



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
to the United Nations, New York  
Security Council - 2021-2022

BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE UNDER AGENDA ITEM  
“LETTER UKRAINE PR (S/2014/136)”

TUESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE

**Thank you, Madame President,**

I congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for April and assure you of my delegation’s full support.

I listened closely to the remarks by the **Secretary General** and his Undersecretaries General **Rosemary DiCarlo** and **Martin Griffiths** hoping to hear that our fears that the war in Ukraine has entered a new, more dangerous phase were exaggerated. Sadly, they offered no such comfort.

Instead, we are left with the words of His Excellency Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, who has described the horrifying suffering of civilians in Bucha and other towns and neighbourhoods in Ukraine. His account of the atrocities is in stark contrast to that of our colleague in the Security Council, the representative of the Russian Federation.

But the fact that the truth in Bucha is contested is the surest sign that we stand on the precipice of more widespread abuses of human rights.

In April 1994, even as genocide engulfed Rwanda, there were members of the Security Council contesting the horrifying truth that a million people were being murdered. We should stand warned that the inability of the Council to establish the facts, and accordingly attribute responsibility, may enable the risk of escalation into far worse crimes.

Beyond the city of Bucha, **Madame President**, we are extremely worried about the safety of civilians who are trapped in other besieged cities and villages such as Mariupol and Kherson. Our actions today should seek to prevent what we have witnessed happen in Bucha, from also taking place in Mariupol and Kherson.

While we debate who is responsible for the horrors of Bucha, it is incontestable that what started as a Special Military Operation is now a War. And that what begun with reassurances of limited aims, not targeted at civilians, has led to thousands of dead civilians and millions of refugees and internally displaced.

No one can doubt that there are flagrant violations of international law, international humanitarian law and the UN Charter underway in Ukraine.

Kenya condemns the abuses that have taken place in the past few weeks, and those in the eastern provinces of the country during the years that the conflict has raged.

**Madam President,**

The war in Ukraine is today's most dangerous threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. It is the latest assault by the most powerful states against the multilateral order. Their continued abuse of the Charter created growing cracks in the global security order. Now the bottom has fallen out. Ukraine may now become a model for a new generation of disastrous wars on multiple continents.

Millions of refugees are being churned, and there will be many more as the economic effects of the war produce and intensify conflicts elsewhere. Accelerating food and energy prices are plunging millions into worse forms of poverty.

The UN as a forum for solutions to humanity's most pressing problem is losing prestige and its historical standing.

President Zelensky has left us with ideas for Security Council reform that we need to consider seriously. Things have fallen apart and the centre cannot hold under these assaults on our United Nations. It is time for reform.

**Madame President,**

There are no easy solutions. Even a negotiation that is not properly structured to protect the people and sovereignty of Ukraine could be the prelude to a wider war.

For now, we urge the following urgent steps understanding their limits due to the inability of the Security Council to act decisively.

We call for an impartial and prompt United Nations investigation into the atrocities against the civilians in Bucha and other towns in Ukraine. This calls for an immediate end of all hostilities to guarantee unfettered access by the investigating teams.

We urge the conflicting parties to immediately make clear to their military personnel that they will be held to account on the basis of Command or Superior responsibility if they violate the international laws that regulate warfare.

We commend Ukraine's neighbours for opening their borders to refugees of multiple nationalities from Ukraine. We continue to urge them to ensure that the thousands of affected Africans be treated in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and basic dignity.

We commend OCHA, and the many other organisations and individuals who have come to the aid of the deserving people of Ukraine. In this regard, we welcome the third UN-organised humanitarian convoy that reached thousands of people in need in Sumy and other cities.

We call for the urgent activation of safe passages with no restrictions and call for unimpeded humanitarian access to the many in need particularly those in Mariupol, Kherson and other besieged cities.

We also urge the Security Council to reassure the world of its relevance by approaching the other conflicts with renewed vigour. The humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Haiti, the Horn of Africa, the unfolding situation in the Korean Peninsula, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Palestine/Israel, Syria, Yemen and the Sahel deserve our urgent attention.

We look forward to the Secretary General rallying the International Community to deploy resources to cushion the most vulnerable from the effects of the conflict in Ukraine.

We reiterate our call for the cessation of hostilities to allow humanitarian operations under clearly defined contact lines and humanitarian passages.

**Madame President,** I reaffirm Kenya's recognition of the inviolable rights of Ukraine to its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

**I thank you.**