



VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Committee on Public Health, Medical Care and Health Insurance

01008, Kyiv, M. Hrushevsky str., phone (044) 255-91-59, fax (044) 255-92-21

Kyiv, 18 March, 2022 № 04-18/16-1

**The UN High Commissioner
on Human Rights
Dr. Michelle Bachelet
*RCO.ukraine@un.org***

Honorable Dr. Bachelet!

Starting from February 24, 2022, peaceful Ukrainian towns and villages have been suffering from the massive shelling by the Russian Federation, which has launched a large-scale military aggression against Ukraine. The aggressor is deliberately destroying civilian infrastructure, residential houses, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, architectural monuments, religious buildings and other critical infrastructure.

This military actions of the occupiers against civilians have no justification. They pose a direct threat to the lives and health of civilians and violate the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), under which "...civilian hospitals organized to give care to the wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, may in no circumstances be the object of attack". Therefore, such actions by the Russian troops contradict norms of international humanitarian law.

Since the deployment of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Russian troops damaged over 110 Ukrainian hospitals, 7 of them are not subject to recovery. These facts were confirmed by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, during the United Nations Security Council summit devoted to Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine. Among the healthcare facilities, bombed by the Russian troops there are: clinic in Rubizhne; cancer hospital in Mykolayiv; psychiatric hospital in Chernihiv; maternity hospital and children's hospital in Mariupol; clinic in Izyum; city hospital in Zhytomyr and many others. The Okhmatdyt National Children's Specialized Hospital, which treated young patients, was also under attack.

In the course of the shelling, the occupiers destroy and steal the latest medical equipment, which could save hundreds of thousands of lives. Thus, in the village of Petrovske in Kharkiv Oblast Putin's troops robbed an emergency substation and stole a defibrillator, an ECG machine, a suitcase with medical devices and a car battery.

Russian troops shoot down medical personnel. According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, since the deployment of war, 6 medics were killed, 13 were wounded, and 43 ambulances were shelled. The Russian occupiers do not only kill medical personnel and patients, they also capture them. Thus, in Mariupol, they captured doctors and patients of the intensive care hospital. In total, about 400 people are now detained in the healthcare facility and are used as a “living shield” against the Ukrainian army. The aggressor country troops are cynically capturing weak and feeble people who need medical treatment - patients of psychoneurological boarding schools.

There is no doubt that the main target of the occupiers’ attacks is not military facilities, but our peaceful cities with hospitals, schools, orphanages and kindergartens. Russia is deliberately creating a humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Ukraine, for its part, informs the WHO of any violation of the Geneva Convention by the occupiers.

At the same time, as the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Health, Medical Care and Health Insurance, I urge you to use all the levers of influence to stop violations of Articles 18, 20-22 of the Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War on the inadmissibility of attacks on civilian hospitals, medical personnel and medical equipment aimed to transport the sick or wounded. I am appealing to you to condemn the actions of the Russian aggressor.

I hope for understanding and adequate response to the criminal actions of the aggressor country against Ukraine!

I believe in our victory!
Glory to Ukraine!

With the utmost respect,
Mykhailo RADUTSKYI



**Chairman of Committee on Public Health,
Medical Care and Health Insurance
of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**