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Agenda items 32 (a), 84, 107 and 108

**Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed  
conflict****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Crime prevention and criminal justice****Countering the use of information and communications  
technologies for criminal purposes****Security Council  
Eightieth year****Letter dated 1 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General**

With reference to the notes verbales of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations No. 3810/n of 9 September 2024 (see annex I),\* No. 4996/n of 14 November 2024 (see annex II)\* and No. 273/n of 23 January 2025 (see annex III),\* I have to recall once again the outstanding official requests from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee for cooperation on criminal case No. 12202007703000274 concerning deliberate misinformation in the mass media and on the Internet about the alleged killing of civilians by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Bucha, Ukraine, in April 2022.

In this regard, we continue to seek the kind assistance of the Secretariat in the fulfilment of these cooperation requests by providing all available information and documents, including those referred to in Mr. Volker Türk's letter of 10 May 2023, that may be essential for the investigation of the situation in Bucha to ensure the proper administration of justice, in particular in accordance with article V, section 21, of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

We hope that the Secretariat shares our approach regarding combating impunity and bringing perpetrators to account.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 (a), 84, 107 and 108, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily Nebenzia

\* Circulated in the language of submission only in line with current liquidity management measures.



**Annex I to the letter dated 1 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

With reference to the notes verbales of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations No. 3221/n of 10 August 2023 and No. 2056/n of 19 May 2023, I have the honour to transmit official requests from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee for cooperation on the criminal case No. 12202007703000274 concerning deliberate misinformation in mass media and on the Internet about alleged killing of civilians by Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Bucha, Ukraine in April 2022.

The letter of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Volker Türk dated 10 May 2023 addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva H.E. Mr. Gennady Gatilov claimed that *"OHCHR has documented serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law attributable to Russian armed forces" and that "the report is based on information gathered during OHCHR field visits (including 12 visits to Bucha) and interviews with victims and witnesses"*.

In his subsequent letter dated 25 July 2023 Mr. Volker Türk also referred to *"established practice to make available relevant investigative material on a voluntary basis without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, upon a formal cooperation request, made in the context of a specific investigation or proceedings, from national law enforcement, prosecutorial or judicial authorities"*.

In this regard, we seek kind assistance of the Secretariat in fulfilment of the cooperation requests from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee by providing all available information and documents, including those referred to in Mr. Volker Türk's letter of 10 May 2023, that may be essential for the investigation of the situation in Bucha to ensure the proper administration of justice in particular in accordance with Section 21 of article V of the 1946 Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, which provides that *"the United Nations shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of Members to facilitate the proper administration of justice"*.

We count on prompt fulfilment of the requests by the Secretariat, which will contribute to establishing the truth.

We stand ready to engage with the Secretariat on modalities of information transfer including those related to safeguarding its confidentiality.

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

**Annex II to the letter dated 1 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

With reference to the note verbale of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations No. 3810/n of 9 September 2024, I have the honour to kindly remind that two months ago the Permanent Mission transmitted official requests from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee for cooperation on the criminal case No. 12202007703000274 concerning deliberate misinformation in mass media and on the Internet about alleged killing of civilians by Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Bucha, Ukraine in April 2022. Regrettably, the Russian Federation has not received any feedback from the Secretariat up to this moment.

In this regard, we continue to seek kind assistance of the Secretariat in fulfilment of the cooperation requests from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee by providing all available information and documents, including those referred to in Mr. Volker Türk's letter of 10 May 2023, that may be essential for the investigation of the situation in Bucha to ensure the proper administration of justice in particular in accordance with Section 21 of article V of the 1946 Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

We reiterate our readiness to engage with the Secretariat on modalities of information transfer including those related to safeguarding its confidentiality.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**

**Annex III to the letter dated 1 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

With reference to the notes verbales of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations No. 3810/n of 9 September 2024 and No. 4996/n of 14 November 2024, I have the honour to remind once again about outstanding official requests from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee for cooperation on the criminal case No. 12202007703000274 concerning deliberate misinformation in mass media and on the Internet about alleged killing of civilians by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Bucha, Ukraine, in April 2022.

In this regard, we continue to seek kind assistance of the Secretariat in fulfilment of these cooperation requests by providing all available information and documents, including those referred to in Mr. Volker Türk's letter of 10 May 2023, that may be essential for the investigation of the situation in Bucha to ensure the proper administration of justice in particular in accordance with Section 21 of article V of the 1946 Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

We hope that the Secretariat shares our approach regarding combatting impunity and bringing perpetrators to account.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**

**Enclosure**

*Translation from Russian 4336-24*

**Prosecutor General's Office of the  
Russian Federation  
15a, bldg. 1, Bolshaya Dmitrovka Str.,  
Moscow, GSP-3, 125993, Russia**

United Nations Secretariat

08.08.2024 Our ref. No. 87-198-2024

Your ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and, in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13.02.1946, has the honor to request cooperation on criminal case No. 12202007703000274.

This criminal case is pending in the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation on the fact that knowingly false information was posted in the media and on the Internet about the commitment of crimes by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the city of Bucha, Kyiv Region, Ukraine, in March 2022.

In order to objectively establish all the circumstances of the crime under investigation, there is a need to obtain information about witnesses and victims in Bucha, copies of investigation materials on the facts of death, ill-treatment and other violent acts against civilians in Bucha, as well as information about persons brought to responsibility.

In response to the request of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations for assistance in obtaining the said information, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights V. Turk, in a letter dated 05.03.2024, reported on the established practice of providing relevant investigative materials upon an official request for cooperation from national law enforcement, prosecutorial or judicial authorities in the context of a specific investigation.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights V. Turk, in his letter dated 10.05.2023, indicated that his Office had "documented serious violations of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation" and that the OHCHR report was based on information gathered during field missions (including 12 visits to Bucha) and interviews with victims and witnesses.

Taking into account the above, it was decided to prepare this request. The information sought within its framework is requested solely for the purposes of establishing the truth conducting a proper investigation, administering justice, a bringing perpetrators to criminal responsibility for crimes committed, and ensuring comprehensive protection of the rights of victims.

For our part, we guarantee that the information obtained as a result of executing the request will not be shared with third parties and will be used only in the interests of examining of the criminal case, administering justice and establishing the truth.

The provisions of Section 21 of Article V of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13.02.1946 place special emphasis on the task of "proper administration of justice", and for this purpose they provide for both the obligation of the United Nations to cooperate with the authorities of Member States and even waive the immunities of its employees. In this regard, we proceed

from the fact that, according to the letter and spirit of the Convention, all available information should be provided for the proper administration of justice, including that mentioned in V. Turk's letter dated 10.05.2023.

In this regard, we expect that, in accordance with the request for cooperation in criminal case No. 12202007703000274, full and objective information and documents available to the UN will be provided in order to ensure the proper administration of impartial justice.

Please send the requested information and copies of the relevant materials to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation at the address: 15a, building 1, Bolshaya Dmitrovka Str., Moscow, GSP-3, 125993, Russia.

Enclosure: on 8 p.

Yours sincerely,

Director General  
General Department of  
International Legal Cooperation

*[signed]*

M.V. Vinogradov

## Attachment

*Translation from Russian 4336-24*

**INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
(IC OF RUSSIA)  
2 Tekhnichesky Pereulok,  
Moscow, Russia, 105005**

United Nations Secretariat

05.08.2024 Our ref. No. 12202007703000274

Your ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

The Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation is investigating criminal case No. 12202007703000274 initiated on 04.04.2022 under Article 207.3 (2) (b) and (c) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the RF CC) on the fact of posting knowingly false information in the media and on the Internet about the commission of crimes by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the city of Bucha, Kyiv Region, Ukraine.

It has been established that no later than 03.04.2022, information about alleged mass killings of civilians committed by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the city of Bucha, Kyiv Region, Ukraine, was disseminated in various mass media in Ukraine and Western countries.

As a confirmation of the above false information, photo and video materials were posted in publications, which depict the bodies of civilians allegedly killed by Russian servicemen, including in public places.

The above information was disseminated in order to create a negative attitude among an unlimited number of people and deny official data from the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation on the progress of the special military operation in Ukraine.

At the same time, according to information from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights V. Turk provided in his letter dated 10.05.2023, his Office had “documented serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation”. The OHCHR report is based on information gathered during field missions (including 12 visits to Bucha) and interviews with victims and witnesses.

Currently, in order to establish the truth, conduct a proper investigation, administer justice, bring the perpetrators to criminal responsibility for the crimes committed, and ensure comprehensive protection of the rights of victims, there is a need to obtain information about witnesses and victims from among the residents of Bucha, as well as copies of investigation materials (protocols recording the testimonies of witnesses and victims, inspections of the scene and corpses, as well as expert opinions, photo and video materials) on the facts of death and other violent actions against civilians in Bucha.

Based on the above and guided by Section 21 of Article V of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13.02.1946, the UN Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity of 26.11.1968, as well as Articles 453 and 454 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation,

I REQUEST:

Assistance in obtaining the following information from UN bodies and organizations:

1. Available information in the form of complete personal data of eyewitnesses (witnesses) and affected persons (victims) on the facts of ill-treatment of civilians in Bucha in March 2022.

2. Available copies of investigation materials (protocols recording the testimonies of witnesses and victims, inspections of the scene and corpses, as well as expert opinions, photo and video materials) on the facts of ill-treatment of civilians in Bucha in March 2022.

3. Information available on persons brought to responsibility, including in absentia, for committing crimes against the civilian population of Bucha in March 2022, indicating the circumstances of the incriminated unlawful acts.

The information contained in this request is confidential and intended for official use only, as it constitutes a secret of the investigation. For our part, we guarantee that the information obtained as a result of the execution of the request is not subject to transfer to third parties and will be used only in the interests of investigating the criminal case.

The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation is not a political institution or body and is authorized solely to investigate criminal cases. The investigation of this criminal case does not pursue political goals and is aimed solely at establishing the truth and bringing the perpetrators to criminal responsibility for the crime committed.

Please print out the materials obtained in the course of execution of this request or enclose their hard copies, certify them with the seal and signature of an authorized person, and send them to the Department of Legal Support and International Cooperation of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation at the address: 2 Tekhnicheskyy Pereulok, Moscow, 105005, Russian Federation.

Enclosure: extract of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on 2 p.

Senior Investigator for Major Cases  
Main Investigative Department  
Lieutenant Colonel of Justice

*[signed and sealed]* A.V. Vavilkin

*Translation from Russian 4336-24*

**Extract  
of the Criminal Code  
of the Russian Federation  
of 13.06.1996 No. 63-FZ**

**Article 207.3. Public Dissemination of Knowingly False Information on Employment of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Performance by the State Bodies of the Russian Federation of Their Powers, Rendering Assistance in the Performance of the Tasks Assigned to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation by Volunteer Formations, Organizations or Persons, or National Guard Troops of the Russian Federation**



1. Public dissemination, under the guise of reliable reports, of knowingly false information containing details about employment of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation or National Guard Troops of the Russian Federation, aimed at protecting the interests of the Russian Federation and its citizens, maintaining international peace and security, or on containing data on the exercise of their powers outside the territory of the Russian Federation for the specified purposes by the state bodies of the Russian Federation, as well as containing data on the provision of assistance in the performance of tasks assigned to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation by volunteer formations, organizations or individuals, -

shall be punishable with a fine in an amount of from 700,000 up to 1,500,000 rubles or in an amount of the wage or salary, or any other income of the convicted person for a period from one year to eighteen months, or by corrective labor for a term of up to one year, or by compulsory labor for a term of up to five years, or by deprivation of liberty for the same term.

2. The same act committed:

- (a) by a person through his/her official position;
- (b) by a group of persons, by a group of persons by previous concert or by an organized group;
- (c) joined with artificial creation of the prosecution evidence;
- (d) out of selfish motives;
- (e) by reason of political, ideological, racial, national or religious hatred or enmity, or by reason of hatred or enmity with respect to some social group, -

shall be punishable with a fine in an amount from three million to five million rubles or in an amount of the wage or salary, or any other income of the convicted person for a period of from three to five years, or by compulsory works for a term of up to five years with disqualification from holding specific offices or engaging in specified activities for a term of up to five years, or with deprivation of liberty from five to ten years with disqualification from holding specific offices or engaging in specified activities for a term of up to five years.

3. Acts provided for in Parts one and two of this Article if they have entailed grave consequences, -

shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term from ten to fifteen years with disqualification from holding specific offices or engaging in specified activities for a term of up to five years.

**True extract:**

Senior Investigator for Major Cases  
Third Investigative Division  
Department for Investigation of War Crimes,  
Genocide and Justification of Nazism  
Main Investigative Department

Lieutenant Colonel of Justice *[signed and sealed]* A.V. Vavilkin

**True extract:**

Senior Investigator for Major Cases *[signed and sealed]* A.V. Vavilkin