



ACTION BRIEF

# CONGRESS: DON'T ABANDON UKRAINIANS

AIUSA SPOTLIGHT JANUARY-MARCH 2023

We can and must stop Congress from abandoning Ukrainians

*“Take action today to demand that your members of Congress do everything in their power to support the human rights of Ukrainians, end Russia’s war of aggression, and hold Russian officials accountable for war crimes.”*

As the world marked the one-year anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on February 24, some members of Congress threatened to cut U.S. support for Ukraine. This is unconscionable, as the Russian government’s unlawful war of aggression and ongoing stream of war crimes continue to devastate Ukrainian civilians. Tens of thousands of Ukrainians have been killed and many thousands more have been injured. Millions have been forced to become refugees, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. We can and must stop Congress from abandoning Ukrainians. As their constituent, you have the power to influence them. Take action today to demand that your Members of Congress do everything in their power to support the human rights of Ukrainians, end Russia’s war of aggression, and hold Russian officials accountable for war crimes.

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL 

## TAKE ACTION

- 1 Sign and share the online petition to your two federal Senators and Representative at [www.amnestyusa.org/ukrainecrisis](http://www.amnestyusa.org/ukrainecrisis)
- 2 Post the action on your social media accounts and on Twitter tagging the Russian Embassy in Washington DC: @RusEmbUSA
- 3 Go to [www.amnestyusa.org/ukrainecrisis](http://www.amnestyusa.org/ukrainecrisis) to learn more and take other actions.

We can and must stop Congress from abandoning Ukrainians. As their constituent, you have the power to influence them.

## BACKGROUND

The government of Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a manifest violation of the United Nations Charter and an act of aggression that is a crime under international law. All those involved in this crime must be held accountable and the war must end immediately. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been marked by indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas and strikes on protected objects such as hospitals. The government of Russia must stop attacking civilians and civilian objects in Ukraine and comply with its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

On February 24, 2022 Russia launched a full-scale invasion into Ukraine, crossing its borders and bombing military targets near and in large cities, some of its forces reaching the immediate outskirts of Kyiv the same morning.

Since that time, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the end of World War Two and has resulted in countless violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Amnesty International, and many others, have documented scores of war crimes and other violations of International Humanitarian Law, primarily by Russian forces, which include: disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks resulting in deaths and injuries of civilians;

extrajudicial killings; acts of torture; siege warfare tactics, characterized by relentless indiscriminate attacks on densely populated areas; the use of cluster munitions which is banned under international law; disruption of basic utilities and cuts to communication; destruction of civilian infrastructure; concerns over restrictions to access to medicine and healthcare; and abuses against prisoners of war.

### CONTACT US

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA  
[www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

e: [campaigns@aiusa.org](mailto:campaigns@aiusa.org)  
t: 212.807.8400  
f: 212.671.1451

Amnesty International USA  
311 W 43rd Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10036

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL** 