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November 12, 2022

Russian War Crimes

Throughout the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russian authorities and armed forces have committed multiple war crimes including deliberately targeting, and massacring civilians, torturing and rape of women and children, and the use of unauthorized measures of war. The United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has stated that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also killed around 40,000 Ukrainian civilians, and displaced 15 to 30 million. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is not simply a "special military operation" as stated by their president Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. Russia's invasion is a full-scale conflict between two separate nations that has brought to light the unprecedented, dangerous use of unauthorized weaponry. Putin's initial aim was to overrun Ukraine and depose its government, ending its desire to join NATO. NATO is a security alliance of 30 countries from North America to Europe, with the goal of safeguarding the allies' freedom. Ukraine's formal application to join NATO was followed by Russia's annexation of Southern and Eastern Ukraine. Russia's desire to control a separate nation has brought about the reality of inhuman acts, as well as the use of unauthorized weapons of war.

On April 3, 2022, Ukraine officially accused Russian forces of carrying out a massacre in the town of Bucha. All western nations received the news of this massacre, as well as footage, and photographs showing the dead bodies of many Ukrainian civilians. This massacre provoked Ukrainian allegations, with the statement "this is yet another provocation" said by the Ukrainian Government. Despite Russia's defense ministry denying the Ukrainian allegations, the sheer

reality of the footage, and photographs provided by Ukrainian military officials, has brought to light the reality of this destructive war. These images provoked many western nations to enact sanctions on the Russian government. The goal of these sanctions was to isolate Russia economically, in hopes of punishing Russia for not only their invasion of Ukraine, yet their disgusting acts during the war. Despite these sanctions providing much aid to Ukraine, Ukrainian officials have called on all nations to ensure that Russia must pay for these "war crimes".

Other inhuman, disgusting acts committed by Russian forces, include the rape, and torturing of Ukrainian women and children. There have been hundreds of these occurrences being released by Ukrainian news networks weekly. Despite Russia's attempts to suppress Ukraine's ability to release news to the western world, hundreds of these situations have been described with profound evidence, calling on the world to condemn their disgusting acts. In March 2022, Ukraine released news of two Russian soldiers entering a home and raping a 22-year-old woman, several times. Acts of sexual violence on her husband, as well as forcing the couple to have sexual intercourse in their presence, also took place. Another situation confirmed to be true by the U.N's investigations of war conduct is the torture of Children in Ukraine. According to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, reports of a long list of abuses and atrocities have occurred in all controlled regions of Ukraine. Based on evidence gathered by the commission, Russian forces have completely denied the rules of war and committed hundreds of acts classified to be war crimes. This disgusting reality for many Ukrainian citizens has been allowed by Russian authorities and is a staple reason why Russia must be condemned for its acts.

Finally, Russia has also disregarded the International humanitarian laws set by a variety of conventions, overseen by the Council of the United Nations. The United Nations Office on

Genocide prevention, and the Responsibility to protect, has reminded Russia of the multiple conventions that have set basic humanitarian rules of war. The Hague Conventions adopted in 1899 and 1907 focus on the prohibition of warring parties using certain means and methods of warfare. Several other related treaties have been adopted since then, including the Geneva Convention of 1864, 1949, and 1977, all creating additional protocols that nations must follow for the protection of persons, in and out of war. Despite a variety of different protocols, Russia has disregarded them all. A staple example of these laws being broken is Russia's use of incendiary munitions in the city of Mariupol. Photo and video evidence provided by Ukrainian civilians suggests that the Russian military continues to use incendiary and cluster munitions against Ukrainian forces. The use of this weaponry is a direct disregard to the 1980 Protocol restricting the Use of Incendiary Weapons. Protocol III to the CCW, prohibits the aerial delivery of incendiary weapons during armed conflict, an act that Russia has committed multiple times during this disgusting war.

Russia's total disregard for humanitarian laws through multiple war crimes including deliberately targeting, and massacring civilians, torturing and rape of women and children, and the use of unauthorized measures of war, has shown that Russian forces have a complete disregard for rules in their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Putin's initial aim to overrun Ukraine and depose its government has flipped completely due to Putin's power-hungry personality, and lack of reason. Russian forces, and members of governmental control, must be condemned for their acts during this unnecessary, repulsive war. Russia has violated practically every accepted international rule of war which should result in an economical punishment, as well as a worldwide call for an investigation into Putin, and other members of the Russian government.

Russia's acts during this full-scale invasion have brought yet another light to the horrible reality of war, and have shown the true results of conflict between two nations.