

By email

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Mrs Lidia IZOVITOVA
Chairman of the Expert Council
Ukrainian National Bar Association (UNBA)
Borysohlibska St 3
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Geneva, 9 March 2022

The Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine

Dear Mrs Chairman,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Geneva Bar Association (ODAGE), which represents more than 1,500 lawyers in Geneva. The Geneva Bar Association is, among others, member of the Swiss Federation of Lawyers, the "*Union Internationale des Avocats*" and the International Bar Association.

The Geneva Bar Association places great emphasis on the respect for human rights, the rule of law and the protection of lawyers in the exercise of their activity. As such, we condemn the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine as well as the violation of international law and the Geneva Conventions.

We would like to express our full solidarity with our Ukrainian colleagues in this tragic situation and offer our support and assistance. In particular, the Geneva Bar Association has set up a dedicated legal clinic available to all Ukrainians arriving in Geneva who need legal advice as a result of the current conflict. Any queries in that respect can be sent to the following address helpukraine@odage.ch.

Our thoughts are with all of our Ukrainian colleagues who are working towards upholding the rule of law and working towards peace.

The Geneva Bar Association will continue to monitor the situation closely and remain available for any assistance required.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe COTTIER
Chair of the Geneva Bar Association

cc. Olena VYNOGRADOVA, Director of the Representative Office of the Ukrainian National Bar Association in Switzerland (alynavinogradova@gmail.com) ;

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mrs Mary LAWLOR, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (defenders@ohchr.org) ;

Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Mr Diego GARCÍA-SAYÁN, OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (ohchr-SRindependencejl@un.org) ;

Special Rapporteur on the Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and associations, Mr Clément NYALETSOSSI VOULE, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (ohchr-freeassembly@un.org).