



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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It is nearly three years since Russia launched its full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine - a war Russia wages in blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence - all principles enshrined in the UN Charter -- and in contempt of all ten Helsinki Final Act principles.

We witnessed repeatedly over the OSCE's winter recess the destruction Russia's continuing attacks are causing. On December 25th, Russia carried out a large-scale attack against Ukraine's energy network during the early hours of Christmas morning. According to reporting, the attack included 78 missiles and more than 100 one-way attack drones. In Kharkiv alone, an estimated 500,000 people were left without heat. One Russian cruise missile reportedly violated Moldovan and Romanian airspace.

On January 14th and 15th, Russia again attacked Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Russian forces reportedly launched 74 attack drones and 43 missiles at Ukraine, targeting Ukrainian gas and other energy production and transmission facilities. These attacks caused Ukraine's state electricity transmission operator to impose temporary emergency shutdowns in the middle of winter.

These attacks are just two examples of the horrifying consequences of the war.

A million people are dead or injured. Russia's forces in Ukraine have committed atrocities: targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, abducting children, torturing and executing prisoners of war and civilian detainees.

This war, that Russia started, has been a disaster not just for the Ukrainian people who are its victims, but also for the people of Russia, who must bear the consequences of the Kremlin's misguided actions.

Russia's war has devastated Ukraine. And the longer the war drags on, the worse it is for Russia. The war has weakened Russia and its people. Russia's economy is failing, and Moscow is losing nearly 1,500 soldiers a day.

As President Trump has said, Russia's war against Ukraine needs to end. The smartest move for President Putin would be to start negotiations now to end the conflict, because the situation is only going to get worse for Russia. If not, the United States is ready to increase pressure on Russia, through sanctions, tariffs, and other measures.

We are going to do everything possible to help the war end in a way that's stable and sustainable. In a way that assures the security of Ukraine and our partners in the region, and that stops the killing, dying, and destruction. We do not want to see a flawed settlement followed by another war in two, three, or four years.

Russia's war must stop, and it must stop now.

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