



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

50th Session of the Human Rights Council

ID on HC oral update on situation in Mariupol

16 June 2022

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) is extremely alarmed at the situation in Mariupol.

As Mariupol is under Russian occupation, access to information about the real situation of people is limited. However, satellite imagery analyses uncover the rapid and massive expansion of cemeteries and mass graves since March 2022. In March, Russian forces' airstrikes at the Regional Drama Theatre resulted in close to 600 civilian fatalities, despite the fact that the building was clearly marked as housing civilians, including children. In April, reportedly, Russian forces forcibly transferred 40,000 Mariupol residents to Russia.

A very recent independent legal analysis clearly demonstrates that Russia is breaching the Genocide Convention, emphasising the serious risk of genocide in Ukraine, including Russia's incitement to commit genocide.¹ These warnings cannot be ignored and should trigger States' duty to prevent under Article I of the Genocide Convention.

We also call on the international community to:

- Support Ukraine and refugees-host countries, with humanitarian and other kind assistance needed; and
- Coordinate on legal avenues for justice, accountability, and reparation, including on an ad-hoc tribunal for the crime of aggression.

Thank you.

This statement was delivered by:

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¹ Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy, an independent Legal analysis on Russia Federation breaches of the Genocide Convention in Ukraine and the duty to prevent <https://newlinesinstitute.org/an-independent-legal-analysis-of-the-russian-federations-breaches-of-the-genocide-convention-in-ukraine-and-the-duty-to-prevent>

