63rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression

21 September 2026

Oral Statement

The International Bar Association Human rights Institute and the Ukrainian Bar Association commend the continued work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry.

The full-scale invasion remains marked by widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, many amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Civilian harm has escalated sharply, driven by intensified long-range missile and drone attacks on urban centres, as well as short-range drones targeting civilians at the frontline.

We condemn the documented patterns of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of civilians and prisoners in Russian-occupied territories. Thousands of Ukrainian civilians remain unlawfully detained, many incommunicado. We are further alarmed by attacks on energy and humanitarian infrastructure. We recall that these acts may constitute war crimes.

We reiterate our grave concern over the deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children. The Commission has now concluded that these acts, and the children enforced disappearance, amount to crimes against humanity. While the Russian Federation continues to actively obstruct their safe return and reunification with their families, this issue must remain an international priority.

We urge this Council to continue supporting international accountability efforts, including the COI, the International Criminal Court, universal jurisdiction, and the operationalisation of the Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

This statement was delivered by:
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