



1 March 2022

Mr Sternford Moyo
President of the International Bar Association

Mr Reginald M. Turner
President of the American Bar Association

Mr Andrew Brown
President of the New York State Bar Association

Dear President Moyo, President Turner, President Brown,

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation with the assistance of the Republic of Belarus commenced a full-scale war against Ukraine. Armed forces of the Russian Federation are attacking the entire territory of Ukraine and intentionally kill civilians, including children and elderly.

These countries are bombing houses, maternity hospitals, kindergartens, ambulances and civilian vehicles in Ukraine. **The foregoing actions of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Belarus constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.** The atrocities that are being openly and disparagingly committed in Ukraine violate the United Nations Charter, Helsinki Accords, European Convention on Human Rights, Geneva Conventions and in general any and all established norms and principles of international law. Russian army is grossly breaching the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949¹.

The world unanimously reacted to the war in Ukraine urging the Russian Federation to stop military actions and withdraw the troops. Numerous legal associations and societies, including IBA, ABA and NYSBA, strongly condemned the violence, aggression and crimes of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. Despite this, Russian legal society in its majority supports and encourages the actions of President Putin, or at least silently consents. On 28 February 2022, the Association of Lawyers of Russia in its statement openly supported the actions of President Putin and justified the full-scale war in Ukraine². Please see translation of the statement attached.

IBA's International Principles on Conduct for the Legal Profession, ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct and NYSBA's New York Rules of Professional Conduct provide for the highest standards of honesty, integrity and fairness of lawyers towards clients, the court, colleagues and all those with whom a lawyer comes into professional contact. **We believe that lawyers, who should serve the rule of law and protect human rights, breach their oath and betray their values when they encourage or turn a blind eye at atrocities, injustice and war crimes committed by their government.**

¹ [Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of 12 August 1949](#)

² <https://alrf.ru/news/zayavlenie-sopredsedalej-associatsii-yuristov-rossii-v-svyaзи-s-provedeniem-voennyh-spetsoperatsij/>



Sport federations, media resources, art and cinema productions and other sectors stop any and all cooperation with the Russian government or its citizen. Russian citizens should not be allowed to enjoy the benefits of the western world while their country is bombing innocent women and children.

In view of the above, we urge you to EXCLUDE ALL RUSSIAN LAWYERS from the membership at the IBA, ABA and NYSBA until complete termination of the war in Ukraine and bringing those responsible for atrocities to responsibility.

Yours faithfully,

Inna Liniova, UBA CEO

on behalf of Anna Ogrenchuk, UBA President