

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDIUUM OF THE RUSSIAN ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

On February 25, the Executive Head of the International Law Association published a reminder of commitment to the norms of international law. The document confirms the "significance" of such a basic principle of international law, provided for in the UN Charter, as the prohibition of the use of armed force, except for self-defense or by decision of the UN Security Council.

Although the document does not accuse the Russian Federation of violating this principle, this is implied against the general information background of such accusations, primarily by the words that the confirmation of commitment to international law is "appropriate at this moment" ("appropriate at this moment").

But such confirmation was not considered "appropriate" by an authoritative international organization at other times –

- when the United States burned peaceful settlements of Vietnam with napalm during the war with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the 1960s, although the fact that the United States used armed force without a decision of the UN Security Council is well-known; as are the facts of US violations of international humanitarian law in this aggressive war;

- when the United States organized an armed struggle on the territory of Nicaragua to overthrow the government of the Sandinista National Liberation Front in the 1980s, which was established even in the decision of the International Court of Justice of the United Nations;

- when the armed forces of the United States and its allies invaded Iraq in 2003 without a decision of the UN Security Council.

The list of such US armed incursions into the territories of other states (Panama, Grenada, etc.) can be continued. At those moments, the leadership of a non-governmental organization - the Association of International Law - for some reason did not consider it "appropriate" to recall the importance of observing the principles of the UN Charter. Not to mention the US dropping atomic bombs on the

Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 - after the UN Charter had already been signed. The consequences of this terrible international crime of the United States are also well known.

As for the "present moment", namely, the international legal dimension of the special military operation of the Russian Federation on the territory of Donbass, as well as on the territory of neighboring regions of Ukraine, we remind, first of all, of the scientific and legal studies of US complicity in the coup d'etat in Kiev in 2014, when the efforts of the United States constitutionally elected President of Ukraine was forcibly replaced by the "acting" president of Ukraine, and Washington was able to manage the power structures of Kiev. First of all, we are talking about the following scientific and legal publications in Russian and English:

- "Moscow Journal of International Law", No. 1/2015;

- "International Life", No. 3/2019;

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- Chinese Journal of International Law. No 1/ 2021.

It was precisely as a result of the US-led coup in Kiev that Ukraine split, the pitting of people speaking Russian and Ukrainian intensified, and the nationalist and Nazi forces of Ukraine intensified. After the coup d'etat in Kiev in 2014, for many years, the armed forces of Ukraine and their nationalist battalions shelled Donbass, a territory whose residents did not recognize the new, unconstitutional, pro-American government in Kiev. After the coup d'etat of 2014 Ukrainian nationalists killed Russian activists in Kharkiv, burned in Odessa, with the connivance of the new Kiev authorities. Such a fate would have befallen the population of Crimea if they had not so amicably and quickly voted in a referendum for reunification with their historical homeland - Russia.

Russia's long-term peaceful efforts on the basis of the Minsk agreements to force post-coup Ukraine to stop aggressive actions against Russian settlements, against specific Russian citizens living in these territories have not had any result. Civilians of Donbass, including Russian citizens, continued to be shelled. Russia's

recognition of the People's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk only intensified Kiev's anti-Russian actions.

In such exceptional circumstances, the Russian Federation was forced to go on a special operation - to militarily liberate Russian citizens living in these territories, all Russians and Ukrainians from the Nazis and nationalists of Ukraine. While also demilitarizing Ukraine, the Russian Federation has no intention of occupying these territories. Earlier, Russia has already recognized the Donetsk and Luhansk republics as sovereign states, without qualifying them as part of the Russian territory.

To refrain from carrying out such a military operation was already dangerous for Russia's national interests, for the future of Russian statehood, its sovereignty and security: Washington's further management of the power in Kiev led to increased inciting of Ukrainians against Russians, against Russia; led to the glorification of the Nazis and those Ukrainians who collaborated with the Nazis during World War II; led to the deployment of all new NATO weapons on the territory of Ukraine; to its membership in NATO; could lead to the appearance of nuclear weapons in such an anti-Russian Ukraine.

The practice of NATO's absorption since 1991 of territories not only of the USSR's Warsaw Pact allies, but even of some former Soviet republics (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) shows that these are not hypothetical concerns.

The security for Russia created by the system of international agreements, including the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, has already been destroyed by NATO and its militant leader, the United States.

Due to these exceptional circumstances, on the basis of the provisions of the UN Charter on self-defense, on the protection of human rights, in accordance with the international treaties of the Russian Federation with the Donetsk and Lugansk republics, at the request of these states and taking into account the appeals of Russian citizens living on the territory of these republics, the President of Russia decided on a special military operation on the territory of Ukraine with the aim of its denazification and demilitarization.

Only war criminals from the leadership of post-Coup Ukraine, as well as those commanders of the Azov and other nationalist units, those other commanders of the armed forces of Ukraine who, as the court will find, gave orders to kill peaceful Russians in the Donbass, in Kharkov, in Odessa, and other cities, will be put on trial. The population of Ukraine, numerous relatives of Russians in Ukraine - speaking both Ukrainian and Russian - will not be harmed by the Russian military.

The above examples were given of the US armed invasion on the territories of foreign states, including the dropping of atomic bombs on Japanese cities, the use of napalm against villages in Vietnam, the use of weapons against the population of Iraq and the US military escort of the execution of its president. We emphasize that in connection with these established international crimes, none of the countries of the world has imposed any unilateral restrictive economic measures ("sanctions") against the United States.

And the economic "sanctions" that the United States and its Western allies have now imposed against Russia primarily affect broad strata of the Russian and Ukrainian population, Russian business, and its partners, including in Western countries.

We proceed from the fact that the stated international legal arguments will be heard not only in the national offices of the International Law Association.

Presidium of the Russian Association of International Law