



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
28 August 2024

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-eighth session
Agenda items 31 and 83

Security Council
Seventy-ninth year

Prevention of armed conflict

The rule of law at the national and international levels

**Letter dated 26 August 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President
of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

I would like to convey information on the international obligations taken on by Ukraine that the regime in Kiev that came to power illegally as a result of a coup d'état has for many years failed to fulfil (see annex).*

I would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dmitry **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Circulated in the language of submission only.



Annex to the letter dated 26 August 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Non-compliance by Ukraine with its international obligations

(Position paper)

The regime in Kiev that came to power illegally as a result of a coup d'état has for many years failed to fulfil international obligations taken by Ukraine. At the same time, the leadership of international bodies and Western countries, demonstrating their bias and “double standards”, condone such Ukrainian policy.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2202 on the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, adopted on 12 February 2015. With Western backing, Kiev simulated the negotiation process, imitated its desire for peace and used the Agreements as a cover for re-equipping the armed forces of Ukraine (AFU), increasing the number of its armed formations and preparing for much larger-scale hostilities, as former leaders of the Normandy format countries – Petr Poroshenko, Angela Merkel and François Hollande – have later openly confessed.

1. International humanitarian law (IHL) and agreements on the use of specific weapons

Before the special military operation

1.1. Article 3, common to the 1949 Geneva Conventions,¹ the 1977 Additional Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) as well as international human rights norms.

As part of the armed attacks on the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR), the Government of Ukraine has consistently violated the principles and norms of IHL related to non-international armed conflicts. As a result, a lot of civilians died in Donbass and life of those who did not support the Kiev regime's nationalist policy became unbearable. With the approval of the Western countries, the Kiev authorities imposed a blockade on the LPR and DPR, hindering economic activity in the Republics and blocking the delivery of humanitarian aid, which endangered the lives of the population in the entire Donbass.

In mid-February 2022, the Ukrainian armed formations using heavy weapons carried out massive bombardments of the DPR and the LPR, where hundreds of thousands of Russian citizens live, as well as of the border territories of the Russian Federation.

After the beginning of the special military operation

1.2. The Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva Convention IV), the 1977 Additional Protocol relating

¹ Article 3 prohibits, inter alia, that in the case of armed conflict not of an international character, the following acts against persons taking no active part in the hostilities shall remain prohibited: a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; b) taking of hostages; c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment; d) the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment. Serious violations of Article 3 may be qualified as war crimes.

to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I),² as well as international human rights norms.

Daily Kiev shells civilian districts, critical and civilian infrastructure. The AFU target medical staff providing assistance to victims of shelling, and deliberately attack doctors and health-care facilities in the Russian frontline regions with the use of drones.

There are regular reports of the Ukrainian armed formations using civilians as human shields, obstructing the evacuation of civilians, mining non-military facilities, locating weapons within densely populated districts, setting up firing points in kindergartens, schools, hospitals, churches, residential buildings and dangerous chemical production facilities.³

Overall, since the beginning of the armed conflict in Donbass, hundreds of children have been killed or injured. There have been cases of minors being detained, used as human shields by members of the Azov nationalist formation and recruited by the AFU to attack Russian positions.

1.3. The 1949 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (Geneva Convention I), the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Geneva Convention III), Protocol I, as well as international human rights norms, including the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Ukrainian side has been constantly violating its obligations regarding the treatment of wounded and imprisoned Russian military personnel, including by deliberate murders, as well as torture, inhuman treatment, infliction of severe moral suffering and irreparable damage to health.⁴

Ukrainians use the emblems of humanitarian organizations to cover up and commit acts of bad faith that also violates the Geneva Convention I and the Protocol I. At the beginning of the special military operation, footage of Ukrainians using ambulances with Red Cross emblems to transport military personnel was made public.

The Ukrainian armed formations actively involve mercenaries, deliberately recruited abroad, in their operations. In a number of countries, Ukrainian embassies

² Under Article 85, Paragraph 5 of Protocol I, “grave breaches” of the Geneva Conventions are considered war crimes. In the context of an international armed conflict, these are the grave breaches set forth in Articles 50, 51, 130 and 147 of the Geneva Conventions I, II, III and IV, respectively, as well as in Articles 11 and 85 of Protocol I.

³ Under Article 58 of Protocol I, the Parties to the conflict shall, to the maximum extent feasible, avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas, as well as endeavour to remove the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects under their control from the vicinity of military objectives. Under Article 51, Paragraph 7 of Protocol I, there is a prohibition on the use of the civilian population as shields. This refers to the inadmissibility of the use of the civilian population to render certain points or areas immune from military operations, in particular in attempts to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield, favour or impede military operations. Similar rules are also enshrined in Article 23 of Geneva Convention III (in relation to prisoners of war) and Article 28 of Geneva Convention IV (in relation to protected persons).

⁴ These acts are classified as grave breaches under Article 130 of Geneva Convention III. Such example is the death of journalist Gonzalo Lira in January 2024 in the custody of the Special Service of Ukraine. He was a citizen of the United States and Chile. Before his death, he had been held for more than eight months in a Kharkov prison on charges of justifying Russia’s military actions in Ukraine.

continue to encourage local citizens to join the “International Legion” of the AFU.⁵ In addition to violating IHL norms, such activities contravene Ukraine’s obligations under **the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961**.

1.4. The Inhuman Weapons Convention (also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) (IWC). The facts, that the Ukrainian armed formations deliberately mine roadsides between settlements, paths, bridges, dams, areas around residential buildings, educational and medical institutions and other civilian facilities, require a proper response of the international community.

The Amended Protocol to the IWC on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (AP 2) and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.⁶ Ukraine uses Lepetok PFM-1 anti-personnel mines against civilians: Ukrainian military personnel spread them out in towns and villages. Since the special military operation has started, only in the DPR more than 130 cases of civilians being blown up by this type of mine have been registered.

The AP 2 to the IWC. The cases of AFU setting mines in public places in a number of settlements have been registered. The AFU use French-made MI AC HPD F2 anti-tank mines (which are impossible to deactivate and remove), similar to them German DM31 mines and German AT-2 mines as well. The Ukrainian side is also known to use German DM1399 mines, which are virtually impossible to deactivate owing to the high explosive self-destruct system of this type of weapon and the extremely sensitive fuse, which reacts both to civilian vehicles and to humans.

The AFU also use booby traps, which are industrially manufactured and virtually indistinguishable from civilian goods.

The AP 2 to the IWC, the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts. The AFU use booby traps and other devices that are in some way connected to or associated with the dead bodies and mining the corpses of the fallen military personnel and civilians.

2. Politico-Military Issues and Non-Military Aspects of Security

2.1. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). In the area of the special military operation, the Ukrainian armed formations have been constantly using riot control chemical agents (RCAs) and various types of toxic chemicals, including those which are in the Lists of the CWC Annex on Chemicals and RCAs, against Russian military personnel, officials and civilians.

2.2. Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). During the special military operation, Russia received a number of documents and evidence that shed light on the true nature of the biological and military activities of the USA and Ukraine in the territory of the latter. They confirm that the representatives of the American and Ukrainian military institutions have been conducting non-transparent military and biological researches in the immediate vicinity of our borders using the pathogens of highly dangerous and economically significant infections, which are potential biological weapons agents. The mentioned researches had nothing to do with the current public health problems in Ukraine and can hardly be explained by preventive or protective purposes. These facts and the nature of the indicated

⁵ Under Article 47 of Protocol I, a mercenary shall not have the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war. Ukraine has also ratified the 1989 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (Russia is not a party), which obliges Parties to criminalize and actively combat relevant actions.

⁶ Russia is not a party to the Convention. Ukraine ratified the Convention in 2005.

activities testify that Ukraine violates Articles I and IV of the BTWC that poses a direct threat to the national security of our country.

2.3. The 2011 Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (Vienna Document 2011). Since the beginning of its punitive operation in Donbass in 2014 and up to now, the Ukrainian side has not complied with up to 26 provisions of the Document. **The 1994 OSCE Document on Global Exchange of Military Information.** In 2022, Ukraine stopped providing data required by the Document. **The 1993 OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers.** In 2021 and 2023, Kiev did not provide responses to the relevant Questionnaire either.

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CC). Since 2014, some armed formations acting beyond the control of the central authorities have participated in the hostilities on the Ukrainian side. This violates Part VII, Articles 20, 21 and 25 of the CC. Articles 36 and 37 of the CC, which requires the armed forces to avoid injury to civilians or their property, and prohibit the use of armed forces within the country to deprive its residents of their national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity, are in gross violation.

2.4. The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Kiev claims that it is impossible to implement its provisions, trying to shift responsibility for its own refusal to comply with its international obligations to Russia. In fact, the Kiev regime had pursued a failed anti-drug policy long before the special military operation started that contributed to the aggravations of the drug situation in Ukraine. This has eventually led to the situation in which the country has, de facto, turned into a major staging point for smuggling of Afghan opiates and a centre of synthetic drugs production. It has also resulted in a significant increase in the number of drug-dependent persons.

2.5. The UNSC Resolution 1373 adopted on 28 September 2001,⁷ the UNSC Resolution 1566 adopted on 8 October 2004.⁸ The Kiev regime encourages and regularly uses terrorist methods against Russian civilians and its civilian infrastructure.

The UNSC Resolution 1624 adopted on 14 September 2005.⁹ The Kiev authorities, parliamentarians and other officials and public members allow that the

⁷ Paragraph 2(a): “Refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists.”

⁸ Operational Part: “3. Recalls that criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitute offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature, and calls upon all States to prevent such acts and, if not prevented, to ensure that such acts are punished by penalties consistent with their grave nature.”

⁹ Excerpt from Preamble: “Reaffirming that acts, methods, and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations”; “Condemning also in the strongest terms the incitement of terrorist acts and repudiating attempts at the justification or glorification (apologia) of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts.” Excerpt from Operational Part: “1. Calls upon all States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to: (a) Prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts; (b) Prevent such conduct; (c) Deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct.”

public calls to continue committing terrorist acts against Russia to be made, justifying and praising terrorism against citizens and infrastructure of our country and glorifying their authors. Such actions are neither restricted, nor prosecuted, and are in line with Kiev's policy which supports terrorism.

There is propaganda and recruitment conducted in the information space (mass media, Internet, social networks, anonymous messengers) with the participation of the Ukraine special services aiming at the incitement of anti-Russian sentiments. These activities contribute to the growth of radicalization and manifestations of aggressive nationalism, including the attraction of new members into pro-Ukrainian paramilitary right-wing radical terrorist and extremist structures, as well as to the recruitment and commission of terrorist crimes in the territory of the Russian Federation.

One of the examples of the violations of its obligations in the area of countering violent extremism is the fact of creation and operation, with the support of the Security Service of Ukraine, of the extremist website "Myrotvorets" (Peacemaker), which contains illegally collected personal data of politicians, journalists and public figures suspected of being "anti-Ukrainian", regardless of their citizenship. In total, there are over 240,000 persons added to its database, about 75,000 of them are Russians, including our fellow citizens, among them children, residing in Donbass. The site is essentially developed to prepare terrorist acts and provides an online roster of opponents of the criminal Kiev regime to be physically destroyed. After the murders being committed following the instructions of the site, the marks of "elimination" appear on the photos of the victims from the "shooting list".

The 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The Kiev regime resorts to terrorist tactics: the murders of journalist Daria Dugina and military correspondent Vladlen Tatarsky, the blowing up of the Crimean Bridge, the destruction of an airplane carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war, and terrorist forays made by the "Russian Volunteer Corps" in the Belgorod and Bryansk Oblast. The terrorist acts in the Crocus City Hall commercial centre in Krasnogorsk on 22 March 2024, organized with the participation of Ukrainian special services, stands out as a particular case.

The OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism approved on 7 December 2012.¹⁰ Activities of the Kiev regime aimed at creating a hotbed of international terrorism, extremism and neo-Nazism in Ukraine constitute a serious source of terrorist threats directly in the OSCE area and violate Ukraine's relevant political commitments to

¹⁰ Part II. The OSCE approach and commitments in the fight against terrorism: "3. The OSCE participating States stand united in their resolution to implement effective measures to combat terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, as a serious crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin may be. The OSCE participating States are committed to co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle "extradite or prosecute", any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens."; "The OSCE participating States are convinced that combating terrorism requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support. Such factors far from being inclusive were referred to inter alia in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in the OSCE Ministerial Statement on Supporting the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and in the OSCE Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism."

prevent its territory from being used for the preparation and commission of terrorist crimes, including against other States.

The OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism adopted on 9 December 2016.¹¹ Despite its commitments to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters moving to conflict zones to gain combat experience, Kiev and the terrorist and extremist groups under its control, including those who are members of the AFU, continue recruiting the mercenaries with terrorist background. In violation of international obligations relating to the inadmissibility of any material and financial support for terrorism, international ties among neo-Nazi paramilitary structures and transnational terrorist and criminal networks have been strengthened in Ukraine through the exchange of combat experience, clandestine criminal activities, the resale of weapons supplied by the West, trafficking in persons and human organs, smuggling of cultural property, etc. The Kiev regime facilitates the preparation and financing of sabotage and terrorist acts on the Russian territory.

The 2012 Dublin Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 11/04 on Combating Corruption, No. 5/14 on Prevention of Corruption, No. 4/16 on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity, No. 6/20 on Preventing and Combating Corruption Through Digitalization and Increased Transparency. The corruption “flourishes” in Ukraine, the measures taken by the authorities are not effective; the activities that are carried out there could be qualified as the financing, organizing and inciting of terrorist acts in the territory of Russia.

3. Economy, Environment and Global Food Security

3.1. The Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets dated 22 July 2022. Despite the stated humanitarian goals of the Black Sea Initiative and the commitments set out in it, Ukrainian grain was exported mainly to high-income and upper-middle-income countries (the supplies to the poorest countries accounted for less than three per cent of the total). Under the cover of the maritime humanitarian corridor, Ukrainians committed terrorist attacks against Russian facilities and vessels, including civilian ones (they attacked the naval base in Sevastopol and twice the Crimean Bridge). Kiev also went so far as to blow up the Togliatti-Odesa ammonia pipeline (which annually pumped about 2,000,000 tons of fertilizer raw materials, enough to produce food for 45,000,000 people). The resumption of its work was one of the cornerstones of both agreements.

3.2. International rules governing multilateral trade and commitments undertaken by Ukraine in the WTO framework. Since 2014, Kiev has openly used mechanisms aimed at artificial restriction of free trade, prevented access to the market

¹¹ “7. We welcome the work done by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and stress that all participating States shall take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and refrain from any form of financial support, in particular through engagement in favour of terrorist organizations in direct or indirect trade in natural resources, such as oil and oil products, in weapons, ammunition and spare parts, in cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance. We also underscore the importance of co-operation among OSCE participating States to prevent and counter the recruitment of members of terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters. We will further reduce the threat of terrorism by preventing cross-border movement of persons, weapons, funds connected to the terrorist activities, in line with OSCE commitments”.

of goods and services, hindered transit, discriminated against the activities of foreign economic operators, and applied unjustified tariff and non-tariff trade protection measures – all against Russia and a number of other WTO members.

The Kiev regime imposed a financial and economic blockade on Donbass in 2014 in an attempt to economically and socially “strangle” the region. Budget payments, including pensions, banking services, and railroad passenger transportation in the territories controlled by the proclaimed DPR and LPR were stopped. In 2017, Kiev prohibited any trade transport communication with Donbass along the entire contact line.

Since March 2022, Kiev has imposed a total embargo on trade with Russia, confiscated Russian property and assets, and has been calling on WTO members to impose a full-scaled blockade on Russia using sanctions. In solidarity with the Kiev regime and in violation of the fundamental principles and norms of the international trading system, a group of Western WTO member economies announced, de facto, the suspension of their obligations to Russia within the WTO framework.

3.3. Documents of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program, the 2003 OSCE Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 7/07 on the follow-up to the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: water management, No. 6/09 on Strengthening Dialogue and Co-Operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area, No. 6/14 on the Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction. Kiev sabotaged these commitments having set up the water blockade of Crimea and Donbass as well as having destructed the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam and having launched strikes against mines and chemical storage sites.

The 2007 OSCE Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security, the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 5/13 on Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-Related Activities in the OSCE Region (2013), No. 6/14 on the Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction (2014), No. 3/21 on Strengthening Co-Operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change (2021). The Ukrainian leaders “buried” these environmental commitments by destroying the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant and launching strikes against mines and chemical storage sites.

The OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 12/06 on the Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE (2006), No. 6/13 on the Protection of Energy Networks From Natural and Man-Made Disasters (2013), No. 11/11 on Strengthening Transport Dialogue in the OSCE (2011), No. 6/07 on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure From Terrorist Attacks (2007), No. 6/09 on Strengthening Dialogue and Co-Operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area. Kiev has shut down power lines to Crimea and Donbass and attacked the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant, oil refineries and fuel and lubricant depots.

4. Human rights. Ukraine is among the “record-breakers” in terms of non-compliance with human rights obligations.

4.1. The 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1960 UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights, the 1995 Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the 1992 European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the 1992 UN Declaration

on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the Principles of multilingualism and goals of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), the 2003 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Istanbul Document, the 1996 Hague High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities, the 1999 Lund HCNM Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life. Kiev has been pursuing policy aimed at completely excluding the Russian language and everything associated with Russian from education, and has been forcing the Ukrainization of public life. This is embodied in a number of adopted laws, the provisions of which contradict the Ukraine's international obligations.

4.2. The 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document of the Third Follow-up Meeting, the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 4/03 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (2003), No. 13/06 on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding (2006), No. 10/07 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding (2007). The Kiev regime violates the rights of the believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and discriminates against them on religious grounds. A policy of whitewashing Nazi criminals has been pursued at the state level, and ideas of neo-Nazism have been promoted and planted.

4.3. The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Resolution of the 29th Session of the UNESCO General Conference on Condemnation of Violence Against Journalists (1997), the Decision of the 216th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (2023), Decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Program for the Development of Communication, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document of the Third Follow-up Meeting, the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Istanbul Document, the 2018 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/18 on Safety of Journalists. Independent journalism has been restricted in Ukraine: censorship has been legally toughened, all opposition media is banned, Russian-language TV channels are closed, and access to more than 800 Internet resources is blocked. Russian journalists were, de facto, deprived of the right to exercise their professional activities even before the special military operation started. As part of their fight against dissent, the Ukrainian special services are kidnapping media workers and citizen journalists. Most of the victims were tortured or ill-treated. Some were taken to unknown destination and are still detained by the Security Service of Ukraine. Attacks against reporters remain unpunished. There are cases of interference of special services with the activities of mass media, as well as chase and murder of journalists.¹²

¹² The brutal murders of Russian journalists are convincing evidence of the criminal nature of the Kiev regime: Since February 2022 alone, Daria Dugina (Platonova), Vladlen Tatarsky (Maxim Fomin), Oleg Klovov, Rostislav Zhuravlyov, Boris Maksudov, Semyon Yeryomin, Valeriy Kozhin, and Nikita Tsitsagi have been killed by the Ukrainian security forces and their agents.

4.4. The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 2020 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/20 on Prevention and Eradication of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In the territories under Kiev’s control the Ukrainian law enforcement officers and military personnel of the AFU use torture and other forms of inhuman or degrading treatment against civilians, including children.

4.5. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (2005), No. 15/06 on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children (2006), No. 5/08 on Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings Through a Comprehensive Approach (2008), No. 7/13 on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2013), No. 7/17 on Strengthening Efforts to Combat All forms of Child Trafficking, Including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children (2017). Ukraine has recorded an unprecedented increase in trafficking in persons, including women and minors, as well as in illegal transplantology.

4.6. Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization. Under the pretext of “overcoming the consequences of the Russian aggression”, Ukraine has adopted amendments to labour legislation that contradict Kiev’s international commitments in the area of labour protection and social assistance.

4.7. The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 2003 UNESCO Declaration Concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage. Ukraine has unleashed a “war against monuments”, in particular, in 2022, the monument to the founders of Odessa, located in the centre of the protected area of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, was demolished. Armed formations of the Kiev regime regularly launch strikes against cultural sites (in particular, a drone attack on the World Heritage Site – the Moscow Kremlin), deploy military personnel and store weapons at the cultural sites in the territory under their control.

Detailed information on Ukraine’s disregard for its human rights obligations can be found in the Report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

An attempt was made to kill Zakhar Prilepin (Yevgeniy Prilepin), writer and public figure. At the same time, Zelensky’s regime openly boasts about its involvement in these terrorist attacks. For example, the head of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, Kirill Budanov, in his interview with Yahoo News on 8 May 2023, in response to a question about Kiev’s possible involvement in the murder of Daria Dugina (Platonova) said, “All I will comment on is that we’ve been killing Russians and we will keep killing Russians anywhere on the face of this world until the complete victory of Ukraine.” Answering the question whether the AFU would be able to make an assassination attempt on the editor-in-chief of the Rossiya Segodnya and RT media group, Margarita Simonyan, journalist, TV and radio host Vladimir Solovyov and political scientist Aleksander Dugin, he said: “We have already come after many people, including public and media figures.”

on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine (May 2024) and in the relevant section of the Joint Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on Human Rights Situation in Certain Countries (June 2024).
