



Human Rights  
Institute

**Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada**

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

**Human Rights Council 55<sup>th</sup> session  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: Russian Federation  
22 March 2024**

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and Lawyers Rights Watch Canada deplore Russia's repression on lawyers representing human rights defenders, journalists, opposition activists, and anti-war protestors as well as all those taking on other politically sensitive cases. We condemn systematic practices such as denying access to clients, disciplinary, administrative, and criminal proceedings to prevent effective defense; as well as intimidation and judicial harassment; and arbitrary and incommunicado detention of lawyers. We condemn that Russia labels as "foreign agents" defense lawyers representing individuals with dissenting views and force lawyers to disclose confidential information.

We urge Russia to

- Comply with international human rights law and the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.
- Cease designating Russian lawyers, as any other dissenting voice, as "foreign agents".
- Release unconditionally all those arbitrarily detained for politically motivated grounds, including lawyers.
- Reconsider and accept the recommendations pertaining the rights of lawyers.
- Immediately halt any form of harassment against lawyers and ensure effective access to justice and independent legal defense.

In addition, we urge Russian Federation to immediately halt forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children and comply with recent CRC's concluding observations, provide information on the number and whereabouts of the abducted children, to allow their identification and prompt repatriation, as well as ensure that no further child is deprived of Ukrainian nationality and identity.

This Statement was delivered by:

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