

## CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW

EDITED BY KRISTEN E. EICHENSEHR\*

***In this section:***

- Russia Invades Ukraine
- Russian Invasion of Ukraine Draws Widespread—but Not Universal—Condemnation
- United States and Allies Target Russia and Belarus with Sanctions and Other Economic Measures
- International Institutions Mobilize to Impose Accountability on Russia and Individual Perpetrators of War Crimes and Other Abuses
- United States and Allies Provide Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine and Its Citizens
- The United States and Allies Provide Military and Intelligence Support to Ukraine

\* Erin Camia, Katrina Meyer, Mason W. Pazhwak, Amanda Rutherford, Karli Wade, and Matthew Walchuck contributed to the preparation of this section.

Additional actions remain available if the United States and its allies choose to ratchet up economic pressure. One of the most far reaching moves would be the imposition of “secondary sanctions” that “would also punish third parties in other countries for interacting with parts of the Russian economy that have been sanctioned by the United States” making “Russia radioactive to non-U.S., non-European businesses as well.”<sup>149</sup> To restrict Russian oil revenues, the United States is reportedly considering “imposing a price cap on Russian oil, backed by . . . secondary sanctions, which would punish foreign buyers that do not comply with U.S. restrictions by blocking them from doing business with American companies and those of partner nations.”<sup>150</sup> In addition, the United States has proposed expelling Russia from the G20. Secretary Yellen told Congress on April 6 that President Biden has “asked that Russia be removed from the G20, and I’ve made clear to my colleagues . . . that we will not be participating in a number of meetings if the Russians are there.”<sup>151</sup> The Biden administration is also seeking congressional authorization for an expedited procedure that would “streamline the process for seizure of oligarch assets, expand the assets subject to seizure, and enable the proceeds to flow to Ukraine.”<sup>152</sup> Taken together, all of the economic measures deployed against Russia suggest that the United States and European allies are “planning for a far different world, in which they no longer try to coexist and cooperate with Russia, but actively seek to isolate and weaken it as a matter of long-term strategy.”<sup>153</sup>

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### *International Institutions Mobilize to Impose Accountability on Russia and Individual Perpetrators of War Crimes and Other Abuses*

doi:10.1017/ajil.2022.29

Ukraine has turned to international institutions to hold Russia and Russian officials accountable for violations of international law. In the month following the invasion, Ukraine initiated proceedings in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), both of which have issued preliminary orders directing Russia to cease military action. The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor has also

<sup>149</sup> Jeff Stein & Jeanne Whalen; *Biden Aides Explore Rarely Used Sanctions Weapon Against Russia*, WASH. POST (Mar. 24, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2022/03/24/russia-economy-sanctions>.

<sup>150</sup> Wong & Crowley, *supra* note 132.

<sup>151</sup> David Lawder & Dan Burns, *Yellen Says Russia Should Be Expelled from G20, U.S. May Boycott Some Meetings*, REUTERS (Apr. 7, 2022), at <https://www.reuters.com/world/yellen-says-russia-should-be-expelled-g20-us-may-boycott-some-meetings-2022-04-06>.

<sup>152</sup> White House, Fact Sheet: President Biden’s Comprehensive Proposal to Hold Russian Oligarchs and Elites Accountable (Apr. 28, 2022), at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/28/fact-sheet-president-bidens-comprehensive-proposal-to-hold-russian-oligarchs-accountable> [<https://perma.cc/ZA3R-RSZS>]; see Matthew Goldstein, *Seizing an Oligarch’s Assets Is One Thing. Giving Them to Ukraine Is Another.*, N.Y. TIMES (May 8, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/08/business/russia-oligarch-yacht-assets.html>.

<sup>153</sup> Karen DeYoung & Michael Birnbaum, *U.S., Allies Plan for Long-Term Isolation of Russia*, WASH. POST (Apr. 16, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/04/16/us-nato-isolate-russia>.

opened an investigation into events in Ukraine. Other avenues for accountability include investigations opened by various international entities, as well as domestic legal processes in Ukraine and other countries. Mounting evidence of Russian wartime misconduct has ramped up calls for legal accountability, though the prospects for obtaining such redress remain uncertain.

Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea led Ukraine to file a case against Russia in the ICJ alleging that Russia's instigation of an armed insurrection in eastern Ukraine violated the Terrorism Financing Convention and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.<sup>1</sup> While that case remains pending, Ukraine has turned to the ICJ again, instituting proceedings against Russia on February 26 alleging that Russia is misinterpreting and misapplying the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.<sup>2</sup> To establish a dispute over the meaning of the convention as required for the ICJ to have jurisdiction, Ukraine argued that Russia and Ukraine "disagree on whether genocide," as defined in the convention, "has occurred or is occurring in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine and whether Ukraine has committed genocide."<sup>3</sup> Ukraine "profoundly disagrees" with Russia's "unsubstantiated allegation" of genocide, and it argued that Russia has unlawfully used the allegation as a false pretext to justify unilateral military action in Ukraine.<sup>4</sup>

Russia declined to participate in the oral proceedings on Ukraine's request for preliminary measures, but filed a letter alleging that the ICJ lacked jurisdiction.<sup>5</sup> The letter argued that although Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech on the "special military operation" in Ukraine mentioned genocide, it was not an invocation of the Genocide Convention, and that the legal basis for Russia's military operation is self-defense pursuant to Article 51 of the UN Charter and customary international law.<sup>6</sup>

Acting quickly, the ICJ issued an order on March 16 imposing provisional measures against Russia.<sup>7</sup> Citing numerous statements and documents from Russian officials referring to the commission of genocide by Ukraine, the Court rejected Russia's assertion that it lacked jurisdiction. The Court concluded that "the evidence in the case file demonstrates prima facie that statements made by the Parties referred to the subject-matter of the Genocide Convention in a sufficiently clear way to allow Ukraine to invoke the compromissory clause in this instrument as a basis for the Court's jurisdiction."<sup>8</sup>

Having found jurisdiction, the Court determined that Ukraine was entitled to provisional measures. The Court found that "it is doubtful that the [Genocide] Convention, in light of its

<sup>1</sup> Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukr. v. Russ.), Press Release, 2017/2 ICJ (Jan. 17, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> Allegations of Genocide Under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, (Ukr. v. Russ.), Provisional Measures, para. 30 (Int'l Ct. Just. Mar. 16, 2022) [hereinafter ICJ Provisional Measures].

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, para. 30.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, paras. 30–31.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, para. 16.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, paras. 32–33; see also Letter Dated 24 February 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General, UN Doc. S/2022/154 (Feb. 24, 2022), at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3959647?ln=en>; Max Fisher, *Putin's Case for War, Annotated*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 24, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/24/world/europe/putin-ukraine-speech.html>.

<sup>7</sup> ICJ Provisional Measures, *supra* note 2.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*, para. 44.

object and purpose, authorizes a Contracting Party's unilateral use of force in the territory of another State for the purpose of preventing or punishing an alleged genocide."<sup>9</sup> Thus, Ukraine has a "plausible right not to be subjected to military operations" on the basis of an alleged genocide, and provisional measures are necessary to "prevent[] any action which may aggravate or extend the existing dispute."<sup>10</sup> The court also noted that "the civilian population affected by the present conflict is extremely vulnerable" and that Russia's conduct "has resulted in numerous civilian deaths and injuries."<sup>11</sup> The court ordered Russia to "immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine" and to "ensure that any military or irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it, as well as any organizations and persons which may be subject to its control or direction, take no steps in furtherance of" such military operations.<sup>12</sup> The vote on both of these measures was thirteen in favor, with two judges—those from China and Russia—voting against.<sup>13</sup> The Court unanimously ordered that "[b]oth Parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve."<sup>14</sup>

This final provisional measure addressed to both parties prompted a separate declaration by Judge Ad Hoc Yves Daudet, appointed by Ukraine, who noted that in his view "this measure of non-aggravation of the dispute should have been directed solely at the Russian Federation, which I recall was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the perpetrator of aggression against Ukraine."<sup>15</sup>

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the order a "complete victory," "binding under international law," and declared that "[i]gnoring the order will isolate Russia even further."<sup>16</sup> The U.S. State Department also welcomed the Court's "significant ruling" and "call[ed] on" Russia "to comply with the order, immediately cease its military operations in Ukraine, and . . . establish unhindered humanitarian access in Ukraine."<sup>17</sup> For its part, Russia rejected the order, saying "both sides ha[ve] to agree to end the hostilities for the ruling to be implemented."<sup>18</sup>

Ukraine also turned to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), requesting on February 28, 2022 that that court also impose interim measures against Russia.<sup>19</sup> As parties

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*, para. 59.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*, paras. 60, 63.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*, para. 75.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*, para. 86.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> Allegations of Genocide Under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukr. v. Russ.), decl., Daudet, J. Ad Hoc, para. 1, available at <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220316-ORD-01-06-EN.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Володимир Зеленський (@ZelenskyyUa), TWITTER (Mar. 16, 2022, 11:41 AM), at <https://twitter.com/ZelenskyyUa/status/1504120775749550081>.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Dep't of State Press Release, Welcoming the International Court of Justice's Order Directing the Russian Federation to Immediately Suspend Military Operations in Ukraine (Mar. 16, 2022), at <https://www.state.gov/welcoming-the-international-court-of-justices-order-directing-the-russian-federation-to-immediately-suspend-military-operations-in-ukraine> [<https://perma.cc/QUE3-G4JW>]

<sup>18</sup> *Kremlin, As Expected, Rejects ICJ Ruling to Halt Ukraine Invasion*, RADIO FREE EUR. RADIO LIBERTY (Mar. 17, 2022), at <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-rejects-icj-war-ruling/31757644.html>.

<sup>19</sup> Eur. Ct. Hum. Rts. Press Release, The European Court Grants Urgent Interim Measures in Application Concerning Russian Military Operations on Ukrainian Territory, ECHR 068 (Mar. 1, 2022).

to the European Convention on Human Rights, both Ukraine and Russia are subject to the jurisdiction of the court.<sup>20</sup> Ukraine sought urgent interim measures “in relation to ‘massive human rights violations being committed by the Russian troops in the course of the military aggression.’”<sup>21</sup> On March 1, 2022, the ECtHR granted Ukraine’s request, directing Russia

to refrain from military attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including residential premises, emergency vehicles and other specially protected civilian objects such as schools and hospitals, and to ensure immediately the safety of the medical establishments, personnel and emergency vehicles within the territory under attack or siege by Russian troops.<sup>22</sup>

Additionally, the court received a “number of requests for interim measures” against Russia from individuals, including people taking refuge, fearing for their lives, and in need of “humanitarian assistance and safe evacuation.”<sup>23</sup> For these individual requests, the court directed Russia to “ensure unimpeded access of the civilian population to safe evacuation routes, healthcare, food and other essential supplies, rapid and unconstrained passage of humanitarian aid and movement of humanitarian workers.”<sup>24</sup> On March 16, Ukraine requested additional relief from the court, including a prohibition on nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, a cessation of any plans to assassinate civilian leaders, and an indication to Russia that Ukrainian civilians should not be forcibly deported to Russia or Belarus.<sup>25</sup> On April 1, the court found that many of the requested measures were already covered by its previous findings, but it did expand its previous order to add that “evacuation routes should allow civilians to seek refuge in safer regions of Ukraine.”<sup>26</sup>

Shortly after the ECtHR’s decisions, Russia announced that it would withdraw from the Council of Europe and from the European Convention on Human Rights. Russia’s relationship with the Council has been fraught since 2014. In response to Russia’s annexation of Crimea, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) suspended Russia’s voting rights,<sup>27</sup> reinstating them only in 2019 through a compromise worked out by Germany and France.<sup>28</sup> After the Council began a process to suspend Russia’s rights of

<sup>20</sup> Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)), Art. 31, Nov. 4, 1950, 213 UNTS 221, ETS No. 5, available at [https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf); see *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 005* (status as of Apr. 6, 2022), at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=005>.

<sup>21</sup> Eur. Ct. Hum. Rts. Press Release, *supra* note 19.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> Eur. Ct. Hum. Rts. Press Release, Decision of the Court on Requests for Interim Measures in Individual Applications Concerning Russian Military Operations on Ukrainian Territory, ECHR 073 (Mar. 4, 2022).

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> Eur. Ct. Hum. Rts. Press Release, Expansion of Interim Measures in Relation to Russian Military Action in Ukraine, ECHR 116 (Apr. 1, 2022).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Res. 1990 (2014), at <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=20882&lang=en>.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*; PACE Res. 2292 (2019) (June 26, 2019), at <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=28049>; Gilbert Reilhac, *Council of Europe Readmits Russia, Five Years After Suspension Over Crimea*, REUTERS (June 25, 2019), at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-rights-council-russia/council-of-europe-readmits-russia-five-years-after-suspension-over-crimea-idUSKCN1VL>; see Paul B. Stephan, *Wars of Conquest in the Twenty-First Century and the Lessons of History – Crimea, Panama, and John Bassett Moore*, 62 VA. J. INT’L L. 63, 78 (2021).

representation in response to the country's invasion of Ukraine,<sup>29</sup> Russia on March 15 "informed the Secretary General of its withdrawal from the Council of Europe in accordance with the Statute of the Council . . . and of its intention to denounce the European Convention on Human Rights."<sup>30</sup> The next day, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted a resolution determining that Russia "cease[s] to be a member of the Council."<sup>31</sup> Pursuant to the Convention's provisions, Russia will cease to be a party to the Convention on September 16, 2022, six months after its expulsion from the Council.<sup>32</sup> The ECtHR has determined that it remains competent to deal with applications against Russia for violations of the Convention that occur until September 16, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

The ICC prosecutor has also opened an investigation into events in Ukraine. Although neither Russia nor Ukraine are parties to the ICC's Rome Statute, Ukraine consented to the Court's jurisdiction over "alleged crimes under the Rome Statute occurring on its territory" from November 21, 2013, to February 22, 2014, and for crimes committed from February 20, 2014, onward.<sup>34</sup> Building on a preliminary examination of events in Ukraine since 2014 concluded by his predecessor, ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan announced on February 28 that he would proceed with opening an investigation, including "alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity . . . committed in Ukraine" since 2014 and during the current conflict.<sup>35</sup> Khan noted that the "next step" was to seek authorization from the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber, but pointedly noted that "[a]n alternative route set out in the Statute that could further expedite matters would be for an ICC State Party to refer the situation to my Office, which would allow us to actively and immediately proceed with the Office's independent and objective investigations."<sup>36</sup> The prosecutor quickly received referrals from multiple

<sup>29</sup> Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, Decision CM/Del/Dec(2022)1426ter/2.3, Situation in Ukraine – Measures to Be Taken, Including Under Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe (Feb. 25, 2022), at [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a5a360](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a5a360).

<sup>30</sup> Council of Europe Press Release, The Russian Federation Is Excluded from the Council of Europe (Mar. 16, 2022), at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/the-russian-federation-is-excluded-from-the-council-of-europe>.

<sup>31</sup> PACE Opinion 300 (Mar. 15, 2022), at <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/29885/html>; Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, Resolution CM/Res(2022)2 on the Cessation of the Membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe (Mar. 16, 2022), at [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a5da51](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a5da51).

<sup>32</sup> Resolution CM/Res(2022)3 on Legal and Financial Consequences of the Cessation of Membership of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe (Mar. 23, 2022), at <https://rm.coe.int/resolution-cm-res-2022-3-legal-and-financial-conss-cessation-membershi/1680a5ee99?msclid=60a33447ab8d11ec9c8f9bc54d5831c1>; ECHR, *supra* note 20, Art. 58.

<sup>33</sup> Eur. Ct. Hum. Rts. Press Release, Resolution of the European Court of Human Rights on the Consequences of the Cessation of Membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe in Light of Article 58 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Mar. 22, 2022).

<sup>34</sup> Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan QC, on the Situation in Ukraine: "I Have Decided to Proceed with Opening an Investigation" (Feb. 28, 2022), at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=20220228-prosecutor-statement-ukraine>.

<sup>35</sup> *Id.* The ICC's preliminary examination, opened on April 24, 2014 in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea, found that there was "a reasonable basis . . . to believe that a broad range of conduct constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity within the jurisdiction of the Court have been committed in the context of the situation in Ukraine." Statement of the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, on the Conclusion of the Preliminary Examination in the Situation in Ukraine (Dec. 11, 2020), at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=201211-otp-statement-ukraine>. The prosecutor at the time said that "the next step will be to request authorisation from the Judges of the Pre-Trial Chamber of the Court to open investigations," but noted "operational challenges" presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and limited resources. *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> Statement of ICC Prosecutor, *supra* note 34.

states parties, prompting him to announce on March 2 that he would “immediately proceed with active investigations” into “any past and present allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide committed on any part of the territory of Ukraine by any person” after November 21, 2013.<sup>37</sup>

Although the ICC has jurisdiction over genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression,<sup>38</sup> its powers may be limited in the Ukraine case. For example, as the ICC prosecutor has explained, because “neither Ukraine nor the Russian Federation are State Parties to the Rome Statute, the Court cannot exercise jurisdiction over this alleged crime [of aggression] in this situation.”<sup>39</sup> This jurisdictional deficit could be cured if the UN Security Council were to refer the Ukraine situation to the ICC, but Russia would surely veto such an effort.<sup>40</sup> Moreover, because Russia is not party to the Rome Statute, it “has no legal duty to turn over its people for prosecution.”<sup>41</sup> The ICC, however, could “issue international arrest warrants obliging members to arrest suspects who have been indicted by the court” if suspects leave Russia.<sup>42</sup>

The ICC investigation poses challenges for U.S. policy.<sup>43</sup> The United States has long objected to the ICC exercising jurisdiction over the nationals of states that are not party to the Rome Statute, and only last year, the Biden administration lifted sanctions that the Trump administration had imposed on ICC staff to protest the ICC’s investigation into conduct of U.S. personnel in Afghanistan.<sup>44</sup> Nonetheless, on March 15, 2022, the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution, with bipartisan support, “encourag[ing] member states to petition the ICC” to investigate war crimes committed by Russian troops.<sup>45</sup>

The Biden administration has also suggested it will support the ICC’s investigations into Russian crimes. After U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. called Putin a “war criminal” in what appeared to be a “visceral reaction” to Zelensky’s address to Congress,<sup>46</sup> U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced on March 23 that:

<sup>37</sup> Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan QC, on the Situation in Ukraine: Receipt of Referrals from 39 States Parties and the Opening of an Investigation, ICC (Mar. 2, 2022), at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=2022-prosecutor-statement-referrals-ukraine>. The total number of referring states later rose. See ICC, *Ukraine*, at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/ukraine>.

<sup>38</sup> ICC, *About the Court*, at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/about>.

<sup>39</sup> Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan QC, on the Situation in Ukraine: “I Have Been Closely Following Recent Developments in and Around Ukraine with Increasing Concern” (Feb. 25, 2022), at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=20220225-prosecutor-statement-ukraine>; see Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Art. 15 *bis*(5), July 17, 1998, 2187 UNTS 90.

<sup>40</sup> See Rome Statute, *supra* note 39, Art. 15 *ter*; see also Tom Dannenbaum, *Mechanisms for Criminal Prosecution of Russia’s Aggression Against Ukraine*, JUST SECURITY (Mar. 10, 2022), at <https://www.justsecurity.org/80626/mechanisms-for-criminal-prosecution-of-russias-aggression-against-ukraine>.

<sup>41</sup> Marlies Simons, *The International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fast-Tracks an Investigation of Possible War Crimes in Ukraine*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 3, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/03/world/europe/war-crimes-russia-ukraine-icc.html>; see Rome Statute, *supra* note 39, Art. 89.

<sup>42</sup> Simons, *supra* note 41.

<sup>43</sup> Charlie Savage, *U.S. Weighs Shift to Support Hague Court as It Investigates Russian Atrocities*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 11, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/11/us/politics/us-russia-ukraine-war-crimes.html>.

<sup>44</sup> See Kristen E. Eichensehr, *Contemporary Practice of the United States*, 115 AJIL 138, 729 (2021).

<sup>45</sup> S. Res. 546, 117th Cong. (2022).

<sup>46</sup> Ashley Parker, *Biden Calls Putin a “War Criminal,”* WASH. POST (Mar. 16, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/03/16/biden-zelensky-speech-response-aid/>; David E. Sanger, *By Labeling Putin a “War Criminal,” Biden Personalizes the Conflict,* N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 17, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/17/us/politics/biden-putin-war-criminal.html>.

[B]ased on information currently available, the U.S. government assesses that members of Russia's forces have committed war crimes in Ukraine.

Our assessment is based on a careful review of available information from public and intelligence sources. As with any alleged crime, a court of law with jurisdiction over the crime is ultimately responsible for determining criminal guilt in specific cases. The U.S. government will continue to track reports of war crimes and will share information we gather with allies, partners, and international institutions and organizations, as appropriate. We are committed to pursuing accountability using every tool available, including criminal prosecutions.<sup>47</sup>

While noting that as a non-party to the Rome Statute, the United States does not have any "affirmative cooperation duties" to the ICC, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack, said that the United States is "considering all the various options for accountability."<sup>48</sup> The Biden administration has subsequently pledged to "build a case for war crimes . . . at the International Criminal Court or another venue."<sup>49</sup> Other states that are parties to the Rome Statute have been more proactive, including, for example, Canada, which has sent a "specialized team of . . . investigators to the [ICC] . . . to gather evidence of potential Russian war crimes."<sup>50</sup>

Individual states are also pursuing accountability through their domestic legal processes. Prominent among them is Ukraine itself. The Ukrainian government created a legal task force on accountability to advise "on proposals for accountability including through the United Nations and regional organisations; advice and potential representation relating to civil and criminal cases (including under universal jurisdiction laws) to secure accountability and reparations in national jurisdictions; and strategic guidance on Ukraine's cooperation with the International Criminal Court."<sup>51</sup>

Other countries have also opened investigations. For example, by March 16, Poland's prosecution service had gathered more than three hundred witness statements "describing specific crimes and misdeeds that took place in connection with Russia's attack on Ukraine."<sup>52</sup> Using the principle of universal jurisdiction, Germany's federal prosecutor's office also opened an investigation and has "begun gathering evidence about possible deliberate attacks on

<sup>47</sup> U.S. Dep't of State Press Release, War Crimes by Russia's Forces in Ukraine (Mar. 23, 2022), at <https://www.state.gov/war-crimes-by-russias-forces-in-ukraine> [<https://perma.cc/488P-ZYYN>].

<sup>48</sup> U.S. Dep't of State Press Briefing (Mar. 23, 2022), at <https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-march-23-2022> [<https://perma.cc/TDQ9-YJBX>].

<sup>49</sup> Nandita Bose, *Biden Urges Putin War Crimes Trial After Bucha Killings*, REUTERS (Apr. 4, 2022), at <https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-says-putin-is-war-criminal-calls-war-crimes-trial-2022-04-04>; see also Missy Ryan, *U.S. Looks to Assist War Crimes Prosecutions Targeting Russian Leaders*, WASH. POST (Apr. 25, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/04/25/russia-ukraine-war-crimes-prosecutions>.

<sup>50</sup> Robert Fife, *Canada Sending Team to International Criminal Court to Investigate Possible War Crimes in Ukraine*, GLOBE & MAIL (Can.) (Mar. 28, 2022), at <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-russia-ukraine-war-crimes-investigation>.

<sup>51</sup> *Government of Ukraine Announces the Creation of a Legal Task Force on Accountability for Crimes Committed in Ukraine*, DOUGHTY ST. CHAMBERS (Mar. 29, 2022), at <https://www.doughtystreet.co.uk/news/government-ukraine-announces-creation-legal-task-force-accountability-crimes-committed-ukraine>.

<sup>52</sup> *Poland Say It Has Collected More Than 300 Witness Statements on War in Ukraine*, REUTERS (Mar. 16, 2022), at <https://www.reuters.com/world/poland-say-it-has-collected-more-than-300-witness-statements-war-ukraine-2022-03-16>; *Poland Vows to Help Ukraine Hunt Down War Criminals*, POLSKIE RADIO PL. (Mar. 3, 2022), at <https://www.polskieradio.pl/395/7784/Artykul/2912146,Poland-vows-to-help-Ukraine-hunt-down-war-criminals>.

Ukraine's civilian population and infrastructure by Russian invaders,"<sup>53</sup> and French prosecutors have initiated a war crimes probe to investigate attacks on civilians and other crimes.<sup>54</sup>

There are also efforts to coordinate national investigations with the ICC. On April 25, Khan announced that the ICC would participate in a joint investigation team established by Ukraine, Lithuania, and Poland under the auspices of the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), marking the first time that the ICC has participated in such a mechanism.<sup>55</sup> Estonia, Latvia, and Slovakia subsequently signed onto the joint investigation team as well.<sup>56</sup>

Some commentators and government officials have proposed the adoption of a special tribunal to adjudicate claims against Russian officials. Led by former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, a group of professors and former international court officials, among others, called for the establishment of a "special tribunal for the punishment of the crime of aggression against Ukraine,"<sup>57</sup> an idea also endorsed by the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.<sup>58</sup> In an address to the UN Security Council, Ukrainian President Zelensky suggested the establishment of an independent tribunal, similar to the Nuremberg trials, with the mandate to try Russian military officials for war crimes in Ukraine.<sup>59</sup> An ad hoc tribunal would have the advantages of potential ability to prosecute the crime of aggression, unlike the ICC, and "would allow the United States . . . to sidestep the ICC and avoid accusations of hypocrisy."<sup>60</sup> However, the UN Security Council, which created international criminal tribunals for conflicts in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, will likely be unable to create a new tribunal because of Russia's veto power.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Bojan Pancevski, *Germany Opens Investigation into Suspected Russian War Crimes in Ukraine*, WALL ST. J. (Mar. 8, 2022), at <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-03-08/card/germany-opens-investigation-into-suspected-russian-war-crimes-in-ukraine-bNCphaWE30f2REH8BCi>.

<sup>54</sup> Stacy Meichtry, *French Prosecutors Open War-Crimes Probe in Ukraine*, WALL ST. J. (Apr. 5, 2022), at <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-04-05/card/french-prosecutors-open-war-crimes-probe-in-ukraine-mLlqrzSeOCYkvua8zfop>.

<sup>55</sup> Statement by ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan QC, Office of the Prosecutor Joins National Authorities in Joint Investigation Team on International Crimes Committed in Ukraine (Apr. 25, 2022), at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-aa-khan-qc-office-prosecutor-joins-national-authorities-joint>; EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, ICC Participates in Joint Investigation Team Supported by Eurojust on Alleged Core International Crimes in Ukraine (Apr. 25, 2022), at <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/icc-participates-joint-investigation-team-supported-eurojust-alleged-core-international-crimes>.

<sup>56</sup> EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia Become Members of Joint Investigation Team on Alleged Core International Crimes in Ukraine (May 31, 2022), at <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/estonia-latvia-and-slovakia-become-members-joint-investigation-team-alleged-core-international>.

<sup>57</sup> See Office of Gordon and Sarah Brown Statement, Calling for the Creation of a Special Tribunal for the Punishment of the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine, available at <https://gordonandsarahbrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Combined-Statement-and-Declaration.pdf>. But see Kevin Jon Heller, *Creating a Special Tribunal for Aggression Against Ukraine Is a Bad Idea*, OPINIO JURIS (Mar. 7, 2022), at <https://opiniojuris.org/2022/03/07/creating-a-special-tribunal-for-aggression-against-ukraine-is-a-bad-idea>.

<sup>58</sup> Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, PACE Calls for the Setting Up of an Ad Hoc International Criminal Tribunal to Hold to Account Perpetrators of the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine (Apr. 28, 2022), at <https://pace.coe.int/en/news/8699/pace-calls-for-the-setting-up-of-an-ad-hoc-international-criminal-tribunal-to-hold-to-account-perpetrators-of-the-crime-of-aggression-against-ukraine>.

<sup>59</sup> Speech by the President of Ukraine at a Meeting of the UN Security Council (Apr. 5, 2022), at <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/vistup-prezidenta-ukrayini-na-zasidanni-radi-bezpeki-oon-74121>.

<sup>60</sup> Kelebogile Zvobgo & Nathaniel Liu, *Putin Won't End Up at The Hague – But War-Crimes Prosecutions of Russia Still Matter*, WASH. POST (Mar. 15, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/03/15/international-law-tribunal-russia-ukraine>.

<sup>61</sup> Savage, *supra* note 43.

Various other international institutions have established mechanisms to investigate reports of Russian war crimes and human rights abuses that may feed into criminal prosecutions. On March 4, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) established an independent international commission of inquiry, made up of three human rights experts appointed by the HRC president, to investigate and collect evidence of Russian human rights abuses.<sup>62</sup> Russia's delegate to the Council rejected the commission,<sup>63</sup> and weeks later, the UN General Assembly suspended Russia from the HRC.<sup>64</sup>

Similarly, Ukraine, supported by forty-five other states, invoked the so-called "Moscow Mechanism" of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which triggered the establishment of an expert mission to investigate reports of human rights abuses in Ukraine.<sup>65</sup> On April 12, 2022, the OSCE released the experts' report, which "found clear patterns of" international humanitarian law (IHL) "violations by the Russian forces on many of the issues investigated," including "in particular their conduct of hostilities."<sup>66</sup> The experts concluded:

It is not conceivable that so many civilians would have been killed and injured and so many civilian objects, including houses, hospitals, cultural property, schools, multi-story residential buildings, administrative buildings, penitentiary institutions, police stations, water stations and electricity systems would have been damaged or destroyed if Russia had respected its IHL obligations in terms of distinction, proportionality and precautions in conducting hostilities in Ukraine. The conduct of the siege of Mariupol is an extreme example. Much of the conduct of Russian forces in parts of Ukraine it occupied before and after 24 February 2022, including through its proxies, the self-proclaimed "republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk, equally violates IHL of military occupation.<sup>67</sup>

The experts expressed some concerns about Ukraine's actions, in particular "about the treatment of prisoners of war, originally considered criminals, and treated in ways that are incompatible with Geneva Convention III."<sup>68</sup> The report also addressed human rights violations, noting that the experts found "credible evidence suggesting that such violations, concerning even the most fundamental human rights (right to life, prohibition of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment), have been committed, mostly in the areas under the effective control of Russia."<sup>69</sup> U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE Michael Carpenter said that "the report documents the catalogue of inhumanity perpetrated by Russia's forces in Ukraine" and that its findings will be shared with the ICC, national courts,

<sup>62</sup> Resolution Adopted by the Human Rights Council on 4 March 2022, Situation of Human Rights in Ukraine Stemming from the Russian Aggression, UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/49/1 (Mar. 7, 2022).

<sup>63</sup> *Human Rights Council to Establish Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine*, UN NEWS (Mar. 4, 2022), at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113292>.

<sup>64</sup> *UN General Assembly Votes to Suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council*, UN NEWS (Apr. 7, 2022), at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115782>.

<sup>65</sup> See Wolfgang Benedek, Veronika Bílková & Marco Sassòli, Report on Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity Committed in Ukraine Since 24 February 2022, OSCE ODIHR.GAL/26/22/Rev.1 (Apr. 13, 2022), at <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/a/515868.pdf>.

<sup>66</sup> *Id.* at 93.

<sup>67</sup> *Id.*

<sup>68</sup> *Id.*

<sup>69</sup> *Id.*

and any others that have jurisdiction.<sup>70</sup> In June, OSCE member states again invoked the Moscow Mechanism, triggering the establishment of a second expert mission to build on the April report.<sup>71</sup>

Condemnations of Russia and concern for accountability measures have increased as evidence of war crimes and other atrocities has come to light. In addition to accusations of deliberately targeting civilians and civilian institutions,<sup>72</sup> evidence has emerged suggesting that Russian occupying forces tortured and murdered individual civilians. After Russia retreated from areas around Kyiv in late March, atrocities committed by Russian forces in the nearby town of Bucha became evident.<sup>73</sup> Reports of violence include “evidence of torture before death, beheading and dismemberment, and the intentional burning of corpses.”<sup>74</sup> The Ukrainian government released footage showing hundreds of corpses “strewn” around Bucha after Russia’s retreat, with some victims clearly bound and shot in the head.<sup>75</sup> French President Emmanuel Macron called the images from Bucha “unbearable,” and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola stated that they revealed the “cold reality of Putin’s war crimes.”<sup>76</sup> Blinken called the images a “punch in the gut” and implored the international community not to “become numb to” or “normalize” such atrocities.<sup>77</sup> When the images from Bucha were released, Russia’s Ministry of Defense denied responsibility and suggested that they were staged, despite considerable video and satellite evidence to the contrary.<sup>78</sup> Putin later “awarded honors . . . to an army brigade that Ukraine has accused of committing war crimes in Bucha.”<sup>79</sup>

Russia is also alleged to be committing war crimes through its forcible deportation of Ukrainians into Russia.<sup>80</sup> Liudmyla Denisova, Ukraine’s ombudswoman for human rights, estimated that about 33,000 residents of the city of Mariupol were forcibly taken across the

<sup>70</sup> Adela Suliman, Bryan Pietsch & Claire Parker, *Russia’s Attacks on Civilians in Mariupol are “War Crimes,” OSCE Says*, WASH. POST (Apr. 13, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/13/osce-investigation-russia-ukraine-human-rights>.

<sup>71</sup> OSCE, *Ukraine Appoints Three Experts to Be Part of a Mission Under the OSCE’s Moscow Mechanism* (June 7, 2022), at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/519834>.

<sup>72</sup> See, e.g., note 65 *supra* and accompanying text.

<sup>73</sup> Carlotta Gall & Andrew E. Kramer, *In a Kyiv Suburb, “They Shot Everyone They Saw.”* N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 3, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/03/world/europe/ukraine-russia-war-civilian-deaths.html>.

<sup>74</sup> Max Bearak & Louisa Loveluck, *In Bucha, the Scope of Russian Barbarity Is Coming into Focus*, WASH. POST (Apr. 6, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/06/bucha-barbarism-atrocities-russian-soldiers>.

<sup>75</sup> Richard Pérez-Peña, *Zelensky Accuses Russia of Atrocities and Criticizes U.N.’s Inaction*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 5, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/05/world/europe/zelensky-un-security-council.html>.

<sup>76</sup> Nadav Gavrielov, et al., *U.S. and European Leaders Express Outrage at the Images from Bucha*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 3, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/03/world/dead-civilians-bucha-ukraine.html>.

<sup>77</sup> Jonathan Landay, *Images of Dead in Ukrainian Town of Bucha a “Punch in Gut,” Says Blinken*, REUTERS (Apr. 3, 2022), at <https://www.reuters.com/world/images-dead-ukrainian-town-bucha-punch-gut-says-blinken-2022-04-03>.

<sup>78</sup> Malachy Browne, David Botti & Haley Willis, *Satellite Images Show Bodies Lay in Bucha for Weeks, Despite Russian Claims*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 4, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/04/world/europe/bucha-ukraine-bodies.html>.

<sup>79</sup> Bryan Pietsch, *Putin Honors Brigade Accused of War Crimes in Bucha*, WASH. POST (Apr. 19, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/19/ukraine-russia-war-bucha-brigade-award>.

<sup>80</sup> See, e.g., Michael N. Schmitt, *Deportation of Ukrainian Civilians to Russia: The Legal Framework*, ARTICLES OF WAR (Mar. 24, 2022), at <https://lieber.westpoint.edu/deportation-ukrainian-civilians-russia-legal-framework>.

border into Russia,<sup>81</sup> and alleged more broadly that through March 25, “402,000 people, including 84,000 children, had been taken against their will to Russia.”<sup>82</sup> Ukrainians have reportedly been “taken to camps where Russian forces checked their phones and documents, then redirected some . . . to remote cities in Russia.”<sup>83</sup> Referencing reports about forced deportations, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield stated that it would be “unconscionable for Russia to force Ukrainian citizens into Russia and put them in what will basically be concentration and prisoner camps.”<sup>84</sup> In May, the U.S. ambassador to the OSCE confirmed that “[t]he United States assesses that Russia’s forces have relocated at least several thousand Ukrainians for processing in these ‘filtration camps,’ and evacuated at least tens of thousands more to Russia or Russia-controlled territory,” and he noted that “[f]rom Mariupol alone, we assess that Russia’s forces have forcibly displaced thousands of civilians into Russian territory.”<sup>85</sup> Ukrainian officials are investigating forced deportation of children in particular “as they seek to build a genocide indictment.”<sup>86</sup>

Many parties, both governmental and non-governmental, are working to preserve evidence of international crimes in Ukraine. Human Rights Watch, for example, has documented cases of Russian military “laws-of-war violations against civilians in occupied areas,” including instances of repeated rape, summary execution, and other unlawful violence occurring between February 27 and March 14, 2022.<sup>87</sup> The United States, EU, and United Kingdom have established an Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group to “directly support the efforts of the War Crimes Units of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine (OPG) to document, preserve, and analyze evidence of war crimes and other atrocities committed in Ukraine, with a view toward criminal prosecutions.”<sup>88</sup> In announcing the group, the State Department noted that “[a]lthough the United States and our partners are supporting a range of international efforts to pursue accountability for atrocities, the OPG will play a crucial role in ensuring that those responsible for war crimes and other atrocities are held accountable.”<sup>89</sup>

<sup>81</sup> Elizabeth Piper, *Ukrainians Deported to Russia from Besieged Mariupol Dream of Home*, REUTERS (Apr. 19, 2022), at <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainians-deported-russia-besieged-mariupol-dream-home-2022-04-19>.

<sup>82</sup> *Ukraine Accuses Moscow of Deporting Civilians to Russia*, RFE/RL (Mar. 25, 2022), at <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-deporting-ukrainian-civilians/31770048.html>.

<sup>83</sup> Khrystyna Bondarenko, Ivan Watson, AnneClaire Stapleton, Tom Booth & Alaa Elassar, *Mariupol Residents Are Being Forced to Go to Russia, City Council Says*, CNN (Mar. 19, 2022), at <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/19/europe/mariupol-shelter-commander-ukraine-intl/index.html>.

<sup>84</sup> Shayna Greene, *U.N. Ambassador Disturbed by Reports of Russians Seizing and Deporting Ukrainians*, POLITICO (Mar. 20, 2022), at <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/03/20/russians-taking-ukrainians-by-force-00018715>.

<sup>85</sup> U.S. Mission to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine (May 12, 2022), at <https://osce.usmission.gov/the-russian-federations-ongoing-aggression-against-ukraine-9> [<https://perma.cc/2HJ4-WSE4>].

<sup>86</sup> Anthony Deutsch & Stephanie van den Berg, *Exclusive: Ukraine Probes Deportation of Children to Russia as Possible Genocide*, REUTERS (June 3, 2022), at <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/exclusive-ukraine-investigates-deportation-children-russia-possible-genocide-2022-06-03>.

<sup>87</sup> Human Rts. Watch, *Ukraine: Apparent War Crimes in Russia-Controlled Areas* (Apr. 3, 2022), at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/03/ukraine-apparent-war-crimes-russia-controlled-areas>.

<sup>88</sup> U.S. Dep’t of State Press Release, *Launch of the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA) for Ukraine* (May 25, 2022), at <https://www.state.gov/launch-of-the-atrocity-crimes-advisory-group-aca-for-ukraine> [<https://perma.cc/7S9U-URS4>]; see also Caroline Vakil, *Garland Confirms US Working with Ukraine on Collecting Evidence Over Possible War Crimes*, HILL (Apr. 21, 2022), at <https://thehill.com/news/administration/3459369-garland-confirms-us-working-with-ukraine-on-collecting-evidence-over-possible-war-crimes>.

<sup>89</sup> U.S. Dep’t of State Press Release, *supra* note 88.

Ukraine's prosecutor general, Iryna Venediktova, said in April that her office was investigating 5,800 cases of Russian war crimes and had identified more than "500 suspects . . . including Russian politicians, military personnel and propaganda agents."<sup>90</sup> Weeks later, Venediktova reported that the number of war crimes investigations had risen to 13,000.<sup>91</sup> In May, Venediktova announced that the first "handful of cases have now been filed or are ready to be submitted," including cases against Russian soldiers in Ukrainian custody.<sup>92</sup> The first trial began in Kyiv on May 13,<sup>93</sup> and concluded with a guilty plea.<sup>94</sup>

#### INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

##### *United States and Allies Provide Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine and Its Citizens*

doi:10.1017/ajil.2022.30

The invasion of Ukraine has unleashed massive humanitarian consequences, including displacement of a significant portion of Ukraine's population, deaths of civilians, and widespread damage to civilian infrastructure in the country. The conflict's effects on wheat exports may also cause humanitarian harms around the world. Neighboring countries and others have taken in Ukrainian refugees, and many governments and other entities have offered humanitarian assistance, though even after the fighting is over, recovery and rebuilding will be a long process.

The ongoing conflict makes accurate reports of casualties difficult, but the human toll of the invasion is clearly high and growing. On March 12, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that 1,300 Ukrainian military personnel had been killed;<sup>1</sup> that number has not been verified.<sup>2</sup> The toll among civilians appears to be even higher. Through April

<sup>90</sup> Paul LeBlanc, *Ukraine's Prosecutor General Says Office Is Investigating 5,800 Cases of Russian War Crimes*, CNN (Apr. 11, 2022), at <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/11/politics/iryna-venediktova-ukraine-russia-war-crimes-cnntv/index.html>.

<sup>91</sup> Paulina Firozi, et al., *Russian Soldier Convicted of War Crime—One of 13,000 Probes, Says Ukrainian Official*, WASH. POST (May 23, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/23/russia-ukraine-war-news-live-updates-putin/>.

<sup>92</sup> Daniel Boffey & Pjotr Sauer, *Ukraine Prosecutors Ready to Launch First War Crimes Trials of Russia Conflict*, GUARDIAN (May 11, 2022), at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/11/ukraine-prosecutors-ready-launch-first-war-crimes-russia-conflict>.

<sup>93</sup> David L. Stern & Claire Parker, *Ukraine Court Begins First War Crimes Trial for Russian Soldier*, WASH. POST (May 13, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/13/ukraine-russia-war-crimes-trial/>.

<sup>94</sup> Valerie Hopkins, *A Ukrainian Court Convicts a Russian Soldier of War Crimes and Sentences Him to Life in Prison*, N.Y. TIMES (May 23, 2022), at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/23/world/europe/russian-soldier-war-crimes-guilty.html>.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy Bella, *Thousands Protest in Melitopol After Russian Forces Reportedly Abduct Mayor with a Hood Over His Head*, WASH. POST (Mar. 12, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/12/ukraine-melitopol-mayor-fedorov-abducted-zelensky/>.

<sup>2</sup> Emily Rauhala, Dan Lamothe, Adela Suliman & Jennifer Hassan, *Russia Could Have Lost as Many as 15,000 Troops in Ukraine War, NATO Official Estimates*, WASH. POST (Mar. 24, 2022), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/24/russia-troops-casualties-nato-ukraine/>. The Russian military has reportedly suffered significant losses, though the exact number is unclear. NATO estimates that between 7,000 and 15,000 Russian troops had been killed by the end of March. Daniel Michaels, *NATO: Up to 40,000 Russian Troops*