

## STATEMENT

### OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

#### On the aggression and war crimes of the Russian Federation in Ukraine

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia,

*based on* extensive testimonies and evidence of brutal mass atrocities—the murders, torture, sexual violence and desecration of Ukrainian civilians, including women and children—committed by the Russian Federation Army in Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, and other regions;

*condemning* the efforts of the Russian authorities to deny the crimes committed in Ukraine by the Russian Armed Forces, falsely presenting the crimes as staged or provoked by radical Ukrainian forces;

*noting* that over ten million Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, and over four million have had to flee their country since the start of the Russian Federation's military invasion;

*commemorating* every victim of the aggression of the Russian Federation—thousands of civilians and defenders of Ukraine;

*honouring* the courage and valour of the defenders of Ukraine;

*recognising* that the tactics of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, that include Russian Armed Forces soldiers bombarding residential areas, community centres, passenger stations, and civilian infrastructure, as well as killing civilians, present obvious signs of war crimes and even crimes against humanity;

*emphasising* that the Russian Federation is also kidnapping and deporting Ukrainian citizens to the territory of the Russian Federation;

*pointing out* the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Russian Federation in Mariupol, where the Russian military is preventing civilians from leaving the city or killing them while they try to escape, destroying the city infrastructure, food and grain warehouses, and is blocking food, medicines, and water deliveries, which has resulted in the death of thousands in Mariupol from starvation, thirst, or Russian weapons;

*reminding* of the events of 1932–1933, when, as a result of the planned and executed policy of the Soviet Union, grains and food were confiscated from Ukrainians, causing the Holodomor, a man-made famine, that took the lives of one-fifth of the Ukrainian population and is recognised by Latvia as a deliberate genocide by the Stalin regime against the people of Ukraine;

*emphasising* that as a member state of the UN, the Council of Europe, the EU, and NATO and a defender of democratic values, Latvia cannot accept the actions of the Russian Federation, carrying out mass destruction of Ukrainian people;

*consistently abiding by* the values and ideals of the UN, the European Union, and the democratic world, including Latvia, that are based on freedom and the protection of

human rights, self-determination of peoples, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as maintaining ethnic equality, cultural values, and traditions;

*Emphasising* that Latvia condemns all crimes against humanity and genocide, and acknowledges its duty to recognise, prevent, and commemorate such events to ensure that they never re-occur;

**welcomes** the investigation launched by the International Criminal Court into the war crimes committed in Ukraine and **expresses certainty** that each and every person that has committed war crimes or crimes against humanity, or is responsible for committing or not preventing such crimes, will be brought to justice;

**acknowledges** that the Russian Federation is currently committing genocide against the people of Ukraine;

**categorically condemns** the Russian Federation's military aggression and wide-scale invasion of Ukraine that was carried out with the support and involvement of the regime in Belarus;

**underlines** that the Russian Federation's unjustifiable invasion of the territory of Ukraine is a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and is manifestly contrary to the obligations of the Russian Federation under Article 2 of the Charter of the UN and imperative international legal provisions, as well as the obligations that Russia assumed by signing the Budapest Memorandum and committing to guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

**calls on** the Euro-Atlantic community and its partners to urgently establish comprehensive sanctions against the Russian Federation in order to stop the Russian military's capacity to continue military aggression in Ukraine; increase military, financial, humanitarian, and diplomatic support for Ukraine; unanimously support initiatives that condemn Russia's military activity in Ukraine and isolate Russia from international and regional organisations; and make decisions and establish comparable sanctions targeting Belarus as the supporter of the military aggression of Russia;

**calls on** the EU member states to immediately stop imports of Russian oil and gas;

**supports** the initiatives of democratic states to join efforts in collecting and investigating evidence of war crimes committed by the Russian Federation in the entire territory of Ukraine;

**condemns** the Russian Federation's abuse of its veto power at the United Nations Security Council and calls for accelerating UN reforms;

**expresses solidarity** with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.