



Letter no. 316 of 20 April 2022

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Dear Sirs,

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation with the assistance of the Republic of Belarus commenced a full-scale war against Ukraine. Armed forces of the Russian Federation are attacking the entire territory of Ukraine and intentionally kill civilians, including children and elderly.

These countries are bombing houses, maternity hospitals, kindergartens, ambulances and civilian vehicles in Ukraine. The world has been perplexed by the atrocities committed by the Russian soldiers and Bucha, Borodyanka, Irpin, Mariupol and other Ukrainian cities.

These actions of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Belarus constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide of Ukrainian people.

The atrocities that are being openly and disparagingly committed in Ukraine violate the United Nations Charter, Helsinki Accords, European Convention on Human Rights, Geneva Conventions and in general any and all established norms and principles of international law. Russian army is grossly breaching the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949¹.

The world unanimously reacted to the war in Ukraine urging the Russian Federation to stop military actions and withdraw the troops. Numerous legal associations and societies, including IBA, ABA and NYSBA, strongly condemned the violence, aggression and crimes of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

Despite this, Russian legal society in its majority supports and encourages the actions of President Putin, or at least silently consents. On 28 February 2022, the Association of Lawyers of Russia in its statement openly supported the actions of President Putin and justified the full-scale war in Ukraine².

Principles of professional conduct for the legal profession provide for the highest standards of honesty, integrity and fairness of lawyers towards clients, the court, colleagues and all those with whom a lawyer comes into professional contact. **We believe that lawyers, who should serve the rule of law and protect human rights, breach their oath and betray their values when they encourage or turn a blind eye at atrocities, injustice and war crimes committed by their government.**

Sport federations, media resources, art and cinema productions and other sectors stop any and all cooperation with the Russian government or its citizen. Russian citizens should not be allowed to enjoy the benefits of the western world while their country is bombing innocent women and children.

¹ Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of 12 August 1949

² <https://alrf.ru/news/zayavlenie-sopredsdateley-assotsiatsii-yuristov-rossii-v-svyazi-s-provedeniem-voennoy-spetsoperatsii/>



In view of the above, we urge you to:

- (1) Deprive all existing Russian and Belarussian members of INTA membership;
- (2) Stop accepting any new membership applications from Russian and Belarussian practitioners and entities;
- (3) Exclude all Russian and Belarussian practitioners from INTA governing bodies and committees;
- (4) Ban all Russian and Belarussian practitioners from attending the forthcoming INTA Annual Meeting in April-May 2022, as well as any further events organized by INTA.

Those who openly support the Russian aggression or remain silent when Russia and Belarus are killing innocent people in Ukraine must be held responsible for atrocities, alongside their governments.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Ogrenchuk, UBA President