



**Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations**

CONCEPT NOTE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING

**“SYSTEMATIC AND MASS GRAVE VIOLATIONS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AS WELL AS OTHER
WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE UKRAINIAN MILITARY
PERSONNEL AND MILITIA AND DISCOVERED IN THE COURSE
OF ONGOING SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION
OF THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES”**

Date: 6 May 2022

Time: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber

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

The meeting will be held in English and webcast on the UN WebTV.

Background:

In 2014 the legitimate president of Ukraine was ousted from power as a result of coup d’etat in Kiev which was committed by radical elements with the use of force and foreign assistance of the United States and the European Union.

Since 2014 the new government of Ukraine has conducted policy of subversion of the interests of the ethnic Russians living on its territory, notably through the suppression of the Russian language in all spheres of life defining the Russian identity (starting with the bill abolishing the use of the Russian language adopted by parliament

of Ukraine in February 2014), the incitement of hate speech directed at members of ethnic minorities and other acts of ethnic hatred, together with the persecution of the Ukrainian orthodox church. Ukraine has been overwhelmed by politically and racially motivated crimes.

The south-eastern regions of Ukraine, which were predominantly Russian speaking, did not accept the new order in Kiev. They demanded federalization of Ukraine and sought autonomy, in particular to protect their cultural identity. The Kiev regime responded with full-fledged war against Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics. People of Donetsk and Lugansk faced cruelty of the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions, which became part of the Ukrainian armed forces over-time. The civilian population endured daily shelling of residential areas, tortures, threats and kidnappings. This situation was knowingly ignored by the Western countries, which de-facto ensured "carte-blanche" for suppression of DNR and LNR by force and crack-down on the rights of Russian speaking residents in Ukraine, by blocking reaction to these crimes in international organizations.

The government of Ukraine continued to violate Minsk agreements and UN SC resolution 2202(2015) over seven years, which led, in particular, to numerous civilian casualties. The Western countries, in particular members of the UN Security Council, blocked any reaction to these breaches of the cease-fire agreement on the part of Kiev. Moreover, they started providing armaments and instructors in order to fuel the conflict. They emboldened Ukraine to finally resolve the conflict with DNR and LNR by force, which Kiev embarked on in February 2022. DNR and LNR sought assistance from Russia.

The Special Military Operation conducted by Russia in the territory of Ukraine is based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, as communicated on 24 February 2022 to the UN Security Council by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

The Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist paramilitary battalions have not abided by any norms of IHL over eight years and now in the course of the Special Military Operation of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

Ukrainian fighters turn to medieval barbarism, nationalists routinely use their own civilian population as a “human shield”. Placement of heavy artillery and rocket systems in residential areas has become a wide-spread practice, evidence of war crimes of the Kiev regime against prisoners of war is multiplying. Ukraine is violating even the most fundamental guarantees related to prohibition of “murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture” (Article 3 of 1949 Third Geneva Convention). It should be stressed that under Article 130 of the Convention such acts constitute “grave breaches” – in other words, war crimes. Finally, systematic and widespread character of such violations clearly points to the fact that Kiev is hardly doing anything to prevent such horrendous acts from reoccurrence.

The whole situation is aggravated by unprecedented disinformation campaign against Russia promoted by Western media, fake news and manipulation of public opinion.

Key objectives of the meeting are:

- To provide an opportunity to listen to voices of independent journalists located in the eastern regions of Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict;
- To display proofs of immense sufferings of civilians, including most vulnerable, and detainees, as well as cases of torture of the Russian military servicemen;
- To provide undisputable evidence of grave violations of basic norms of IHL by the Ukrainian authorities.

Guiding questions:

1. What is the reason for systematic “whitewashing” and “selective blindness” of Western mainstream media towards gruesome and barbaric violations committed by

the Ukrainian military and paramilitary formations?

2. How does such shameful attitude correlate with the “values”, promoted elsewhere by the Western countries?

3. Can the selective blindness fuel the impunity and reoccurrence of such violations?

Opening remarks:

– **Mr. Vassily Nebenzia**, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

– **Briefers (tbc)**

Discussion:

– Statements by Members of the UN Security Council followed by interventions of other UN Member States, Q&A. Interventions are requested to be limited to 3 minutes.

Closing remarks:

– **Mr. Vassily Nebenzia**, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

– **Briefers**

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