



## United Nations Human Rights Council, 49<sup>th</sup> Session

Urgent Debate on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian Aggression

3 March 2022

### Oral Statement

The **International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute** (IBAHRI) resolutely condemns the ongoing and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine, a sovereign state, by the Russian Federation, as a flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

We are dismayed at the emerging reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law,<sup>1</sup> including violations of the right to life, liberty and security occurring in Ukraine. We also firmly condemn the arbitrary detention of peaceful protestors in the Russian Federation and in Belarus and violations of the right to assembly, association and expression and media freedom. *We are alarmed* by ongoing violations in areas controlled by Russia and in the temporarily Russia-occupied Crimea involving extrajudicial killings, abductions, enforced disappearance.

The IBAHRI urges the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally cease its military invasion into Ukrainian territory. We urge all parties to ensure immediate, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access.

The IBAHRI welcomes the decision of the ICC Prosecutor to proceed with opening an investigation into the situation in Ukraine.

We call on this Council to take all possible actions to ensure accountability for perpetrators, to end impunity, and prevent further deterioration of the situation. The IBAHRI strongly supports the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to initiate prompt, independent and impartial investigation into all violations.

We thank you.

This statement was delivered by:

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<sup>1</sup> c.f. reports that Russia has been using indiscriminate weapons ([www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/25/ukraine-russian-cluster-munition-hits-hospital#](http://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/25/ukraine-russian-cluster-munition-hits-hospital#)) and CIHL Rule 71 on prohibition of indiscriminate weapons ([https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docindex/v1\\_ru\\_rule71](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docindex/v1_ru_rule71))