



Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth special session
12 May 2022

**Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 12 May 2022**

S-34/1. The deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the obligations of all States under Article 2 of the Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means,

Reaffirming the need to make the utmost effort to settle any conflicts or disputes between States exclusively by peaceful means and to avoid any military action or hostilities, which can only make the solution of those conflicts and disputes more difficult,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 on aggression against Ukraine and ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022 on the humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine, and Human Rights Council resolution 49/1 of 4 March 2022 on the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression,

Recalling also the obligations of all parties to the conflict under international law, in particular, as applicable, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and reiterating the urgent need for the Russian Federation to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and to withdraw its troops,

Expressing deep concern at the alarming number of civilian casualties caused by the aggression against Ukraine and strongly condemning attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including those involving attacks on residential areas, schools, kindergartens and medical facilities, and those carried out through the use of cluster munitions, air strikes and artillery, as well as the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, forced transfers and forced displacements of population, and violations and abuses committed against children,

Taking note of the recent relevant statements by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in particular the statement made by the High Commissioner on 22 April 2022 in which she referred to the “horror story of violations perpetrated against civilians” in



Ukraine, and taking note also of the report of the mission of experts established under the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of 13 April 2022,

Welcoming the swift appointment of the members of the independent international commission of inquiry on Ukraine established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/1, and the important work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its monitoring mission in Ukraine in contributing to an objective appraisal of the situation of human rights in Ukraine,

Strongly condemning the reported violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, documented by the High Commissioner, that were committed in the areas of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy regions under the control of Russian armed forces in late February and in March 2022, including a large number of reported cases of summary executions of men, women and children, of sexual and gender-based violence, of the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and of other violations that may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes, and related crimes,

Deeply concerned at the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in the city of Mariupol, the near total destruction of its residential and civilian infrastructure caused by Russian bombing and shelling, reports of tens of thousands of civilian casualties and of mass graves near the city, and the limited progress in securing safe and unhindered evacuations to safe areas under the control of the Government of Ukraine,

Reiterating the need for prompt, independent and impartial national and international investigations into alleged violations and abuses of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law and related crimes with a view to hold those responsible to account, including for those violations that may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under international law, and encouraging efficient and effective coordination among all relevant parties engaged in the collection, consolidation and analysis of evidence,

Stressing that disinformation spread by States and State-sponsored actors can accompany serious violations of international law and can have a far-reaching negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular in times of emergency, crisis and armed conflict,

Expressing its concern at the particular impact of the conflict on women, children and persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities and older persons, who are at risk also of sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking,

Expressing its concern also at the humanitarian needs of all those fleeing from or displaced by the military hostilities, who should be protected without discrimination, including that based on racial, national and ethnic identity,

Expressing its concern further at the impact of the conflict on food security globally, in particular in the least developed countries, at a time when millions of people are facing famine or food insecurity in several regions of the world, especially in the light of the impediments to the agricultural exports of Ukraine as a result of the blockade of its seaports and the destruction of relevant critical infrastructure, as well as the reported theft of grain from the territories of Ukraine under the control of the Russian armed forces in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions,

1. *Reiterates* its demand for the immediate cessation of military hostilities against Ukraine and for all parties to the conflict to respect the fundamental principles and rules of international humanitarian law, including to refrain from any attacks against civilians and civilian objects, and to refrain from any human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine;

2. *Stresses* the need to refrain from any State-sponsored disinformation, propaganda for war or advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, relating to the aggression against Ukraine;

3. *Urges* the Russian Federation to provide representatives and staff of international human rights and humanitarian institutions, including United Nations specialized agencies, with unhindered, timely, immediate, unrestricted and safe access to

persons who have been transferred from conflict-affected areas of Ukraine and are held on the territory of the Russian Federation or areas controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation, and to share with relevant parties a comprehensive list of such transferred persons and their whereabouts;

4. *Requests* the independent international commission of inquiry on Ukraine to conduct an inquiry, consistent with its mandate and international standards, and in coordination with other national and international mechanisms, to address the events in the areas of the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy regions in late February and in March 2022, including their gender dimension, with a view to holding those responsible to account, and also requests the commission to brief the Human Rights Council on the progress of that inquiry as part of the oral update to the Council at its fifty-first session, and to include its findings after the completion of the inquiry in its report to the Council at its fifty-second session;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present an oral update on the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in Mariupol, including an assessment of the nature and causes of violations or abuses of human rights and of violations of international humanitarian law committed there, to the Human Rights Council at its fiftieth session under item 2, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

6. *Encourages* relevant thematic special procedure mandate holders, within their respective mandates, to continue to pay particular attention to the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression, and urges all relevant parties to cooperate with those mandate holders;

7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*2nd meeting
12 May 2022*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 33 to 2, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Somalia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

Against:

Eritrea and China

Abstaining:

Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, Cuba, India, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)]