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Chief Representative of the Lazarus Union



STATEMENT OF THE LAZARUS UNION

The LAZARUS UNION, as an NGO with general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), which is registered in Austria, sees itself in its assessment of the conflict solely guided by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and abstains from any political position and partisanship, especially against the background of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law of 26th October 1955 on Austrian neutrality.

The Lazarus Union considers on this background

1. the clear **violation** by the Russian Federation of **Article 2(4)** of the Charter of the United Nations ("All Members shall refrain in their international relations from any threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or otherwise inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations"), and
2. accept the **right of self-defence** in accordance with **Article 51** of the Charter of the United Nations on the part of Ukraine as a given.

In order to achieve a robust non-military and life-saving settlement, the war aims of those directly involved must first be considered. On the occasion of the annual anniversary, the (military) situation is as follows:

- the Russian Federation wants to continue to control and usurp the territory of Ukraine,
- Ukraine wants to regain the land that belongs to it, including Crimea.

This results in two prospects:

- a very long-lasting war of position with significant civilian and military casualties and serious destruction, or
- a dramatic escalation of the conflict with unforeseeable consequences for world peace.

On this background the Lazarus union argues for it, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Invasion of Russian troops into the Ukraine on 24 February 2022, on basis of the international right by the

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international community of the United Nations - new - ways to find, in order to reach an end of the combat actions.

"Talking instead of shooting"

Wars have traditionally been ended in only two ways:

1. by the complete destruction or exhaustion of one of the combatants, or
2. by negotiating and reaching a treaty.

The anniversary could now be the time for an immediate ceasefire and the deployment of a UN or OSCE peacekeeping force to Ukraine to monitor the ceasefire and ensure the separation of the parties to the conflict and the disarmament of non-regular combatants on both sides of the conflict. ¹

UN Secretary General António Guterres warns against an expansion of the war in Ukraine.

However, the prospect of peace is becoming increasingly remote, and the danger of further escalation is growing. The risk of nuclear war is higher than it has been for decades.

"I fear the world is not sleepwalking into a major war - I fear it is doing so with its eyes wide open," UN Secretary-General Guterres told the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Indivisible security in the sense of the United Nations Charter for all - whether NATO and EU members or not - must become the security policy maxim.

We need peace.

Oliver M. GRUBER-LAVIN OCHOA
Chief Representative

¹ E.g. UN Security Council Resolution 350 of 31 May 1974, in which the Security Council decided to establish an observer mission to monitor the troop separation agreement between Israel and Syria after the Yom Kippur War. The UNDOF ("United Nations Disengagement Observer Force") was subsequently stationed between the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Syria.