

Statement on the provocative and illegal actions of the Russian Federation

Since the end of March the Russian Federation has been amassing hundreds of thousands of its troops close to the Ukrainian border and on the annexed Crimean Peninsula. Troops are being transferred to Ukraine's borders from western and central Russia, including artillery from as far away as Siberia. In addition, at least 10 navy vessels, including landing boats and artillery warships have been moved from the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea under the guise of military exercises.

At the same time with the build-up of an unreasonably large number of Russian troops on the Ukrainian border and on the annexed Crimean Peninsula, massive ceasefire violations have erupted in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. These regions have effectively been occupied by the Russian Federation and controlled by Russian regular troops and pro-Russian separatists. Since the beginning of this year 26 Ukrainian soldiers have died as a result of incessant artillery and sniper attacks from the de facto occupied territories. These losses add to the 14,000 deaths from the war in eastern Ukraine since it began in 2014. At this time, according to the defense intelligence of Ukraine, in the occupied regions, 14 regiments of the Russian army, consisting of 28,000 soldiers, are deployed and led by regular officers of the Russian Federation. Since the beginning of the year, about 19,000 tons of fuel, 335 tons of ammunition, 35 military vehicles, 3 tanks, multiple rocket launch systems and other special equipment have been delivered from Russia to the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Moreover the Russian Federation has accumulated 32,700 troops in Crimea since the occupation of the peninsula in 2014.

Along with the accumulation and threatening maneuvers of its troops along the border of Ukraine and in the occupied territories of Ukraine, the Russian Federation continues to use threats and misinformation as tools of its hybrid war against Ukraine and its Western allies. Thus, pro-Kremlin media are undermining the statehood of Ukraine and presenting Ukraine as an aggressor that is committing genocide of Russians in Donbass. These serious accusations are unfounded and completely damage the credibility of Russian media and politicians who support and disseminate these misleading narratives.

In the context of the recent Russian reinforcements near the Ukraine border, in Moldova there have also been Russian military exercises, namely in the breakaway region of Transnistria. Military manoeuvres by the Operational Group of Russian Troops (OGRT) carried out combat exercise scenarios including the destruction of armoured vehicles and low-flying vehicles of an imaginary enemy.

In addition to the escalation against Ukraine and Moldova, on the 8th of August 2008, the Russian military launched hostilities against the Georgian army, violating Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia's aggression and the human rights abuses in Georgia include torture and inhumane treatment of Georgian soldiers and civilians, as well as illegal detention and mass expulsions of Georgian citizens.

Despite the leaders of Abkhazia, Tskhinvali (South Ossetia), Georgia and Russia signing a plan for a peace agreement on 16 August, there is continued illegal installation of new barbed-wire fences by Russian troops extending the occupation line deeper into the Georgian controlled area.

There are also undisputable facts that the Russian Federation uses its intelligence agencies not only to destabilise Ukraine, but also other European countries and its own opposition figures.

The intelligence agencies of the Russian Federation are also used for sabotage, such as the attack on the ammunition warehouses in Vrbětice. In addition, there are also assassination attempts such as those of Alexei Navalny and of Sergei and Yulia Skripal where the illegal nerve agent Novichok was used¹.

We, the Nordic Conservative Student Union (NKSU), recognise,

- The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”;
- The European Parliament resolution 2014/2627(RSP) on the invasion of Ukraine by Russia;
- The Emergency Resolution on Ukraine adopted by the EPP Congress in Dublin, Ireland, on the 6-7th March 2014.

We, the NKSU, acknowledge,

- Russia’s unilateral escalations of the war in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine;
- Russia’s occupation of the Crimean Peninsula since 2014, which is an autonomous republic and an integral part of Ukraine;
- Russia’s direct threats of military invasion of Ukraine and massive propaganda campaigns against Ukraine and its Western allies;
- Russia’s unacceptable claims of discrimination of the Russian speaking citizens of Ukraine which are completely unfounded and are a narrative of Russian propaganda.

We, the NKSU, call upon,

- The Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its troops from the Ukrainian borders;
- The Russian Federation to stop escalating the war and breaking the ceasefire in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine;
- The Russian Federation to start fully respecting the principles of and obligations laid under international law;
- The Russian Federation to immediately start the process of de-occupation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as well as the Crimean Peninsula;
- The Russian Federation to cease their aggressive actions against Georgia and the violation of the rights of Georgian citizens;
- The Russian Federation to withdraw its troops from the temporarily occupied South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Transnistria;
- The European Union and NATO Member States to provide all possible support and assistance to Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova;
- NATO member states to look into developing a NATO Membership Action Plan for Ukraine and Georgia;
- Western allies to increase the sanctions on the Russian Federation upon any aggressions against Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova or any other country, and upon any other violations of international law and agreements.

¹ Novichok has been banned by the "Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction".