



VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Committee on Public Health, Medical Assistance and Medical Insurance

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**The UN Resident Coordinator Office
in Ukraine**

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On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine which is still ongoing. Russian troops are bombing and blocking numerous towns and villages, preventing them from food, water and medicine deliveries, cutting them off the mobile communications, electricity, gas and water, and killing civilians, including children.

In particular, according to the Office of the Prosecutor General, as of the morning of March 17, 108 children were killed and more than 120 wounded by the Russian occupiers.

At the same time, according to officials of foreign states and international organizations, there is a threat of Russia's use of chemical or biological toxic substances against the Ukrainian people. In addition, we are concerned about the fact that the aggressor country is making provocative statements on the presence of chemical weapons in Ukraine. This may serve as an umbrella and “justification” by the Russian Federation to use these weapons against civilians in Ukraine.

We emphasize that the use of chemical weapons is strictly prohibited by international agreements ratified by both Ukraine and the aggressor country:

The Hague Conventions of 1899 in Article 23 prohibits the use of ammunition, the sole purpose of which is to poison the enemy's manpower;

Geneva Protocol of 1925;

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction of 1993.

The use of such weapons intentionally inflicts severe suffering or grievous bodily harm on persons, which can be considered a serious violation of the rules of war ("laws of war") and the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, i.e. a war crime.

In view of the above, as Chairman of the Committee, I urge you to take all possible measures of international influence to prevent the use of chemical weapons prohibited by international humanitarian law against civilians and to refute provocative statements by the Russian Federation about the presence of chemical weapons in Ukraine, distributed by the aggressor country in order to cover up and justify the possible use of these weapons in our country.

Sincerely,

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



Mykhailo RADUTSKYI