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CONCEPT NOTE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING

“Crimes of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the nationalist battalions”

Date: 13 August 2024

Time: 10 am

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 meetings “IHL violations and other crimes committed by Ukrainian military and militia”¹ held on 6 May 2022 and “Neo-Nazism and radical nationalism: exploring root causes of the crisis in Ukraine”² held on 11 July 2022, the participants will have a chance to further examine the origins of the resurgence of Nazism in Ukraine as well as to obtain ample evidence of the blatant disregard for international humanitarian law by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

It will be a good opportunity to listen to the testimonies of witnesses and victims of the crimes committed by Kiev regime. These include: the placement of heavy weaponry in residential areas and the use of “human shield” tactics by the

¹ The Chair’s summary of this meeting is issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2022/990. The webcast can be found through this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oIIoX_7a1k

² The Chair’s summary of this meeting is 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>

Ukrainian Armed Forces and the nationalist battalions; targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure and civilians; abductions and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions – meaning the deliberate killing of individuals outside of any legal framework; torture of civilians and their subsequent mass burial; as well as other massive human rights violations.

We shall dwell on the longtime practice of the Kiev regime of conducting false flag operations with the aim to present itself as a victim and evade responsibility. A striking example of such devious tactic is a cynical staged provocation in Bucha.

Background:

After the bloody coup-d'état in Kiev in 2014 the neo-Nazis who seized power launched a war against their own population of Donbass region. Their Russophobic policies included the persecution of the Russian speakers, creation of atmosphere of hatred towards the Russian culture and everything Russian in general as well as glorification of Nazi collaborators. The systematic shelling of residential areas by Armed Forces of Ukraine had been continuing for 8 years. Ever since the start of the special military operation the Ukrainian government have failed to take measures to protect civilians. Neither have they taken effective steps to evacuate people nor to curtail nationalist policies. As a result, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have repeatedly and routinely put civilians in harm's way by establishing bases and operating weapons systems in densely populated residential areas, including schools and hospitals. Such tactics are in clear violation of international humanitarian law and endanger civilians, as they turn civilian objects into military targets, exposing them to retaliatory fire.

Most residential areas where Ukrainian servicemen located themselves were miles away from front lines, and this fact constitutes a failure to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians. There were other alternatives that would not endanger civilians – such as military bases, wooded areas and fields nearby, or other structures further away from residential areas. Adding insult to injury the Ukrainian military

who preferred to locate themselves in civilian structures in residential areas never assisted civilians to evacuate from nearby buildings.

IHL requires all parties to a conflict to avoid locating, to the maximum extent possible, military objectives within or near densely populated areas; removing civilians from the vicinity of military objectives. IHL also prescribes that all parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects and take all feasible precautions, including in choice of weapons, to minimize civilian harm. Kiev regime's indiscriminate attacks which kill, injure civilians or damage civilian objects are de facto war crimes. As such, they have no statute of limitations. Everyone responsible for war atrocities will be prosecuted.

There can be no justice for the Russian-speaking people of Donbass without full accountability for all the heinous crimes committed by Ukraine since 2014. For more than 10 years the Russian Federation has been collecting evidence of atrocities, including the deliberate targeting of civilians and critical civilian infrastructure, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, unlawful deprivation of freedom, abuse of prisoners of war, torture and rape. Thousands of eyewitness testimonies have been officially recorded. One of the institutions that has launched investigation into war crimes is the International Public Tribunal on Ukraine which includes journalists, lawyers, civil society representatives from 30 countries. Its main goal is to collect data and prove the commission of war crimes by the Kiev regime, discrimination against its own citizens and persecution on linguistic, national and ideological grounds. To date the Tribunal has interviewed more than 800 victims and witnesses of the atrocities.

Objectives:

The Arria-formula meeting is aimed at providing Member States with an opportunity to analyze the root causes of the radical nationalism in Ukraine, to get unbiased first-hand information about tactics routinely used by the Ukrainian

Armed Forces and the nationalist battalions in violation of international humanitarian law as well as to discuss ways to achieve a sustainable and long-term peace.

Program:

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;
- Mr. Oleg Soldat, assistant professor at University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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.

Logistics:

To register and to request further information please contact the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, at *politdesk@russiaun.ru*.