



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
POST-CONFLICT CONSTITUTIONS
WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION

To: Amnesty International Secretariat Leadership Team, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Member States of the Human Rights Council

From: The Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors to the United Nations Human Rights Council

PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the Human Rights Council
Statement on Amnesty International Press Release Titled "Ukrainian fighting tactics endangers civilians" issued on August 4, 2022

The Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors expresses concern about the August 4 Amnesty International [press release](#) entitled "Ukraine: Ukrainian fighting tactics endanger civilians."

The PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the Human Rights Council reiterates the importance of upholding international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, as expressed in the [statement from July 1](#). It shares the concerns of many of our colleagues in the international sphere regarding the effect Amnesty International's Press Release could have on the war in Ukraine, as well as the Russian use of it as a pretext for its continued grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Russian Government has demonstrated that it will use any means to justify its brutal treatment of civilians, hors de combat, and prisoners of war. [It has already used this Press Release for these purposes](#), which has the potential to aggravate the humanitarian situation in Ukraine further.

We recognize the vital work of Amnesty International and would like to continue to support it fully. At times, we disagreed with Amnesty International's specific factual determinations or conclusions, but we have always respected the organization's important work.

As a result, with regard to the Press Release from August 4, we call on Amnesty International and its International Secretariat leadership team to

acknowledge that it made an error by prematurely publishing it and take action to recall the Press Release immediately.

We believe that unless this Press Release is recalled, the Russian Government will continue to widely use it to carry out indiscriminate assaults against civilians further and deny the right of the Ukrainian people to defend their country.

The UN General Assembly has condemned and recognized that Russia unilaterally started the war in Ukraine and has persistently targeted civilians and civilian objects throughout its war. We must continue prioritizing accountability for gross human rights violations, flagrant international law breaches by Russia, and justice for all affected populations.

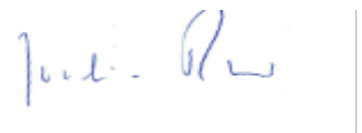
Russia's unprovoked aggression on Ukraine has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, horrific cases of sexual and gender-based violence, and widespread atrocity crimes. Russia has been persistently and disproportionately targeting civilian areas since the first moments of the invasion, which started on February 24, 2022.

August 15, 2022

Names

Signatures

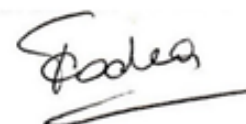
Joachim Rücker
Former Ambassador of Germany



Keith Harper
Former Ambassador of the United States of America



Filloreta Kodra
Former Ambassador of Albania



Tudor Ulianoschi
Former Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova

Tudor Ulianoschi

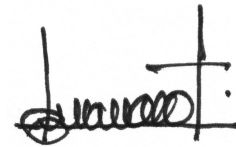
Amanda Ellis
Former Ambassador of New Zealand



Vojislav Suc
Former Ambassador of Slovenia



Jorge Lomonaco
Former Ambassador of Mexico



Zorica Maric Djordjevic
Former Ambassador of Montenegro, Chair

