

## **THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE**

*Kyiv, 27 January 2015*

### **APPEAL**

#### **to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly and national parliaments about the recognition of the Russian Federation as an Aggressor State**

Ukraine remains the target of a military aggression by the Russian Federation, which the latter carries out, among other things, by supporting, and providing supplies for, large-scale terrorist attacks.

Within less than two weeks, due to the shelling attacks and actions by Russia-backed terrorists Volnovakha, Donetsk and Mariupol over 50 Ukrainian civilians have lost their lives.

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission has confirmed that the shelling of Mariupol was conducted from the terrorist-controlled territory while the logic of the tragic events points to a pre-meditated bloody provocation to intimidate the civilian population. These tragic events show that Russia and the terrorists that it supports do not want to implement the Minsk Agreements, which currently remain the only internationally recognized framework for a peaceful settlement.

From the beginning of the aggression in late February 2014, the Russian Federation systematically violates basic norms of international law and human rights, including the right to life of peaceful citizens of Ukraine who are held hostage to the terrorists in the occupied territory of the Donbas. The cynicism of the Kremlin aggression, which includes active support to terrorists at the state level, has turned the killing of innocent civilians into a familiar, everyday fact. Russia's implication is obvious in such terrorist attacks as downing the Flight MH17 civilian airliner and the tragedies in Volnovakha, Donetsk and Mariupol.

Despite the concerted diplomatic efforts in the Geneva, Normandy and other formats, Russia does not fulfil its obligations to comply with the universally recognized norms of international law and agreements already reached. Thus, Crimea remains occupied and the demands of the democratic community to stop the aggression and the flow of weapons, equipment and manpower to terrorists are ignored by the Kremlin. The good intentions to leave the door open to dialogue with the leadership of the Russian Federation only trigger new bloody terrorist attacks in Ukraine.

In this regard, taking into account the provisions of the UN Charter and UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 "Definition of Aggression" dated 14 December 1974, the Parliament of Ukraine recognizes the Russian Federation as an Aggressor State and urges the international partners of Ukraine:

- to prevent impunity for those responsible for crimes against humanity committed since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine;

- to recognize the Russian Federation as an Aggressor State that supports terrorism and obstructs the activities of the UN Security Council, thus threatening international peace and security, and to recognize as terrorist organizations the so called “Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Lugansk People’s Republic”;
- to increase the pressure on the Russian Federation, in particular by introducing new sectoral restrictive measures (sanctions) to stop the Russian aggression and to compel the Russian leadership to fully implement all the provisions of the Minsk Agreements, to stop the illegal occupation of Crimea and to release all hostages and Ukrainian citizens held illegally on the territory of the Russian Federation, including Ms. Nadiya Savchenko, member of the Ukrainian Parliament’s delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- to limit the powers of the Russian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe until the Russian Federation stops ignoring the demands of the international democratic community;
- to provide appropriate military assistance to Ukraine in order to strengthen its defence capabilities, to furnish humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and internally displaced persons, and to help restore the critical infrastructure in the Donbas.

We urge the international community to recognize the fact of the aggression against Ukraine and the occupation of its territory and to step up demands related to the return to internationally recognized borders, thus preventing the creation of a dangerous precedent in the form of a gross violation of the world order and security system that emerged after the Second World War.