

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PUTIN AND THE AGGRESSOR RUSSIAN STATE FOR COMMITTED WAR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, TERROR AND GENOCIDE AGAINST UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

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Abstract: In the article, the author traces the fates of individual dictators and analyses the norms of international law, laws of war, and national legislation, which should be applied to putin to stop his international terrorist activities and the wars he unleashed, to save the world from a "madman with a nuclear button". The history of the last hundred years shows that dictators' fates, like their characters, are very similar, and they usually end their lives tragically. Based on the analysis of the criminal activities of moscow aggressor state current political leadership, the author argues that the irreversibility of the punishment for war crimes, crimes against humanity, terror and genocide and that putin will inevitably appear before the Hague International Military Tribunal and will be justly sentenced to life imprisonment. On the basis of the analysis carried out and the given factual circumstances, the author ascertains the purposeful, deliberate, and systematic criminal activities of the current political leadership of the russian aggressor state against Ukraine and the civilized world, which are carried out in the form of war crimes, crimes against humanity, terror and genocide. It is stated that to effectively neutralize these international terrorists as soon as possible and to prevent further harmful and irreversible consequences of their criminal activities, the civilized world society should immediately apply against them the irreversibility of punishment, which is determined by the norms of both international and national law.

Keywords: rules of international law; national legislation; aggressor state; dictator; terror; war crimes; war criminal; international criminal court.

1 Introduction

Returning once again to the theme that evil must be punished (since unpunished evil breeds absolute evil, which imperial russia¹ is), we wonder what the criminal terrorist regime led by the war criminal putin has to do more in order the civilized world finally neutralize him (either economically, financially, politically, legally, or physically). Many today pose question: Did the bloody kremlin dictator really scare the whole world so much that everyone is afraid of him, except for one nation – the Ukrainian people, who, together with their partners, resist him heroically, saving civilization from destruction.

Today, putin's fascist terrorist regime is committing a new genocide against the Ukrainian people, deliberately launching systematic mass terrorist missile strikes on critical infrastructure to deprive the civilian population of heat, light, and water during the winter, which may lead to tragic consequences for millions of people. In the statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine dated December 1 of the last year regarding the energy terrorism of the russian federation, it is stated that "russia's methodical destruction of Ukraine's energy infrastructure is a continuation of the russian policy of genocide of the Ukrainian people" [7].

The Ukrainian Parliament emphasized that Ukraine is resisting the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, which began on February 19, 2014 and significantly intensified with a full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, using ground forces, aviation, missile systems, methods that violate the laws and customs of war, that led to the destruction of Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, the mass, brutal, cynical killing of the civilian population, including children, the forced immigration of more than 14 million Ukrainians, the commission of about 35,000 war crimes and acts bearing the hallmarks of the genocide of the Ukrainian people. At the same time, the military-political leadership of the russian federation deliberately abuses its status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, which is entrusted by the UN Charter implying the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

With unprecedented criminal actions, the moscow aggressor state cynically violates such fundamental international legal

documents as the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe dated August 1, 1975, the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Convention on Combating the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment, the Convention on the Laws and Customs of Land War, the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty dated 1965, the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States dated 1981, the Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Principle of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations dated 1987, the Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons dated December 5, 1994 (The Budapest Memorandum) [33].

The crimes of genocide of Ukrainians are being repeated again, which was manifested in russia's systemic actions aimed at creating conditions designed for the gradual destruction of the Ukrainian people through the undermining of economic potential and security, manifested in the destruction of economic infrastructure objects (damage of granaries, obstruction of the sowing campaign, blockade of maritime trade routes, destruction of electrical and gas transport infrastructure, etc.) [34].

Putin's address to the federal assembly on February 21, 2023 did not articulate specific goals or intentions for the war in Ukraine, but instead reinforced several longstanding rhetorical lines in an attempt to buy putin more space and time for a protracted war. Putin said that russia launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine a year ago to protect people on "historic lands of Russia", to ensure russia's internal security, and to eliminate the threat posed by Ukraine's so called "neo-nazi" regime, which he says has existed since 2014 year, and to protect the population of Donbas [35].

At the same time, putin maliciously accused the collective West of arming Ukraine and placing bases and biolaboratories near the russian borders, thereby starting a war against russia, deliberately comparing the Armed Forces of Ukraine with various nazi divisions and thanked the russian armed forces for their efforts in fight against the nazi threat [35]. A large part of the speech was devoted to the alleged stability of the russian economic, social and cultural spheres, and putin made several recommendations for the development of the occupied territories of Ukraine [35]. Putin's speech, in particular, revived several long-standing russian information operations to justify the war and presented no change in russia's rhetorical positioning regarding the war. Putin could use this event to formulate new goals and means of achieving them, such as announcing another official wave of partial mobilization, redefining a "special military operation" as an official war, or taking additional steps to mobilize russia's defense industrial base (DIB) in more specific way. Instead, putin said very little in essence, likely in order to create the informational preconditions for a protracted war in Ukraine, without articulating specific time goals and presenting the war as existential for the russian population inside russia.

Putin's announcement to suspend russia's participation in the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT) attracted more attention than the relatively formulaic content of the rest of the speech. At the end of his speech, putin stated that the collective

¹ In the new Ukrainian spelling, it is customary to write the words "Russia" and "Putin" with a lowercase letter, thereby expressing contempt for the aggressor country and its leader

West used the SORT to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, and that is why Russia is suspending its participation in the SORT, although Putin emphasized that the suspension is not a complete exit from the Treaty [35]. Putin called on the Ministry of Defense (MoD) of Russia and the Russian Atomic Energy Corporation "ROSATOM" to ensure readiness for nuclear weapons tests [34]. Perhaps Putin made this statement in order to re-introduce nuclear rhetoric into the news space and thereby distract attention from the general lack of substance in the rest of his speech. ISW previously reported on Russia's use of nuclear rhetoric as an informational operation to embarrass Ukraine and the West and to compensate for Russia's failures on the battlefield [12]. However, ISW continues to believe that Russia will not use nuclear weapons in Ukraine or against NATO.

Continuing the analysis of the criminal activities of the military-political leadership of the Russian terrorist state and Putin personally against Ukraine and the world, the war crimes committed by them against humanity, their terror and genocide of the Ukrainian nation, both in the past and in the present, special attention must be paid to the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people.

US President Joe Biden, delivering a speech on January 21, 2023 in Warsaw on the eve of the anniversary of the beginning of Russia's great war against Ukraine, separately emphasized the resilience and indomitability of Ukrainians in the fight against Muscovites-Rashists: "We are committed to the people of Ukraine, Joe Biden noted, to democracy and its future. Ukraine is free, independent and sovereign, it declared independence more than 30 years ago, then there was the Orange Revolution, the Revolution of Dignity. The Heavenly Hundred died in the struggle for these values. For years, heroes and patriots of Ukraine fought for Donbas. It was an honor for me to visit Kyiv yesterday and see this self-sacrifice of the Ukrainian people. I stood next to President Zelenskyy. A year ago, the war began, the fall of Kyiv was expected – I just returned from Kyiv, and it is standing, Kyiv is standing and proud of it. The most important thing is that it is free. When Russia started its invasion, the whole world was put to the test of whether we would respond, join our allies and stand firm, or simply look away. I know the answer in a year – we answered, we were strong and united, the world did not look away. We face a fundamental question of commitment to fundamental principles – will we stand for the sovereignty of nations so that people can live freely, or will we stand for sovereignty and democracy. In a year, the answer is known – we did it. We are currently witnessing a turning point in history that will define the future for decades. This is true for us and for the people of the world. It is necessary to protect the eternal principles – the choice between hope and fear, between freedom and unfreedom, between limitations and opportunities. Opportunities appear when people are free. There is no sweeter word than freedom. There is no higher aspiration than freedom. This is what America was built on, you know that. Our children and grandchildren are raised on it. Freedom is something fought for through the ages. We are committed to being allies for peace. May God bless us, bless Ukrainian soldiers and all those who defend freedom around the world" [27].

2 Materials and Methods

Historical method, content analysis and the elements of political theory, as well as some provisions of international criminal law constituted methodological basis of the study.

3 Results and Discussion

American perception

For American children, "Ukrainian" is already the same as hero and role model, like Spider-Man, Captain America, Batman, etc. "I thought that nothing could surprise me anymore", volunteer Les Yakymchuk writes on his Facebook page. – "Just spoke with my colleague from the USA. So, recently, his children have been playing in "Ukrainians". Can you imagine? We have become a model of behavior for them, heroes whom they imitate in their children's games. On a par with Thor, Spider-Man, they have a

Ukrainian. Once again. In the USA. On the streets. Children play in "Ukrainians" who fight against bad Russians. So now, when you think that we are "only Ukrainians", remember this story. We are now doing the impossible. Every day, each of us. Even those who do not fight – we work, then when it "flies in", we volunteer, when we are already far beyond the limits of exhaustion, we dream and stubbornly pretend even when disappointing news comes from the front lines. So keep your pecker up! We still want to do festivals with you in Crimea. Glory to the Armed Forces of Ukraine!" [30].

Analyzing the historical parallels of the Ukrainian people struggle for their natural right to national sovereignty, freedom and independence, the researchers logically combine this process as an integral part of universal human values and a characteristic and integral feature of the national Ukrainian mentality. "Well, it's not surprising, notes Iryna Omelchenko, because both our Maidans had a great resonance in the world. Ukraine became a symbol of the struggle for freedom. The Russian-Ukrainian war further strengthened the heroic image of the Ukrainian. Once upon a time, after the Great French Revolution, the song "Marseillaise" became a kind of anthem of revolutionary movements of the most diverse orientation. Today, Ukraine and Ukrainian symbols have become an international symbol of the struggle for freedom. Flags of Ukraine are raised at protests in various countries. There are many videos of protest actions in Hong Kong, Venezuela, Chile and other countries, where demonstrators raised the Ukrainian flag precisely as a symbol of the struggle for freedom. Therefore, it is not surprising that children listen to the stories of adults and want to be like those distant, mysterious "Ukrainians", who are so admired by their parents and older friends. Because Ukrainians prove to the world that no matter how great the evil is, no matter how deep the darkness, it can be defeated in the name of Life, Goodness, Justice, and Love. Humanity, immersed in lies, cruelty, indifference, spiritual apathy, accustomed to submit and not to resist the growing evil, needed a driving spiritual force capable of awakening in people the best that was once given to them by the Creator. The spirit of free people – Ukrainians – could and did become such an inspiration. The spirit of Freedom and Victory is forged in the hearts of Ukrainians. And from the hearts of Ukrainians, there are waves all over the world that fill, cover it and force people to wake up and change their worldview. This means that the Ukrainian people are transforming the entire planet Earth with their Spirit", - sums up Iryna Omelchenko [36].

The formula of saving earthly civilization

History has confirmed more than once that when politics is done soullessly, trampling on moral human values, it brings grief and suffering to people in one country. When, in this way, great politics are made for the sake of billions of dollars in wealth, the satisfaction of one's own political ambitions – people's lives can be put to nothing in several neighboring states.

When the geopolitics of the powers that be enters the arena, want to redistribute the spheres of political influence, to establish a new world order at their discretion, to control over the natural resources of life support – world wars begin, a sea of human blood flows, hundreds of thousands, millions, tens of millions of human lives are sacrificed.

After the end of the First World War (1914-1918), in which almost 20 million soldiers and civilians died, 23 million soldiers and officers were wounded and maimed, some circles derived the formula for saving earthly civilization, which was made public in 1924. According to the authors of this formula, it should change the methods of waging war and eventually allow ending it completely. In particular, they rightly argued that "today, not thousands, but millions of people are saying: 'No to war!'" Humanity has realized the fact that one more great battle will be tantamount to its complete destruction, and a lot of people argue that it is better to let the ruler or the entire people who declared war will disappear, but civilization will survive [1].

However, the world did not listen. Two psychopathic personalities, Hitler and Stalin, entering into a secret conspiracy, started the Second World War (1939-1945), dividing sovereign Poland in September 1939. The war took the lives of more than 71 million people (military and civilians). In March 1946, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave a famous speech in the American state of Missouri, in which he warned future generations "about the danger of Russian aggression and tyranny". He drew the attention of the present to the fact that the Second World War could have been avoided. "There has never been a war in history that was more preventable than the one that has just devastated a huge area on our planet", – declared Churchill and he warned future generations not to repeat the mistake - we could not stop Hitler, but the Soviet Union must be stopped. The great politician Churchill emphasized: "... the Soviet Russia craves the fruits of war and the unlimited expansion of its power and ideology. From what I saw during the war in our Russian friends and associates, I conclude that they admire nothing more than force, and they respect nothing less than weakness, especially military weakness" [14].

Winston Churchill's words turned out to be prophetic. With a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, Putin essentially unleashed the Third World War. The reasons for these wars are similar. Hitler's international policy of "pacification" (the Munich betrayal of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1938) led to the Second World War.

The constant "worries" and "concerns" of the West, in order to "not to anger and provoke Putin", after Russia's attack on Georgia in 2008 and the annexation of 20% of its territory, and later – the occupation of Crimea and parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014, ended in a full-scale military aggression of Russia against Ukraine – putting the world on the verge of the beginning of the Third World War. Today's psychopath Putin threatens the world with nuclear war to satisfy his political ambitions. At the press conference on December 9, 2022 in Kyrgyzstan, he stated that he allows the concept of a preventive nuclear strike to be included in the Russian military doctrine [9].

According to sociological research conducted at the end of April 2022, more than 83% of Russians support the war against Ukraine and approve of Putin's actions. Those interviewed declare that they feel such emotions as "pride", "joy", "inspiration", "respect", "trust", "hope" for Putin and the army (the same was in Hitler's Nazi Germany – *author's note*). According to a study conducted by Activegroup, 86.6% of Russians support a potential attack by Putin on the territory of states of the European Union [13]. In September 2022, Institute for the Study of War stated that the number of Russians who categorically support the war against Ukraine fell by 7% compared to March. However, at the beginning of September, still 76% of respondents approved of the war by Russian troops.

The majority of Russians believe that the war started by the Russian Federation in Ukraine should continue. This is evidenced by the data of a closed public opinion poll conducted at the Kremlin's request in the second half of October. The results of the research are given in the column of journalist Farida Rustamova. In particular, from the poll schedules for October 20, 2022, it follows that 68% of Russians believe that the war should continue and only 22% of respondents answered that it should be stopped. The same number – 68% – believe that the war should have been started and only 16% think that it should not be started. Most of those who support hostilities with Ukraine are respondents aged 45 and older [37].

The analysis of these sociological polls allows concluding that the results of repeated studies prove that Putin is a "collective Putin-killer", who is supported by almost 70% of the same rashists-murderers, who are to be neutralized together with the "bunker bloody dwarf".

The abovementioned is another confirmation of the correctness of the formula for saving civilization, how it was possible to prevent Putin's attempt to start the Third World War, which can turn into a nuclear war and lead to the destruction of civilization.

In order to prevent the possibility of the Third World War, to stop the further criminal military aggression of the Russian terrorist state against Ukraine, a number of American senators have re-submitted to the US Senate a resolution that recognizes Russia's actions in Ukraine as genocide against the people of Ukraine.

On December 7, 2022, the resolution recognizing Russia's actions as genocide was supported by the Committee on International Relations of the US Senate, and it is ready for a vote in the Senate [23]. The resolution was co-authored by Republican Senator James Risch of Idaho and Democratic Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland. In addition to them, the resolution was supported by 14 other senators from both parties. They introduced a similar resolution at the end of December last year, and once the new Senate begins work, the procedure involves resubmitting the resolutions. "One year has passed since the start of Putin's brutal and unjustified war against Ukraine, and it is becoming absolutely clear that Russia is committing genocide", said Senator James Risch. According to him, he "saw the atrocities with his own eyes" during a trip to Ukraine last June, and almost every day he "receives new reports about the inhumane actions of Russian soldiers against the innocent Ukrainian people". "It is time for the US government to call it what it is and to work with our allies to investigate and to bring to justice those responsible for this brutality", as it is said in the statement [19]. The senators also call on the United States, along with NATO and EU allies, to "support the government of Ukraine to prevent further acts of Russian genocide against the Ukrainian people". "We must continue to do everything possible to support the Ukrainian people in their struggle for survival", Risch added.

According to the lawmaker, this resolution, in particular, "supports tribunals and international criminal investigations to bring Russian political leaders and military personnel to justice for aggressive war, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide" [24]. We stand, fight and win, because together we are Ukraine, America, and the whole free world. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized this during his speech at a joint session of both houses of the US Congress on December 22, 2022.

"This is a battle not only for land, for one or another part of Europe. This is a battle not only for the life, freedom and safety of Ukrainians or any other people that Russia seeks to conquer. This is a battle for what kind of world our children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren will live in. It will determine whether it will be a democracy - for Ukrainians and for Americans, for everyone. It is naive to expect steps towards peace from Russia, which likes to be a terrorist state. Russians are still poisoned by the Kremlin. Restoring the international legal order is our joint task. We need peace. Ukraine has already made relevant proposals, and I just discussed them with President Biden – our formula of peace. Ten points that can and must be implemented for the sake of our common security, guaranteed for decades to come and a summit that can be held. You can increase sanctions in such a way as to make Russia feel how destructive its aggression is. It is in your power to help us bring to justice all those who unleashed this unprovoked and illegal war. Let's do it! Let the terrorist state be responsible for terror and aggression and compensate for all the damage caused by the war", President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for congressmen [29].

International legal opposition to military aggression and the irreversibility of punishing war criminals

On the basis of the analysis carried out and the given factual circumstances, we ascertain the purposeful, intentional, and systematic criminal activities of the current political leadership of the Russian aggressor state against Ukraine and the civilized World, which are carried out in the form of war crimes against humanity, terror, and genocide. In order to effectively neutralize these international terrorists as soon as possible and to localize the further harmful and irreversible consequences of their criminal activities – the civilized world public should

immediately apply against them the irreversibility of punishment, which is determined by the rules of both international and national law.

The US Vice President Kamala Harris rightly stated during her speech at the Munich Security Conference on February 18 this year: "In the case of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, we have studied the data, we know the legal standards, so there is no doubt - these are crimes against humanity. The United States officially made a statement that Russia committed crimes against humanity. I want to say to everyone who committed these crimes, to their leadership: you will be held accountable". According to her, the USA will support legal proceedings in Ukraine and international investigations on this matter. "Justice must prevail. We must declare this in the name of all victims, known and unknown," – Harris summarized [28].

The international legal responsibility of Putin and the Russian aggressor state for war crimes committed by them, genocide and terror against Ukraine and the world is inevitable and irreversible and is based on a number of both international and national legal acts, the provisions of which unquestionably confirm their illegal activities. In particular, in UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 dated December 14, 1974 "Definition of aggression" is interpreted as:

1. An invasion or attack by the armed forces of one state on the territory of another state or any military occupation, regardless of its temporary nature, resulting from such an invasion or attack, or any annexation of the territory of another state or part of it by force.
2. Bombardment by the armed forces of the state of the territory of another state or the use of any weapon by the state against the territory of another state.
3. Blockade of ports or coasts of a state by the armed forces of another state.
4. An attack by the armed forces of a state on the land, sea or air forces, or sea and air fleets of another state.
5. The sending by the state or on behalf of the state, of armed gangs, groups and regular forces or mercenaries who carry out acts of using armed force against another state, which are of such a serious nature that it is equivalent to the acts listed above, or its significant participation in them [6].

According to Article 17 of the Constitution of Ukraine, "The protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine is the most important functions of the state, which concerns the entire Ukrainian people". Protection of the Motherland, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine is a constitutional duty of Ukrainian citizens (Article 65 of the Constitution). According to Art. 36 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Necessary defense is recognized as actions taken with the purpose of protecting the legally protected rights and interests of the person who is being defended or of another person, as well as public interests and the interests of the state from a socially dangerous encroachment by causing necessary and sufficient damage to the encroacher in this situation to immediately avert or stop the encroachment... Every person has the right to the necessary defense regardless of the possibility of avoiding a socially dangerous encroachment. The use of weapons or any other means or objects to defend against an attack by an armed person or an attack by a group of persons does not exceed the limits of necessary defense and does not result in criminal liability, regardless of the severity of the harm caused to the aggressor".

The Criminal Code of Ukraine also provides for the concept of "extreme necessity", which consists in the fact that "... it is not a crime to cause harm to law-protected interests in a state of extreme necessity, i.e., to eliminate a danger that directly threatens a person or the rights of this person or other persons protected by law, as well as public interests or the interests of the state, if this danger in the given situation could not be eliminated by other means..." At the same time, it should be considered that Osama bin Laden, unlike Putin, was not the president of the state

and represented a much smaller threat to the world than Putin with nuclear weapons.

Leaders of Western countries should take into account the mentioned facts, conclusions, and lessons of history in relations with Russia, which should be isolated from the civilized world (like the North Korea), as a maniacally mentally ill aggressor-terrorist state led by the psychopathic dictator Putin. For the sake of saving civilization, Putin and the fascist regime he created in Russia must be harshly condemned by the world community, and Putin must be neutralized, like Osama bin Laden, or in another way that does not threaten the lives of innocent people, if he does not stop the terrorist war in Syria and Ukraine, will not release the occupied Donbas and Crimea and will not voluntarily surrender to international justice.

In the situation that has arisen in connection with Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, in accordance with the rules of international law, the laws of war, and the national legislation of Ukraine, the neutralization of Putin will be legitimate, lawful and legal, as carried out in a state of necessary defense and extreme necessity, by analogy with the neutralization of Osama bin Laden (whose destruction is justified from the point of view of international law and the right to self-defense) [17].

Every citizen of Ukraine has not only the right, but also the constitutional duty to destroy the aggressor who encroached on the Motherland, its independence and territorial integrity. At the same time, the leaders of the states of the anti-Moscow alliance in the "Ramstein group" should, in our opinion and deep conviction, in the nearest future sign the Treaty on the establishment of a military-political alliance with Ukraine (legally form an anti-Putin military coalition) and define a strategic goal, which, in our opinion, should include:

- Full and unconditional surrender of the Russian Federation (by analogy with the surrender of Nazi Germany in May 1945);
- Undertaking commitments to provide Ukraine with the necessary military, technical, material, medical, financial, and other assistance;
- The immediate provision of weapons to Ukraine, which will ensure the complete defeat of Russian troops this year, that will deprive the Moscow terrorist dictator of the opportunity to wage a "protracted war" against Ukraine for several years "to the point of exhaustion";
- Liberation of the occupied territories and restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine within the borders of 1991 recognized by the UN;
- Full compensation to Ukraine for damages caused by Russian aggression;
- Exclusion of the Russian Federation from the UN;
- Establishment of a prohibition on the Russian Federation from possessing nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, introducing, at the first stage, strict permanent NATO control over their storage in order to prevent further use.

The act of capitulation must be signed by representatives of the Russian authorities (who have not committed crimes of aggression against Ukraine) without the participation of Putin (who must be neutralized at the time of signing), Ukraine as the state of Victory, and the leaders of the "anti-Putin coalition" states.

At the same time, it is worth listening to the proposal of the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, who believes that it would be good to sign Russia's capitulation in Pereyaslav. During his visit to Latvia, he said that he gave such advice to the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"Considering our history, the way our paths once diverged, I am begging you, when you defeat Russia, when the Russians crawl on their knees to beg for peace, take them to Pereyaslav. Let them sign peace with you there. Let them cross out with this all the years of Russian and Soviet influence and slavery from the tsarist times", Duda recounted the conversation with Zelenskyy [26].

On February 20 of this year, US President Joe Biden came to Kyiv. He met with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. They discussed further US support. President Biden said that “a year ago the world was preparing for the possible fall of Kyiv. A year has passed, and Kyiv is standing, Ukraine is standing, so is democracy. America stands steadfastly with you, and the whole world is helping you, - he emphasized. This is the biggest land war in Europe in three quarters of a century, and you are winning. Despite other opinions and predictions, you win and keep doing it! From the moment I received the intelligence reports almost a year ago, the focus has been on how we can gather the entire world. How to fulfill the promise I gave you (to Volodymyr Zelenskyy - *the author*) to gather the whole world in support of Ukraine? How to ensure your success? How to make the whole world react? Then the American people decided that they would help, that such aggression was a threat to all of us. We built a coalition on different sides of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans”. Biden emphasized that Putin wanted the West to be divided. He expected that the West would not be able to ensure the unity of NATO member states and the unity of states in helping Ukraine. He emphasized that a year later we have evidence of the opposite. You remind us that freedom has no price! It is priceless! It is worth fighting for it as much as it takes! That's how long we will stay with you! – Biden stressed [5].

The arrest warrant for Putin in frames of international justice

The international legal responsibility of Putin and the Russian aggressor state for their war crimes against humanity, genocide, and terror against Ukraine and the world is inevitable and irreversible. Therefore, the announcement of the press service of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague about the issuance of warrants for the arrest of the president of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and the Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, on March 17, 2023, was undoubtedly a natural triumph of justice and top news. They are justifiably accused of illegally deporting civilians and children from the territory of Ukraine to Russia.

“The president of the Russian Federation, Putin, is most likely responsible for the war crime of illegal deportation of the population (children) and illegal transfer of the population (children) from the occupied territories of Ukraine to Russia (according to Articles 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii) of the Rome Statute, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Putin bears individual criminal responsibility for the above-mentioned crimes - through direct participation, acting in concert with others, or through the failure to exercise proper control over civilian and military subordinates, who committed acts or allowed them to be committed”, the press service of the Court said in a statement [19]. From now, according to the Rome Statute of the ICC, the president of the Russian Federation, Putin, has the official procedural status of a suspect and is responsible for the commission of a war crime against humanity - the illegal deportation of the population (children) and the illegal transfer of the population (children) from the occupied regions of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, which caused harm to Ukrainian children, - it is noted in the message of the ICC. According to Art. 7 of the Statute, deportation or forcible transfer of the population is a crime against humanity. This means that outside of Russia, Putin, despite his special immunity for heads of state, must be arrested and transferred to the ICC (Article 59 of the Statute). In addition, Art. 27 of the Rome Statute of the ICC provides for the inadmissibility of referring to the official position of the person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued:

1. This Charter applies equally to all persons without any distinction based on position. In particular, the official position of the head of state or government, a member of the government or parliament, an elected representative or a public official does not in any case exempt a person from criminal liability according to this Statute and is not, in itself, a reason for mitigating the punishment.

2. Immunities or special procedural rules that may be associated with a person's position under national or international law should not prevent the Court from exercising its jurisdiction over such a person [11].

“I note that the hearing of the case at the ICC is possible only in the presence of the accused. Absentee consideration of the case is not allowed (Article 63: “The accused must be present at the trial”)

The ICC's jurisdiction is limited to the most serious crimes that are of concern to the entire international community. According to the Rome Statute, the Court has jurisdiction over the following crimes: a) the crime of genocide; b) crimes against humanity; c) war crimes; d) crime of aggression. ICC spokesman Fadi El Abdallah said that the Court has the right to investigate such cases, because the Ukrainian authorities sent a request with materials to conduct this investigation. “And this made it possible to investigate this case. The investigation has started. Our prosecutor has started an investigation, and today we announced that there are grounds to issue an arrest warrant for Putin and Belova for the illegal deportation of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation”, said El Abdallah.

According to him, 123 states recognize the legitimacy of the International Criminal Court. The Russian Federation is not among them. But this decision gives more rights to Ukraine, which recognizes the decision of the International Court of Justice, than to Russia. Therefore, in the legal sphere, Ukraine can now operate with this decision, explained the spokesman of the International Criminal Court - because in its relations with countries that recognize the court's decision, Ukraine can operate on this decision. Ukraine can demand the arrest of Putin and Lvova-Belova on the territory of those states that recognize the decision of the International Criminal Court, as soon as they appear there, El Abdallah added.

“We cannot hold hearings in the absence of a person, so until he is arrested, we cannot hold court sessions in absentia. So we will seek to resolve this case through cooperation with other countries that recognize our decisions”, said the ICC spokesman [31].

It should be remembered that during Russia's full-scale military aggression against Ukraine (as of March 21), 464 children died, 935 were injured, 386 are considered missing, 16,226 were deported. Beast-like fascists inhumanly raped dozens of minors and minor girls.

Prosecutor General of Ukraine Andriy Kostin noted that the deportation of more than 16,000 children from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions was recorded in the proceedings in which the Prosecutor General's Office provides procedural guidance. But the real figure can be much higher. There is no doubt that this is a planned policy of the Russian Federation aimed at destroying Ukraine as a state and Ukrainians as a nation. By stealing our children, Russia is literally stealing our future, - Kostin noted. According to him, Putin, who is suspected of illegally moving Ukrainian children, until the moment of his arrest as the head of a terrorist state, will be afraid to travel outside of Russia because of the possibility that he will be extradited by the International Criminal Court.

“This (the decision of the ICC - *authors*) means that every politician who considers himself civilized and who looks to the future should think twice before dealing with the Russian helmsman or his henchmen, let alone shake hands or sit down at the table of negotiations. This is a clear signal to the whole world that the Russian regime is criminal, and the criminals must be stopped, isolated and brought to justice”, the head of the OGP is convinced. In his opinion, today's decision of the International Criminal Court is only “a prologue to the history of bringing to full responsibility both Putin and his henchmen, and all those involved in the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and the crime of aggression on Ukrainian soil” [8].

President Zelenskyy welcomed the decision of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for Russian president Putin. "Today we have a significant decision of international justice. In a case in which there is a real prospect. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin. A historic decision, from which historical responsibility will begin. The head of the terrorist state and another Russian official have officially become suspects in a war crime. The deportation of Ukrainian children means the illegal transfer of thousands of our children to the territory of a terrorist state", he said in his video address.

According to Zelenskyy, it would be impossible to do this without the order of the highest leader of the terrorist state. "Separating children from their families, depriving them of any opportunity to contact their relatives, hiding children on the territory of Russia, scattering them in remote regions - all this is an obvious state policy of Russia, state decisions and state evil, which begins precisely with the first official of this state", the president emphasized [32].

The civilized world supports the decision of the ICC in the Hague, which issued a warrant for the arrest of Russian president Putin. In particular, US President Joe Biden said that the ICC's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Russian president Putin is justified, CNN writes. "I think it's justified", Biden said. In his opinion, the court's decision is a "very strong argument". The US president also noted that Putin "clearly committed war crimes" [2].

The United States has no doubt that Russia's actions in its war of aggression against Ukraine can be considered war crimes and advocates the prosecution of everyone involved. This is stated in the statement of the spokeswoman of the National Security Council of the White House, Adrienne Watson, in the context of the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant for Putin's arrest, reports Ukrinform. "There is no doubt that Russia is committing war crimes and atrocities in Ukraine, and we have clearly stated that those responsible must be brought to justice", the statement emphasized. At the same time, it is noted that the prosecutor of the ICC is an independent person and makes his own court decisions based on the evidence available to him. "We support bringing to justice those who have committed war crimes", the White House document notes [22].

The Ministers of Justice of Germany and the Great Britain said that they will have to answer for war crimes on the territory of Ukraine. German Justice Minister Marko Buschmann spoke favorably of the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Russian president Putin for war crimes in Ukraine, the German Bild reports.

"Whoever, like Putin, started a bloody war must answer for it in court. The best solution would be if the indictment is transferred to the International Criminal Court. The arrest warrant issued now for war crimes is an important signal of determination", Buschmann said [16]. According to him, it is also important to continue to think about other models of how to implement consistent criminal prosecution, for example, with the help of a special tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice of Great Britain Dominic Raab assured that the state will assist the International Criminal Court in its investigations to bring to justice those guilty of war crimes in Ukraine. In a comment to the British media, Raab suggested that the investigation into Russia's war crimes would take a long time, but the same was said about Yugoslavia and Rwanda, "and many of those responsible ended up on the dock". "I think it will be very difficult for Putin to travel the world in the short term, because many countries are members of the International Criminal Court and have an obligation to arrest him", the British minister emphasized [20]. In his opinion, for the International Criminal Court, currently, the support of the work of the member states is important - primarily forensic, investigative, and technical, "and this is exactly what we are doing in London, with our colleagues and partners".

EU High Representative Josep Borrell believes that the precedent of bringing Putin to justice will start a whole series of criminal cases against those representatives of the military and political leadership of Russia who are guilty of crimes committed in Ukraine. In particular, he mentioned the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to the territory of Russia. Borrell also emphasized that Putin will bear individual responsibility for all crimes related to the Russian Federation's full-scale aggression in Ukraine [25].

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Edgars Rinkevics, wrote on his page on Twitter that he approves the decision of the ICC to issue a warrant for the arrest of "Mr. Putin". The head of the relevant ministry emphasized that there should be no impunity for those who violate international law.

The Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas, said that with the decision of the International Criminal Court to arrest the president of the Russian Federation, the world became one step closer to the day of judgment. The head of the Estonian government called the warrant for Putin's arrest a "historical signal" that all the atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine were the result of criminal actions by the military and political leadership of the aggressor state. "We remind you that no one is safe, not even heads of state. The Russian regime will be held accountable", Kallas wrote on her Twitter page [18].

The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Wopke Hoekstra, said that he would do everything possible to ensure that the Court could safely and independently carry out this difficult task (investigating crimes related to the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war).

Aware of the inevitability of responsibility for the unprovoked full-scale military aggression against Ukraine and the crimes against humanity committed, the head of the Kremlin once again resorted to nuclear blackmail. As reported by Ukrayinski Novyny, on March 25, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin announced the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus and the imminent completion of the construction of a storage facility for them [10]. It should be noted that the statements of the military and political leadership of the Russian terrorist state regarding the placement of tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus are yet another provocation. In particular, this was informed in a reasoned manner in the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

The statement says that such intentions cause concern. "Russia declares them under the conditions of continuation of its unprovoked aggressive war against Ukraine. Despite the terrible crimes against humanity and war crimes with which the Kremlin accompanies this war of aggression against a sovereign state, Russia demonstrates its inability to win on the battlefield", the message reads.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also added that Ukraine appeals to Belarusian society to prevent the realization of criminal intentions regarding the placement of nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus. "We appeal to the states of the Group of Seven and the European Union to warn the Belarusian authorities about the far-reaching consequences for Belarus if it agrees to accept tactical nuclear weapons from Russia on its territory", the statement said.

It is rightly noted that Ukraine expects effective actions to counter the nuclear blackmail of the Kremlin by the Great Britain, China, the USA, and France, in particular as permanent members of the UN Security Council. "Ukraine calls on all members of the world community to prove to the criminal Putin regime the categorical unacceptability of its next nuclear provocations and to take decisive measures to effectively deter and prevent any possibility of the aggressor state's use of nuclear weapons" [26].

The European Union considers the Kremlin's statements about its intention to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of

Belarus as an irresponsible attempt to escalate tensions and declares its readiness to apply new economic sanctions in response to increased threats to European security. Russian dictator Vladimir Putin is trying to intimidate countries that support Ukraine by announcing the deployment of nuclear weapons in Belarus.

The civilized world condemns the cynical, anti-human, and illegal actions of the president of the terrorist state of the Russian Federation Putin, realizing that he is a war criminal and the organizer of mass murders, kidnappings, rapes of children and the civilian population of Ukraine, for which he should be arrested as soon as possible and suffer a fair punishment.

The conducted analysis of the criminal activities of the tyrants-dictators of the past and present tyrannical military-political leadership of the Russian terrorist state and Putin personally against Ukraine and the world, the war crimes committed by them against humanity, terror and genocide of the Ukrainian nation, both in the past and in the present, provides the basis to assert that the indestructible spirit of the Ukrainian nation in its pursuit of freedom and will, the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people in the struggle for independence and a national independent state have always been and remain the basis and guarantor of our Victory over the muscovites-invaders, which we, together with our partners, will certainly achieve in daily victorious battles against Moscow tyranny.

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