



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on
“Disinformation and sabotage of peace in Ukraine”
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Greece’s Statement delivered by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos,
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Thank you, Chair. We take note of the statements by the briefers. And I would like to make a few points on behalf of my delegation.

First, what happened in Bucha during the occupation of the town by Russian forces in February and March 2022 is hard to refute; the relevant evidence is plenty, inter alia, survivors’ accounts, videos, images, leaked communications. The events have been reported by multiple reliable sources, among them the OHCHR, through its Human Rights Monitoring mission in Ukraine, which has verified summary executions, in places of detention and on the spot, as well as attacks on civilians. There is also ample evidence of war crimes perpetrated not only in Bucha, but in other liberated towns and villages across Ukraine.

More generally, grave violations of International Law and International Humanitarian Law against the people of Ukraine have been documented in multiple findings of credible international bodies, such as the Human Rights Council- mandated Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the OSCE Moscow Mechanism and others. The latest report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, published on March 11, concludes that Russian authorities have committed enforced disappearances as part of a widespread and systematic attack against civilian populations and confirms previous findings that Russian authorities have used torture systematically, as an instrument of social control, which amount to crimes against humanity.

Second, Russia brings forth to the Security Council, albeit in this informal setting, this discussion in order to obfuscate the facts, distract from the truth and ultimately deny its own responsibility regarding war crimes in Bucha and other areas of Ukraine.

Third, it is true that the horrific news of the massacres in Bucha did coincide with the peace negotiations in Istanbul in spring 2022, and affected them negatively. Not -as Russia claims- as a fabricated product of Ukrainian and Western disinformation, but because the inhuman conditions faced by Ukrainians under Russian occupation were made abundantly clear.

Fourth, Greece has expressed at the highest level its appalment for the atrocities perpetrated by Russian troops in Bucha, as well as other cities that were -and some still are- under occupation, namely Borodianka, Irpin, Hostomel and Mariupol. They have become and still constitute symbols of an unjust and terrible war and the international community must therefore support the victims of these atrocities and all efforts to ensure full accountability, as a prerequisite for just and lasting peace.

As a staunch proponent of international humanitarian law and human rights law, Greece calls on all parties to abide by their obligations, including the duty to protect civilians and especially women and children, and fully subscribes to national and international efforts to ensure accountability for all human rights violations.

In this context, Greece fully supports the work of the International Criminal Court, and reaffirms the importance of respecting the principles and values enshrined in the Rome Statute as well as the need for accountability concerning the war of aggression against Ukraine.

Finally, Mr. Chair, as regards to peace negotiations, we hope that Russia will urgently implement the agreement reached following a US initiative on a 30-day ceasefire on energy infrastructure and on freedom of navigation and elimination of the use of force in the Black Sea.

I thank you.