



CONCEPT NOTE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING

“The Reign of Terror: Crimes of the Kiev Regime in Ukraine and Beyond”

Date: 17 July

Time: 10 a.m.

Venue: CR-5

Participation: All UN Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities, civil society organizations and press are invited.

The meeting will be held in all UN official languages and will be open to all UN Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities, civil society organizations and press. It is our intention to webcast this meeting at the UN Web TV.

Building on the previous Arria-formula meetings “Neo-Nazism and radical nationalism: exploring root causes of the crisis in Ukraine”¹ (11 July 2022), “Situation with freedom of religion and belief in Ukraine: persecution of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church”² (12 May 2023), “Understanding and resolving the ideological roots of the Ukrainian crisis”³ (4 June 2025), participants will have a chance to get unbiased, including first-hand information, regarding policy of human rights violations perpetrated by the Kiev regime against first and foremost the Russian, Russian speaking and Canonical Orthodox groups in Ukraine and beyond in breach of its international legal obligations.

¹ The Chair’s summary of this meeting was issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2022/626. The webcast can be found through this link: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1y/k1yvq6tnza>

² The Chair’s summary of this meeting was issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2023/394. The webcast can be found through this link: <https://rutube.ru/video/007d56dae7efb6a5bdb9c489981e03c9/?r=wd>

³ The Chair’s summary of this meeting was issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2025/464. The webcast can be found through this link: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k12/k12bfxhg4t>

Background:

A pivotal role in the crisis in and around Ukraine and thwarting peace efforts belongs to the global disinformation campaign orchestrated by the West promoting false causal narratives. The Western representatives guided by their centuries-old Russophobic instincts falsely claim that the origin of the crisis is Russia's "imperial ambitions" embodied in the Special Military Operation. Yet, the true watershed moment was not 2022. It was 2014, when a neo-Nazi regime seized power in Ukraine with the assistance of the Western countries and as a result of a violent and unconstitutional *coup d'état*. The new Ukrainian "leaders" unleashed the armed conflict against Donbass and chose the path of violence and the persecution of the Russian, Russian-speaking and Canonical Orthodox population and other "undesirables", a strategy that stands as one of the root causes of the conflict. The Russian Federation was compelled to initiate the Special Military Operation in order to protect Donetsk People's Republic and Lugansk People's Republic from Kiev's military assault and to prevent the extermination of the Russian, Russian-speaking population by the Kiev regime, as well as to eliminate security threats emanating from the Ukrainian territory posed, in particular by the NATO enlargement.

This crisis, akin to all other conflicts worldwide, will only result in lasting and sustainable settlement when its root causes are addressed and finally eliminated. Any attempts to downplay them as unimportant and irrelevant are steps in the wrong direction, as they serve to prolong the existing state of affairs.

Notwithstanding the rapidly deteriorating position of Kiev's Armed Forces on the front line despite massive foreign assistance, V.Zelensky has chosen to pursue a path of escalation in order to stay in power, preserve his illicitly amassed wealth and evade accountability for the numerous crimes he and his accomplices have committed. His declarations of readiness for peace are nothing more than a smokescreen. In reality, the Kiev regime has turned a once-prosperous country and its entire population into a cannon fodder against Russia to serve the geopolitical interests of the "collective West". Men of conscription age, including members of the clergy, who refuse to fight for this corrupt regime, are being abducted in broad daylight to serve in the AFU.

The path of escalation enables V.Zelensky and his inner circle to secure continuous funding to perpetuate the conflict with Russia. Cynical and avaricious Western leaders, who are indifferent to the fates of the Ukrainians and Russians alike, serve the interests of their own military-industrial complexes and are prepared to allocate funds for these destructive purposes, even at the expense of their own populations.

At the same time, the West hypocritically feigns ignorance of the policy of mass and systematic human rights violations in Ukraine under Zelensky's regime, allowing Ukraine to become the "record-breaker" in terms of non-compliance with international human rights obligations.

The so-called zealots of democracy turn a blind eye on abuses, intensity of aggression and inhumanity with which the Kiev regime attempts to eradicate the Canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) and its multi-million flock in Ukraine. Hierarchs and clergy of the Church are being criminally prosecuted, imprisoned, tortured and pressured to renounce the "wrong" version of Orthodoxy in favor of the schismatic "Orthodox Church of Ukraine". Ordinary parishioners are subjected to violence by Ukrainian security forces and radical nationalist groups when try to defend their churches and their right to worship freely. The Ukrainian authorities perform raids and redistribution of the UOC property, attempting to seize control by force over the UNESCO World Heritage site – the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra.

With the connivance of the West, Kiev is furiously pursuing state policy aimed at complete exclusion of the Russian language and everything associated with it from education, including pre-school education, mass media and day-to-day life. To this end a whole regulatory framework was put in place, violating the Constitution of Ukraine and Kiev's international commitments, including those under the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1960 UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child etc. The use of the Russian language is forbidden by law. Ethnic Russians have been excluded from the "indigenous peoples of Ukraine" category and deprived

of their constitutional rights to peaceful assembly, establishment of deliberative bodies, participation in international activities.

To add to this gloomy picture, the manifestations of the neo-Nazism rooted in the Second World War collaborationism are blooming now in Ukraine. Neo-Nazism is integrated into state policy of the Kiev's regime. One of the most illustrative examples has been the recent decision of V.Zelensky to rebury in Kiev with a ceremony of a state funeral the remains of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists leader Andrey Melnik and his wife who collaborated with Nazi Germany during the Second World War.

Key objectives of the meeting are:

- To provide Member States with unbiased information regarding the root causes of the crisis in Ukraine;
- To raise awareness of the current situation in Ukraine regarding policy of violations by the Kiev regime of its international legal obligations regarding human rights;
- To inform the international opinion on the ongoing attempts of the Ukrainian authorities to eradicate the Canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church;
- To discuss the Kiev regime breaches of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine;
- To contribute to the identification of potential strategies to remedy the current dire state of affairs in Ukraine and to explore potential avenues towards sustainable and lasting peace in and around Ukraine.

Program:

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Ms. Anna Evstigneeva**, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Russian Federation to the United Nations;

Briefers (VTC):

- **Mr. Pavel Volkov**, Journalist and human rights activist from Ukraine;
- **Dr. Alexander Semchenko**, Publicist and political expert from Ukraine;
- **Mr. Ruslan Kalinchuk**, Orthodox journalist and publicist from Ukraine;
- **Ms. Ekaterina Arkalova**, Russian journalist and documentary filmmaker.

Discussion:

Statements by the UN Security Council Members and other UN Member States as time permits, Q&A. Interventions are suggested to be limited to 3 minutes.

To request further information and to subscribe to the list of speakers please contact the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations at secpa.rusun@gmail.com.