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CONCEPT NOTE
UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING
**“SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS OF IHL COMMITTED BY
THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE
ON THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION”**

Date: 25 October 2024

Time: 3.00 pm

Venue: CR-6

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 meeting “Crimes of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the nationalist battalions”¹ held on 13 August 2024, participants will have a chance to get unbiased first-hand information about crimes committed by the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) against civilians in the Kursk region and other territories of the Russian Federation in violation of international humanitarian law (IHL).

Background:

The current crisis in Ukraine began in February 2014 when an unconstitutional armed coup-d'état was carried out in Kiev with active support of the Western

¹ The webcast can be found through this link: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1c78db8iz>

sponsors, and radical nationalist forces came to power. The Russian-speaking residents of Donbass did not accept the new authorities, who began to destroy their cultural code. This manifested in curbing their basic rights, including the right to use Russian, inciting of Russophobia, and glorification of Nazi collaborators. Population of the South-East of Ukraine took to streets to demand respect for their legitimate rights, which were trampled upon in violation of Article 1.3 of the United Nations Charter. In response, Kiev accused them of separatism, “treason” and “terrorism”, throwing the regular army and neo-Nazi punitive battalions to suppress protests.

The people of Donbass faced cruelty of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. For 8 years they endured constant shelling, tortures, abductions, arbitrary executions. Militants placed heavy weaponry in residential areas and used “human shield” tactics.

In February 2015, owing to Russia’s vigorous diplomatic efforts the Minsk agreements were signed, which provided not only for a ceasefire in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions, but also for granting them autonomous status within Ukraine. The document was approved by the UN Security Council Resolution 2202. However, Kiev with encouragement from the Western sponsors avoided implementing the deal’s main points.

After exhausting all possible means to protect the Russian-speaking inhabitants in the East and South-East of Ukraine against aggression, violent Ukrainization and falsification of history, and heeding relevant requests, the Russian Federation launched a special military operation in February 2022 in strict accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

In late July 2024, Ukraine’s prospects on the battlefield became especially dire, and Zelensky regime in order to avoid reduction in funding and arms supplies from its Western sponsors deliberately chose the path of armed escalation. On the night of August 6 the Kiev regime carried out a terrorist attack on the Kursk region, sending armed formations trained and equipped by the West as well as foreign mercenaries to the Russian territory thus expanding the zone of hostilities to a bordering civilian

area without military objects or bases. This invasion was followed by occupation and large-scale crimes against the civilian population and infrastructure of our country. The attacks were deliberate in nature, blatantly violating the norms of IHL.

Ukrainian soldiers acted as the most brutal thugs: according to survivors, they shot at civilians in their own homes and during attempts to evacuate, with full understanding of the non-military status of the victims. They hit ambulances, engaged in looting in Russian villages, and attacked journalists.

Captured Ukrainian servicemen who testified about the goals of their foray into the Russian territory reported that they had received clear orders from their unit commanders not to spare the civilian population, to shoot anyone who they might regard as dangerous, and to “shoot men in the legs and throw them into basement”. Some militants disclosed that the plan was to break through to the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant in the city of Kurchatov, capture it and use as a bargaining chip.

The remainder of Ukrainian troops are being successfully repelled from the Kursk region with the zone of Kiev regime control visibly shrinking, but the world needs to know the truth about the crimes they committed.

Meanwhile, daily attacks on other Russian cities continue as well. The AFU soldiers shell towns using aviation, UAVs, precision missiles, rocket and barrel artillery. They intentionally strike residential buildings, infrastructure objects, healthcare and educational institutions, buildings of local government bodies and social institutions.

Such actions of the Kiev regime constitute clear and grave war crimes as well as other violations of Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. These treaties set out obligations of countries to provide mandatory protection to civilians and explicitly state that “at all times and in all places, attacks on life and physical integrity, in particular all forms of killing, will be prohibited”.

Evidence of the barbaric crimes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and foreign mercenaries against the civilian population of Russian regions is dully collected and is being processed by Russian investigative bodies.

Key objectives of the meeting are:

- To provide evidence of systematic and mass grave violations of norms and principles of IHL committed by the Kiev regime and foreign mercenaries;
- To display proof of immense suffering of the civilian population, including women, children, and the elderly;
- To ensure accountability for the crimes committed by Ukrainian troops and foreign mercenaries.

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Vassily Nebenzia**, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Briefers (VTC):

- **Mr. Rodion Miroshnik**, Ambassador-at-large of the Russian Foreign Ministry on the crimes of the Kiev regime;
- **Mr. Maxim Grigoriev**, Member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the International Public Tribunal on Ukraine;
- TBD.

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 politdesk@russiaun.ru.