



Kyiv, 28 February 2022

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE UKRAINIAN BAR ASSOCIATION TO US CONGRESSMEN

Dear Esteemed Members of the US Congress,

On behalf of the All-Ukrainian Non-governmental Non-profit Organisation “Ukrainian Bar Association” (UBA), I would like to assure you in our respect, and to address you on the matter of current events in Ukraine.

For more than 96 hours now, the Ukrainian army continues its resistance against military invasion of the Russian Federation supported by the Republic of Belarus. The United Nations Charter, Helsinki Accords, European Convention on Human Rights and in general any and all established norms and principles of international law are being openly and disparagingly violated. As the world already knows, Kyiv and other cities are turning into a battlefield and are being intentionally bombed and destroyed resulting in civilians dead or wounded.

Now more than ever Ukraine needs help of the US to support the rule of law and restore the international order. This is not only about defending Ukraine; this is about defending the rule of law and ensuring that the law cannot be breached with impunity. The criminal conduct cannot be condoned. The order must be restored. We ask for your help in this just cause.

We are very grateful for the major support provided by the US up to date. However, at this stage, as the war crimes continue to mount, and President of the Russian Federation not only does not stop the war but now also threatens nuclear weapon. In addition, the Republic of Belarus is about to officially send its army to aid Russian’s aggression.

Additional measures are urgently needed to restore the rule of law, including the following:

1. to **COMPLETELY DISCONNECT THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS FROM THE SWIFT SYSTEM AND BLOCK THEIR ACCESS TO FOREIGN CURRENCY, IN PARTICULAR THE US DOLLARS and EURO**, in order to prevent the aggressors from financing their military campaigns and paying US dollars and Euro to buy support from their mercenaries and war crime perpetrators;
2. to impose **SECTORAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS IN ALL AREAS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THEIR ECONOMY AND MILITARY SECTORS, including all access to finance and information technology to prevent financing and spreading of propaganda and misinformation**. We believe that gradual introduction of sanctions is inefficient and provides the Russian government and military with an opportunity to adjust;
3. to impose **personal sanctions against ALL POLITICAL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,**



CONNECTED OLIGARCHS, BANK OWNERS AND MANAGERS AND THEIR FAMILIES and ENTOURAGE, and freeze all their assets. They are directly or indirectly participating in the criminal aggression of the Russian Federation and/or aiding and abetting it by providing their funding, platforms and resources;

4. to **INTRODUCE FULL EMBARGO ON RUSSIAN GAS AND OIL** until full resolution of the conflict. We believe that embargo benefits outweigh economic consequences to Europe and will put a halt to aggressor's using oil and gas as a leverage for putting pressure on European countries;
5. to **CANCEL VISAS FOR ALL CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS** until the complete withdrawal of Russian and Belorussian troops from Ukraine, from the Black and Azov Seas and from Ukraine's borders with Russia and Belarus. They should not be allowed to enjoy the benefits of the Western World while their country is bombing innocent women and children;
6. to continue **PROVIDING UKRAINE WITH LETHAL WEAPONS AND ARMOUR** so that to increase Ukraine's resistance capacity;
7. to help the Ukrainian government enforce a **NO-FLY ZONE** over Ukraine to prevent the aggressors from using the skies to bombard civilians and infrastructure. Such measure is legally and justly appropriate as it will prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and deaths of thousands of civilians, including innocent women and children;
8. to institute putting in place **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION MEASURES** against all those committing war crimes, in particular Russian and Belorussian leadership. When perpetrators know that they will be brought to justice eventually, it will deter them from engaging in murder, rape and pillaging with impunity.

In view of long-lasting support to Ukraine provided by the US, we, the legal community of Ukraine, address you with a kind request to support the above measures so that to put an end to military actions in and around Ukraine. We believe that together we will be able to prevail and restore the law and order.

We remain at your full disposal for any information, requests or any questions you might have about current developments or the stance of the legal community.

Yours faithfully,

Inna Liniova, UBA CEO

on behalf of Anna Ogrenchuk, UBA President