



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

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auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1399<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**17 November 2022**

Mr. Chair,

Over the course of Tuesday night, Russia launched approximately 100 missiles and ten kamikaze drones at power infrastructure facilities across Ukraine. These indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure caused power outages in 15 Ukrainian oblasts and submerged much of the country in darkness. Ten million Ukrainians were left without electricity. Others were killed and maimed by the missiles. These deaths and suffering are appalling and unacceptable. Canada continues to stand in solidarity with Ukraine in the face of this ruthless and unjustifiable aggression.

This conflict continues to have repercussions beyond Ukraine's borders. On Tuesday night, an explosion in the eastern part of Poland near the border with Ukraine killed two civilians. We offer our deepest condolences to Poland for the loss of lives and our full support for Poland's ongoing investigation.

Mr. Chair,

The Ukrainian flag was finally raised in the centre of Kherson this weekend for the first time in over eight months, due to the brave efforts of the women and men of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The videos of newly liberated towns and villages from across Kherson have revealed a clear pattern: as soon as the invaders fled, the people flocked into the streets wrapped in Ukrainian flags to greet their liberators with jubilation and relief – free at last. Free to remove the propaganda signs saying “Kherson is Russian Forever”. We all recall, as our Ukrainian colleague just highlighted, how the courageous citizens of Kherson marched in the streets with Ukrainian flags back in March, bravely resisting the Russian occupation. The jubilation now over the departure of Russian soldiers is not just due to regaining their freedom, but also because the residents of Kherson know that the torture, kidnappings, lootings, and forced conscription to fight against Ukraine have come to an end for them. Our US colleague has just described some of these horrific experiences in vivid and chilling detail.

This jubilation, unfortunately, comes with a reported 400 cases so far of alleged war crimes, and the discovery of several torture chambers and mass graves in the liberated region. Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office has confirmed that the 30 mobile investigation teams will be deployed to document Russian crimes in Kherson oblast and we know, regrettably, that many more war crimes will be uncovered. Russia's forces destroyed critical municipal infrastructure and mined residential areas and a police station before deserting Kherson. The end of Russia's eight-month occupation of Kherson has exposed the humanitarian crisis in the city, with residents living without power and water, and short of food and medicines. The head of the Oblast Military Administration said it will take a month to renew electricity, heating, and water supplies in the city, and that is without further Russian missile attacks.

Mr. Chair,

Predictably absent from the announcement of Russia's withdrawal from Kherson was President Putin, who, once again distanced himself from the latest abject failure of his illegal war on Ukraine. While he was out in front of media when his troops invaded Ukraine in February, he now distances himself from his military failures rather than assume any personal responsibility for his actions. His mistakes. His possible war crimes. We welcome this week's UN General Assembly resolution calling for the creation of a reparation mechanism for damages arising from Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. This is an important step toward accountability for President Putin's war.

Mr. Chair,

Ukrainian Forces have already liberated an estimated 52.5% of the territories occupied since February 24. The world can see that it is not a question of who will win this premeditated, useless, war, but when. Ukraine's soldiers are motivated and equipped to drive out their invaders and re-establish their sovereignty and territorial integrity. As President Zelenskyy said this week to the G20, "if Russia says that it supposedly wants to end this war, let it prove it with actions. [...] If there are no concrete actions to restore peace, it means that Russia simply wants to deceive [...] the world and freeze the war just when its defeats have become particularly notable. [...] Now is the time when the Russian destructive war must and can be stopped."

Canada reiterates its call upon the Russian Federation to end this war and immediately withdraw all of its forces from Ukraine's internationally recognized territory.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.