

51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression (oral update)

23 September 2022

Joint Oral Statement

Mr President,

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the International Commission of Jurists, and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada condemn the Russian Federation's ongoing military invasion of Ukraine in breach of the UN Charter.

We are gravely concerned at Russian forces' attacks against civilians and civilian facilities in Ukraine and, in particular, by emerging reports from recently liberated areas of North-Eastern Ukraine of mass graves, torture and violent deaths during the Russian occupation. These reports add to those of mass graves, enforced disappearances and torture of civilians in occupied areas of Southern Ukraine.

Under international human rights and humanitarian law, reports of such atrocities, which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, require independent, impartial, prompt and effective investigations to identify those responsible and hold them to account.

We urge:

1. All parties to the conflict to comply with international human rights and humanitarian law obligations, including to minimise loss of civilian lives and protect prisoners of war;
2. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine to be adequately resourced to meaningfully and effectively fulfil its mandate with a view to facilitating accountability for crimes under international law.
3. All States, the ICC and other international mechanisms to coordinate efforts promoting legal avenues for justice, accountability and reparation.

Thank you.

This statement was delivered by:

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