



Security Council briefing on Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine, 8 March 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President. I also thank ASG Khiari and Ms Doughten for their important briefings. And I welcome the participation of the Ukrainian PR in our meeting today.

On 6 March, the official delegations of Ukraine and Greece headed by the President of Ukraine and the Prime Minister of Greece, respectively visited the Ukrainian city of Odesa. Talks were aimed to discuss assistance in restoring civilian infrastructure. These include churches, educational institutions, and cultural heritage sites in Ukraine that were damaged or destroyed in Russia's war of aggression.

While this visit was taking place, the city was attacked with deadly explosives, including in the nearby port facility. Repeatedly, Russian forces showed indifference as to whether targets were military or civilian.



Since last week we have seen a significant escalation in violence in Ukraine. Russian forces have increased their brutal attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in the port city of Odesa, destroying residential buildings and damaging others essential facilities. Sadly, twelve civilians, including five children, were killed in an attack on 2 March. Further civilian casualties due to Russia's aerial attacks were also reported in the Kherson and Donetsk regions.

We underscore, once again that attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are prohibited under international law. They are unacceptable and must stop immediately. The civilian population has suffered immensely during this brutal war and must be protected by all means.

These actions against civilians are deeply troubling and unacceptable. Malta strongly condemns these continuous heinous attacks, and we express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims.



Let us be clear, the persistent nature of these attacks and the escalating violence resulting in civilian casualties demonstrate Russia's total lack of commitment to peace, its disdain for international law, and its complete disregard for human life.

Russia's aggression has entered its third year and unfortunately, we are no closer to the end of this illegal, unjustified, and unprovoked war. According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, at least 10,000 civilians have been killed, and more than 18,500 injured. With each passing day, the damage, and humanitarian consequences this conflict is causing to Ukraine, as well as to international security becomes increasingly evident.

Malta will continue to seek justice and full accountability for all crimes committed in connection with Russia's war against Ukraine, including for the crime of aggression. Malta fully supports the important work of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine in their investigation efforts. We must restore international peace and security to shape a better future for our children.



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In closing, President, Malta reiterates that the only step towards a just and lasting peace would be for Russia to immediately cease all hostilities, and unconditionally, completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you.