



58th regular session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Transitional Justice
5 March 2025
Oral Statement

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the Ukrainian Bar Association, welcome the report of the special rapporteur and wish to draw attention to challenges to achieve SDG16 and transitional justice, in conflict situations, in particular in Ukraine, following the Russian full scale invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine.

The massive disruption caused by the Russian war in Ukraine has severely impacted multiple sectors, including the justice system. Since February 2022, nearly 10% of court infrastructures was damaged, and almost 20% of courts were forced to close. Despite these challenges, the Ukrainian justice system has demonstrated remarkable resilience, continuing to function despite funding shortages and disruptions to regular proceedings.

Meanwhile, violations of social and economic rights due to the Russian war have considerably affected any transitional justice effort. Destruction of infrastructures, forced displacement, unemployment and economic instability, limited access to basic needs, as well as deterioration of mental health conditions among people in Ukraine have exacerbated inequalities, hindered economic recovery, and complicated efforts to achieve comprehensive justice and reconciliation.

We call on this Council, through international cooperation, to enhance support for Ukraine's justice reform and accountability efforts, consider technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives, as well as financial resources to ensure the sustainability and independence of Ukraine's judicial institutions. Strengthen prosecutorial and investigative capacities, particularly in documenting and adjudicating war crimes cases.

We stand ready to collaborate with the Special Rapporteur to address these challenges.

This statement was delivered by:
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