



VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Committee on Public Health, Medical Assistance and Health Insurance

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Kyiv, 10 May, 2022
№ 04-18/16-19

**Director-General World Health
Organization
Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Regional Director for Europe
Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge
Members of the WHO Regional
Committee for Europe**

Dear colleagues!

Let me pay my respects and express my concern about the public statements conveyed by the Russian officials.

During a special session of the European Regional Committee of the World Health Organization, the aggressor country issued a statement denying its guilt in the mass killings of Ukrainian civilians and deliberate destruction of medical infrastructure in Ukraine.

The text of the appeal is a compilation of fake propaganda stamps: about the alleged development of biological weapons on the territory of Ukraine, about the fact that Ukraine fires and kills its residents, medical workers, destroys its hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. There are also absurd, unconfirmed figures on the number of "residents of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, killed by Ukrainian soldiers".

In fact, the world community, including the WHO, has repeatedly called on Russia to stop destroying hospitals, attacking emergency medical services in Ukraine, and massacres of civilians.

The aggressor country pursues a consistent and systematic policy aimed at the mass extermination of Ukraine's population. Its troops are committing mass atrocities and forcible relocation of Ukrainians, including children, to the Russian Federation, blocking the evacuation of civilians and humanitarian supplies, and deliberately destroying infrastructure that ensures basic human needs. From the first days of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops, civilians, ambulances, orphanages, hospitals and residential areas have come under fire, missiles and air strikes. During this time, tens of thousands of civilians were killed and wounded, in particular, 221 children were killed and 408 children were injured.

Since the beginning of the war, the occupiers have deliberately destroyed healthcare facilities. According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, 40 hospitals that cannot be rebuilt have already been completely destroyed. Another 500 hospitals are damaged, making it impossible to provide medical care.

The occupiers looted hospitals, took away everything left after the shelling, banned the treatment of local residents, blocked humanitarian aid with drugs, leaving

the population without access to medical care, and killed medical personnel. During the hostilities, 10 Ukrainian physicians were killed and more than 40 were injured.

All these and other criminal acts committed by the Putin regime have already been recognized by the Ukrainian parliament as genocide of the Ukrainian people with a request to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and parliaments of foreign states.

As the WHO Director-General, you had the opportunity to see the devastating consequences of the russian invasion of Ukraine during your visit to Ukraine on May 9 this year, when you visited health facilities in Kyiv region and met with Ukrainian medical professionals.

According to the WHO Constitution, the participating countries declare that this organization is based on the principles of harmonious relations between all peoples and the agreement that the health of all peoples is a key factor in achieving peace and security.

At the same time, these actions of the russian federation despise and violate the fundamental principles of the WHO.

According to Article 7 of the WHO Constitution, in exceptional circumstances, the Health Assembly may temporarily deprive a member of the Organization of its right to vote and to serve on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

In view of the above, as the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Health, Medical Care and Health Insurance, I appeal to you and to all members of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe to support the request of the Ukrainian delegation voiced by the Minister of Health of Ukraine during the meeting of the special session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 10 May 2022, in particular on:

- termination of russia's membership in the WHO Executive Board;
- limiting the influence of the aggressor country on decision-making and suspending its right to vote;
- official relocation of the WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of NCDs from Moscow to the real center around which countries of Eastern Europe - Kyiv - are now united.

I urge the WHO to support our common position. It is obvious and logical: an aggressor country that ignores the norms of the international law and has blood on its elbows cannot make health care decisions!

Sincerely,

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



Mykhailo RADUTSKYI