



February 26, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken

Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington DC, 20520

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen

Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Mr. President, Secretary Blinken and Secretary Yellen,

On behalf of the All-Ukrainian Non-governmental Non-profit Organisation “Ukrainian Bar Association” (UBA), I would like to assure you in our highest respect, and to address you on the following.

On 24 February 2022 at 5.00 am Kyiv time, the Russian Federation started a **criminal invasion of Ukraine**, in violation of the United Nations Charter, Helsinki Accords, and established norms and principles of international law. For 72 hours now, the Ukrainian army continues its resistance. The people of Ukraine rise up to defend our country alongside our military. We are all together regardless of our political opinions, origins, religion or languages that we speak. **We are united in our desire to resist the criminal invasion and to restore the international order.**

In November of 2021, the UBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the New York State Bar Association and opened a NYSBA’s chapter in Ukraine in Kyiv. We planned to join our efforts with other bar associations to support the rule of law and fight for justice for all. Instead we are forced to fight to defend our country. Many of our 7000 members had to take up the arms to resist the criminal invasion.

In further violation of all international norms and rules of war, the invaders are targeting civilians, bombarding residential high-rises and blowing up civil infrastructure. Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, where we hosted ABA, NYSBA, IBA and other international conferences and events is turning into a battlefield and the city is being intentionally bombed and destroyed resulting in thousands of dead or wounded. Some of the images of the horrific damage inflicted are enclosed.



We now need your help to support the rule of law and restore the international order. This is not only about defending Ukraine; this is about defending the rule of law and ensuring that the law cannot be breached with impunity. The criminal conduct cannot be condoned. The order must be restored. We ask for your help in this just cause.

We are very grateful for the major support provided by the US Government. However, at this stage, as the war crimes continue to mount, additional measures are necessary to restore the rule of law, including the following:

1. to completely **DISCONNECT THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FROM THE SWIFT SYSTEM AND BLOCK RUSSIA'S ACCESS TO THE US DOLLARS** in order to prevent the aggressor from financing its military aggression and paying US dollars to buy support from its mercenaries and war crime perpetrators;
2. to impose **SECTORAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN ALL AREAS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THE ECONOMY AND MILITARY SECTOR of the aggressor state, including all access to finance and information technology to prevent financing and spreading of propaganda and misinformation.** We believe that gradual introduction of sanctions is inefficient and provides the Russian government and military with an opportunity to adjust.;
3. to impose **personal sanctions against ALL POLITICAL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, CONNECTED OLIGARCHS, BANK OWNERS AND MANAGERS AND THEIR FAMILIES and ENTOURAGE,** and freeze all their assets. They are directly or indirectly participating in the criminal aggression of the Russian Federation and/or aiding and abetting it by providing their funding, platforms and resources.;
4. to **INTRODUCE FULL EMBARGO ON RUSSIAN GAS AND OIL** until full resolution of the conflict. We believe that embargo benefits outweigh economic consequences to Europe and will put a halt to aggressor's using oil and gas as a leverage for putting pressure on European countries.
5. to **CANCEL VISAS FOR ALL CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION until the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, from the Black and Azov Seas and from Ukraine's borders with Russia and Belarus.** They should not be allowed to enjoy the benefits of the Western World while their country is bombing innocent women and children.
6. to continue **PROVIDING UKRAINE WITH LETHAL WEAPONS AND ARMOUR** so that to increase Ukraine's resistance capacity;
7. to help the Ukrainian government enforce a **NO-FLY ZONE** over Ukraine to prevent the aggressor from using the skies to bombard civilians and infrastructure. Such measure is not only legally justified because it is not imposed by the US, but by a Ukrainian government over its sovereign territory, but also it is legally and justly appropriate. The US will simply facilitate the enforcement of such a regime. This will also prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and deaths of thousands of civilians, including innocent women and children.



8. to institute putting in place **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION MEASURES** against all those committing war crimes, including the Russia leadership. When perpetrators know that they will be brought to justice eventually, it will deter them from engaging in murder, rape and pillaging with impunity.

In view of long-lasting support to Ukraine provided by the US Government, we, the legal community of Ukraine, address you with a kind request to support the above measures so that to put an end to military actions in and around Ukraine. We believe that together we will be able to prevail and restore the law and order.

We remain at your full disposal for any information, requests or any questions you might have about current developments or the stance of the legal community.

Yours faithfully,

Inna Liniova, UBA CEO
on behalf of Anna Ogrenchuk, UBA President