



STATEMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN BAR ASSOCIATION ON RECOGNITION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF THE SO-CALLED "DNR/LNR" AND ADVANCEMENT OF TROOPS ONTO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Ukrainian Bar Association (UBA) **strongly condemns the recognition by the President of the Russian Federation of the so-called "Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics" (DNR/LNR), ratification by the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Russian Federation of an "Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation, Mutual Assistance" and an official advancement of the Russian military onto the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.**

On February 21, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation signed a decree on recognition of the so-called "DNR/LNR", and in the evening of the same day Russian regular troops crossed the state border and entered the occupied territories of Ukraine under the pretext of "securing peace". On February 22, 2022, the State Duma of the Russian Federation and then the Federation Council unanimously supported the ratification of the so-called "Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation, Mutual Assistance" with pseudo-republics. This "Agreement, among other things, provides for the possibility of the Russian Federation to build, use and improve military infrastructure and military bases in the occupied territories.

Once again, **the Russian Federation has grossly violated the principles and norms of international law that guarantee the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine and prohibit military aggression. Performance by the Russian armed forces of a "peacekeeping mission" in the territories occupied by Russia back in 2014 is yet another act of aggression which has been pre-planned and aims at a single goal of legalizing Russia's military contingent in Ukraine and its further enlargement.**

The UBA also strongly condemns Russia's intentions to "legalize" the construction of military infrastructure and military bases in the occupied territories. **UBA is firm in its opinion that construction of any Russian military infrastructure, as well as deployment of Russian troops in the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, is illegal, unacceptable and is a de facto attempt to annex Ukraine's eastern regions.**

The Association has previously already expressed its opinion on inadmissibility of escalation by the Russian Federation of military aggression¹ and on recognition of the so-called "DNR/LNR"². **Given the obvious intentions of the Russian Federation to further violate the territorial integrity of Ukraine and in view of the similar strategy applied by the Russian Federation in other countries, in particular Georgia and Moldova, the UBA urges**

THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE:

- to urgently **sign the draft Law of Ukraine № 2689 of 27.12.2019 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Implementation of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law"**, which is instrumental for a full ratification by Ukraine of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE:

- to accelerate **ratification of the Rome Statute and adoption of the necessary implementation legislation**, which will secure the mandate of the International Criminal Court to review cases related to the situation in Ukraine, and will ensure an effective mechanism for bringing senior political and military leadership of the Russian Federation to liability under international criminal law;

- **increase financing from the state budget for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine** so that to ensure protection of the territory of Ukraine in the conditions of an open and obvious military aggression of the Russian Federation.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE:

¹ <https://uba.ua/eng/news/8924/>

² <https://uba.ua/eng/news/8963/>

- address the UN Security Council with a request to **initiate the establishment of a UN Monitoring Mission to Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts** tasked with observation of and reporting on actions of the Russian armed forces and occupation administrations;
- address the Council of the European Union with a request to **initiate the establishment of an Independent International EU Fact-Finding Mission to Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts**;
- address the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe with a request to **continue and, if necessary, strengthen the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine** for ensuring further daily collection and publication of the situation in the occupied territories;
- address the International Committee of the Red Cross in Ukraine with a request to **continue and, if necessary, strengthen the activities of the ICRC mission in eastern Ukraine** in further provision of humanitarian assistance to persons living on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION:

- to **impose financial sanctions not only against the so-called "DNR/LNR", but also personal sanctions against the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation and their entourage**, due to the fact that Russia is not a mediator but a party to the conflict that provides weapons, imposes citizenship and financially supports pseudo-republics;
- to **disconnect Russian Federation from the SWIFT system and to block Russia's access to the US dollar** until the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, from the Black and Azov Seas and from Ukraine's borders with Russia and Belarus.

UBA reminds that any interference by the Russian Federation in matters of territorial integrity of Ukraine and its domestic and foreign policy, including Ukraine's membership in the EU and NATO, is unacceptable. The Association is ready to cooperate with the Verkhovna Rada, the Government and the President of Ukraine, international organizations and diplomatic institutions and is willing to provide any legal assistance, expertise or litigation support in proceedings at international judicial institutions with the aim of countering armed aggression of the Russian Federation, and protecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

ГЕНЕРАЛЬНІ ПАРТНЕРИ АСОЦІАЦІЇ ПРАВНИКІВ УКРАЇНИ В 2022 РОЦІ

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