



## 55th regular session of the 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***

19 March 2024

#### **Oral Statement**

As the full-scale Russian invasion enters its third year, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the Ukrainian Bar Association condemn the ongoing widespread violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity in the course of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We condemn recent attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructures, the "widespread and systematic" use of torture, incommunicado detention and enforced disappearances, in territories occupied by Russian armed forces, also recently confirmed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

We are deeply concerned at the [COI's recent observations on allegations of genocide](#) in Ukraine and that, some of the rhetoric in Russian state media may constitute incitement to genocide. We welcome that the Commission is continuing its investigations on such issues.

We strongly condemn the forcible transfers and deportation of Ukrainian children to the temporarily occupied territories and the Russian Federation, as well as the crimes of forced passportization and illegal adoptions of the same children.

We call on the Russian Federation to take all the necessary measures to ensure the prompt repatriation and family reunification of all abducted Ukrainian children. It is incumbent to act with speed to protect kids and preserve their rights to identity, before it is too late.

We finally call on this Council to support the renewal of the mandate of the COI.

Thank you.

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