

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 154

Recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

Whereas the Russian Federation's illegal, premeditated, unprovoked, and brutal war against Ukraine includes extensive, systematic, and flagrant atrocities against the people of Ukraine;

Whereas Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (hereinafter the "Genocide Convention"), approved and opened for signature in 1948 and entered into force in 1951, defines genocide as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the

group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”;

Whereas substantial and significant evidence documenting widespread, systematic actions against the Ukrainian people committed by Russian Forces under the direction of Russian Federation political leadership meets one or more of the criteria under Article II of the Genocide Convention, including—

(1) killing members of the Ukrainian people in mass atrocities through deliberate and regularized murders of fleeing civilians and civilians in passing as well as purposeful targeting of homes, schools, hospitals, shelters, and other residential and civilian areas;

(2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to the Ukrainian people by launching indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian areas, conducting willful strikes on humanitarian evacuation corridors, and employing widespread and systematic sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians, including women, children, and men;

(3) deliberately inflicting upon the Ukrainian people conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part, including displacement due to annihilated villages, towns, and cities left devoid of food, water, shelter, electricity, and other basic necessities, starvation caused by the destruction of farmlands and agricultural equipment, the placing of Russian landmines across thousands of acres of useable fields, and blocking the delivery of humanitarian food aid;

(4) imposing measures intended to prevent births among the Ukrainian people, demonstrated by the Rus-

sian military's expansive and direct targeting of maternity hospitals and other medical facilities and systematic attacks against residential and civilian areas as well as humanitarian corridors intended to deprive Ukrainians of safe havens within their own country and the material conditions conducive to childrearing; and

(5) forcibly mass transferring millions of Ukrainian civilians, hundreds of thousands of whom are children, to Russia or Russian Federation-controlled territories;

Whereas the Russian Federation's State-level intent in favor of these heinous crimes against humanity has been demonstrated through frequent pronouncements and other forms of official communication denying Ukrainian nationhood and sovereignty, including President Putin's ahistorical claims that Ukraine is part of a "single whole" Russian nation with "no historical basis" for being an independent country;

Whereas some Russian soldiers and brigades accused of committing war crimes in Bucha and elsewhere were rewarded with medals by President Putin;

Whereas the Russian State-owned media outlet RIA Novosti's published the article "What Should Russia do with Ukraine" which outlines "de-Nazification" as meaning "de-Ukrainianization" or the destruction of Ukraine;

Whereas Article I of the Genocide Convention confirms "that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish"; and

Whereas additional documentation and analysis of atrocities committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine may be needed to punish those responsible, the substantial and

significant documentation already undertaken and combined with statements showing intent, compel urgent action to prevent further acts of genocide: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the Russian Federation for com-
3 mitting acts of genocide against the Ukrainian peo-
4 ple;

5 (2) calls on the United States, in cooperation
6 with North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Euro-
7 pean Union allies, to undertake measures to support
8 the Ukrainian Government to prevent further acts of
9 Russian genocide against the Ukrainian people; and

10 (3) supports tribunals and international crimi-
11 nal investigations to hold Russian political leaders
12 and military personnel to account for a war of ag-
13 gression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and
14 genocide.

○