

The latest report by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine documents further Russian war crimes—torture, forced disappearances, sexual violence, and executions of prisoners of war. The document also presents clear evidence of numerous executions of prisoners of war and the implementation of a "take no prisoners" policy by the Russian command, in direct and cynical violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Those who survive captivity recount horrifying abuse. Volodymyr Shevchenko, a former Ukrainian POW who spent over two years in Russian captivity, recalled: *"They started torturing me right away. They beat me with stun guns, batons—it was very painful. I saw men die from the beatings. Their hearts just stopped."*

Beyond physical torture, Russia stages sham trials to further humiliate and intimidate Ukrainian POWs. Just last week, on 26 March, 23 Ukrainian prisoners were sentenced to prison terms of 13 up to 23 years on fabricated charges of "terrorist activities" and "violent seizure of power." These show trials are a war crime and a direct violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. By fabricating false cases, the Russian Federation deprives Ukrainian prisoners of war of their right to a fair trial and uses them as instruments of intimidation against their fellow soldiers and the civilian population of Ukraine.

Russia must end its systematic mistreatment of Ukrainian prisoners, ensure medical care for those in captivity, and immediately repatriate all severely wounded and ill POWs, in line with international law.

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine remains fully committed to a just and lasting peace. Yet, we see no such commitment from Russia. Instead, Moscow exploits the current geopolitical situation to weaken Ukraine, limit its defence capabilities, obstruct military aid, and block prospects of our Euro-Atlantic integration.

Russia does not seek peace—it seeks Ukraine's destruction. Its war is not about so-called "security concerns" but about seizing our land and subjugating our people, exploiting Ukraine's human and other potential for further aggression.

We recognise Russia's strategy and will never accept any outcome that leaves Ukraine weak or defenceless. On the contrary, a just and lasting peace requires robust, long-term security guarantees to ensure its preservation.

Russia's aggression must be met with unwavering resolve. International law, the UN Charter, and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act leave no room for compromise when it comes to sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In close cooperation with our partners, Ukraine will continue to fight for justice, peace, and security—not just for ourselves, but for all who believe in the fundamental principles of international order.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.