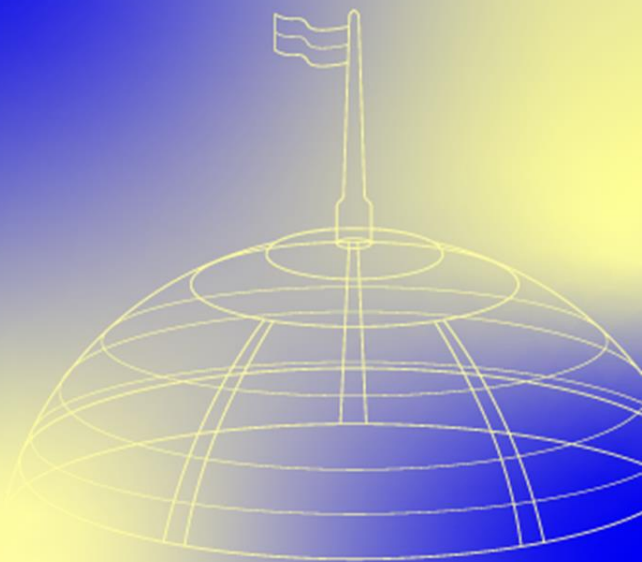




● Internews Ukraine ● RADA: Next Generation ●
Information Department of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Secretariat

INFO DIGEST Parliaments on the Frontline

Nº 42 April, 28

OLENA KONDRATIUK

Vice-Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

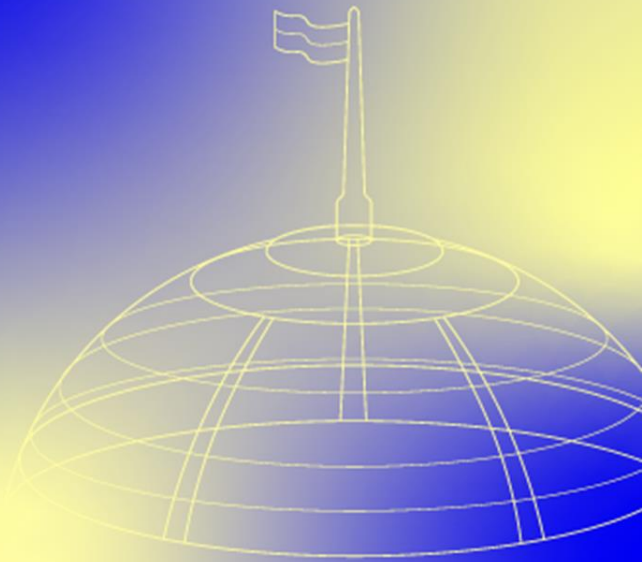
28/04/2022

Canada has become the fourth state to condemn at the parliamentary level the crime of genocide that is being committed by the Russian forces in Ukraine. We hope other progressive countries will follow the examples of Canada, Estonia, Poland, and Latvia.



You received this digest because your support as a Parliamentarian, a Politician, and an Opinion-maker is crucial to Ukraine during Russia's outrageous attack on its sovereignty and the fundamental principles of a democratic society. This communication aims to deliver the latest developments in connection with the war to members of the world's Parliaments, amplify the voices of Ukrainian MPs, document crimes against humanity perpetrated by Russian invaders, and highlight international solidarity and support for Ukraine by other Parliamentarians.

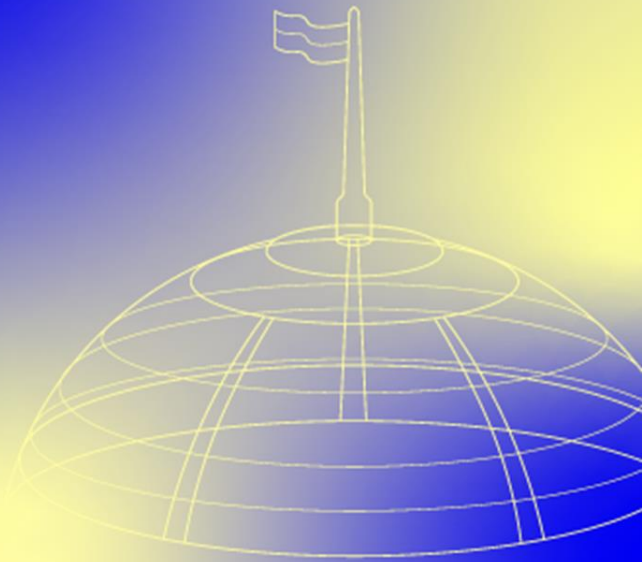
We urge all representatives of democratic nations to support decisions in favor of the increased humanitarian, financial, and military assistance to Ukraine. We also call for immediate approval of the strictest possible sanctions on the Russian Federation. #StandWithUkraine and protect the global democratic order!



WAR CRIME WATCH:



- A [missile hit two private houses in Zaporizhzhia](#), injuring 3 persons, among whom is one child.
- The Russian military [bombed Mariupol and Azovstal all night long](#), using missiles, artillery, and phosphorous munitions. A [military field hospital](#) set up at the steel rolling plant was severely damaged.
- As a result of an [airstrike](#), three people died in New York, Donetsk region.
- Kharkiv region was once again [shelled with multiple launch rocket systems](#). The city of Kharkiv itself [remains under artillery fire](#). One more person was [reported dead](#) and eight persons were injured.



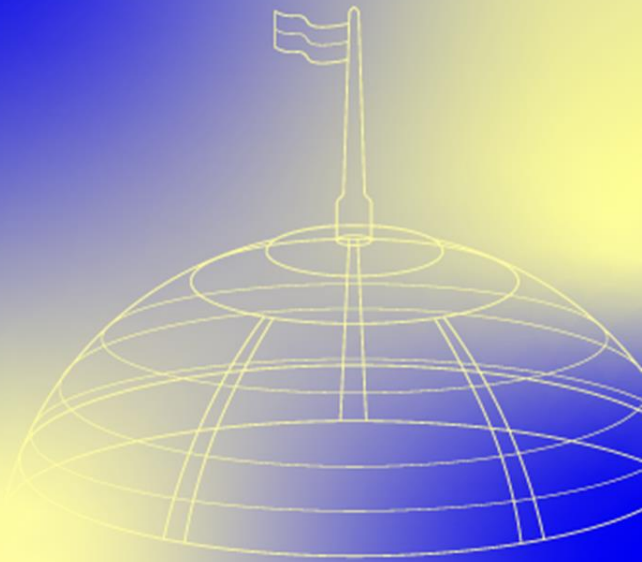
- Border areas of the Sumy region were [shelled about 50 times](#) from the territory of Russia in the last 24 hours.
- On April 27, a total of [4 persons were killed in Luhansk oblast](#) and 4 more were injured. One person died as a result of the [shelling of a hospital](#). In [Lysychansk](#) and Popasna, 23 buildings were damaged.
- The psychological support hotline, which was launched jointly with UNICEF, has received more than 600 calls in three weeks. Most of them (80%) were related to [cases of sexual violence](#) by Russian soldiers.
- The Russian military [removed equipment from the hospital in Mariupol, where civilians are treated](#), to a maternity home where they are setting up their own military hospital.
- In Hirske, Luhansk region, Russians [destroyed a power station](#), likely leaving the settlement with no electricity until the very end of the war.
- According to the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, the [total damage to Ukrainian infrastructure](#) from the war amounts to \$90 billion.
- Ukraine's Prosecutor-General has reported on the [first ten Russian servicemen notified in absentia of suspicion](#) of committing war crimes in Bucha.
- Osnat Lubrani, UN in Ukraine Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, is coming to Zaporizhzhia to [help prepare for evacuation from Mariupol](#).

REACTIONS IN THE PARLIAMENTS GLOBALLY:

PACE

On April 27, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [adopted Resolution 2433 \(2022\)](#) named "Consequences of the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine: role and response of the Council of Europe".

It is the first PACE resolution that explicitly calls for the urgent set up of an ad hoc international criminal tribunal to investigate and prosecute the crime of aggression committed against Ukraine.



The document also calls on Council of Europe member states to step up assistance for Ukraine both in military and humanitarian areas, stop any supplying of weapons, components or dual-use goods for russian military industry, and continue to exert pressure on russia.

In a separate press release, which was also issued on April 27, PACE urged the Council of Europe member states to identify and freeze as many of the assets as possible of russian citizens and state enterprises subject to targeted sanctions.

In the parliamentarians' opinion, governments should provide for the use of suitable assets, in particular houses and apartments, for the reception of Ukrainian refugees. The Assembly also believes that frozen assets would help to partially compensate for the damage caused by russia's war in Ukraine.

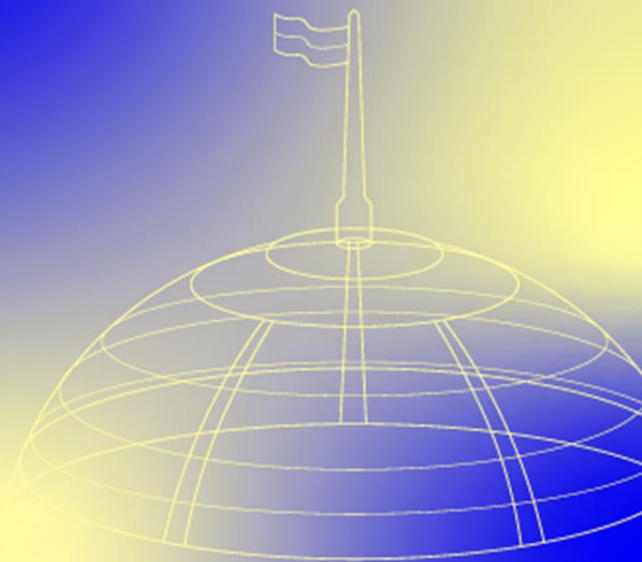
As the debate on the consequences of Russian aggression in Ukraine continues, new speakers have made statements in support of Ukraine.

Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, reiterated his call to russia to respect its obligations under the Geneva Conventions and to take all steps to evacuate people from the eastern and southern territories of Ukraine safely and quickly.

Emanuelis Zingeris, a member of Lithuanian Seimas, also urged russia to provide humanitarian corridors, both for civilians and wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

Lise Christoffersen, a member of the Norwegian Storting, stated that mere pointing to the responsibility of russian state is not sufficient and that responsibility must be shared between specific soldiers, generals, and russian president himself. The parliamentarian also called for the establishment of an ad hoc tribunal that would be able to hold putin and his inner circle accountable.

Finally, George Foulkes, a member of the UK Parliament, said he had no doubt that putin, his generals and troops had committed massive war crimes, perhaps even genocide.



USA

On April 27, the Committee on Rules of the US House of Representatives [finalized the lend-lease bill for Ukraine](#) and submitted it to the House of Representatives for consideration. A vote is expected in the near future.

The bill was supplemented with an amendment on recognizing Russia as a sponsor of terrorism.

As reported by Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, the US House of Representatives passed on April 28 another important bill that provides a mechanism for [confiscating sanctioned Russian assets](#) and using them to rebuild Ukraine and aid Ukrainians. This step had been previously discussed with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi during Shmygal's visit to the United States.

GERMANY

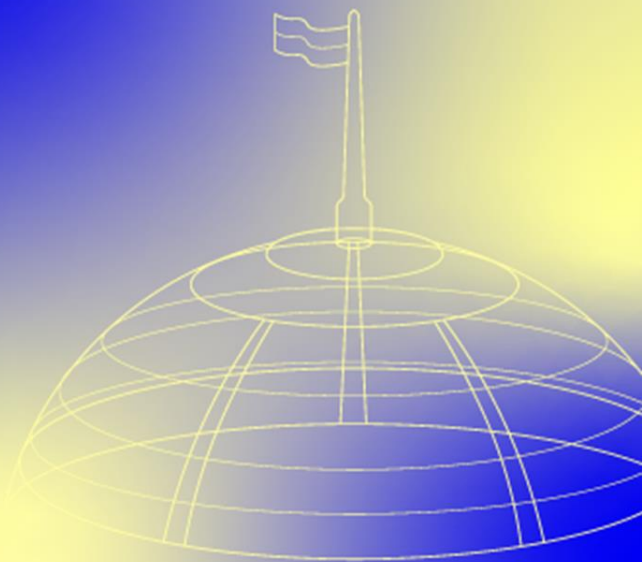
Lawmakers in the German Bundestag [approved the delivery of "heavy weapons and complex \[weapon\] systems"](#) to Ukraine.

In addition to heavy weapons, such as anti-aircraft systems and armored vehicles, the measure passed by German parliamentarians includes provisions for sending heavier equipment to eastern NATO allies as well.

An overwhelming vote, with 586 votes in favor of providing Ukraine with weapons, is believed to represent a historic shift in policy for Germany. Britta Haßelmann, a co-chair of the Green Party's parliamentary group, said that arms deliveries would serve as a balancing act, allowing Germany to aid Ukraine without becoming a party to the war.

CANADA

House of Commons of Canada unanimously passed a [motion recognizing Russian aggression against Ukraine as an act of genocide](#) on April 27, effectively making Canada the fourth country to formally recognize genocide in Ukraine, along with Poland, Latvia, and Estonia.



The motion says there is “clear and ample evidence of systematic and massive war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed against the people of Ukraine by the armed forces of the russian federation” and recognizes the following acts as genocidal:

- killing of Ukrainian civilians
- desecration of corpses
- forcible transfer of Ukrainian children
- torture and rape

The motion had [originally been moved by MP Heather McPherson](#), who said she was pleased to see it pass with the support of all parties and parliamentarians in the House of Commons. She introduced the motion as a way to push the government to take stronger actions against russia, particularly through sanctions and directing larger funding to the International Criminal Court.

BRAZIL

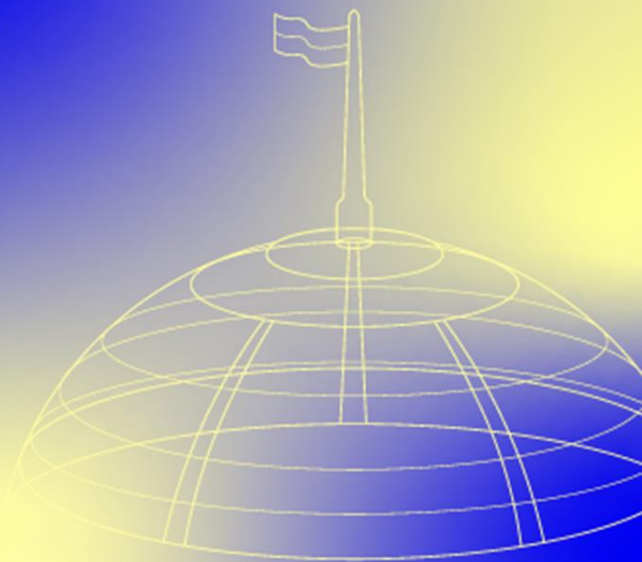
On April 28, the Federal Senate of the National Congress of Brazil unanimously passed a bill that [recognizes the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as genocide](#). It also establishes a Holodomor Remembrance Day every 4th Saturday in November.

The bill had been submitted by Senator Alvaro Diaz and pre-approved at the meeting on April 26. It will now be considered by the Chamber of Deputies.

ROMANIA, SWITZERLAND & NORTH MACEDONIA

Two more parliamentary delegations joined Romanian lawmakers in visiting Kyiv and its suburbs on April 27. [Speakers of Romania's, Switzerland's and North Macedonia's parliaments traveled to Ukraine](#) to see the sights of atrocities and discuss support for the country, which includes tougher sanctions against russia, financial, humanitarian, and military assistance, support for Ukraine's EU accession, and joint plan for post-war reconstruction.

Talat Xhaferi, President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, [promised](#) to make all the efforts to extend support to Ukraine. Irene Kallin, President of the National Council of the Federal Assembly of Switzerland, expressed her hope to start



rebuilding an independent, sovereign, prosperous Ukraine in the near future. Florin Cîțu, President of the Senate of Romania, pledged to further help Ukrainian refugees, many of whom are now seeking shelter in Romania.

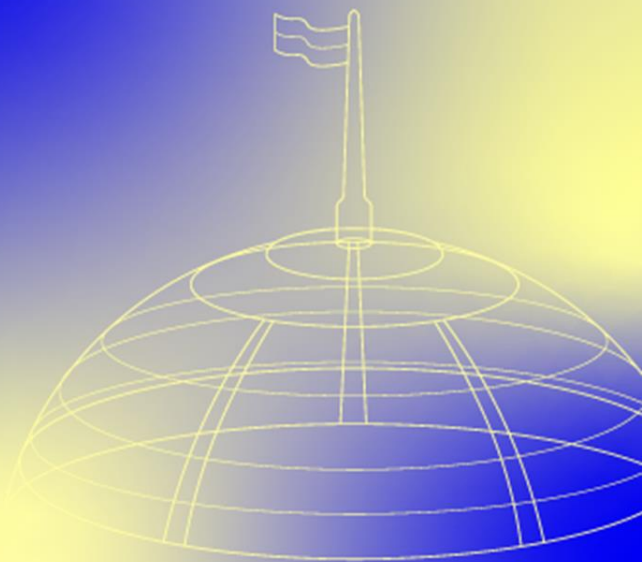
UKRAINE'S PARLIAMENT:

***Servant of People* Political Party and its faction in the Parliament suspended faction's membership of MP O. Kovalov**

On April 28, the *Servant of People* Political Party and its faction in the Parliament delivered a [joint statement](#), suspending the membership of MP Oleksiy Kovalov in the *Servant of People* VRU's faction and calling for the official investigation of his actions. "As for now, Mr. Kovalov remains on the occupied territory and does not visit VRU's plenary meetings. He states that he is involved in humanitarian work. At the same time, Kovalov has been in contact with russian troops that take no actions against him, while other Ukrainian officials are captured and tortured on the territory controlled by russia," the joint statement reads.

On April 28, VRU Speaker Stefanchuk invited his Swedish counterpart to visit Kyiv

In his virtual conference, Ruslan Stefanchuk, VRU Speaker [invited](#) his Swedish counterpart Andreas Norlén to visit Kyiv to witness firsthand the aftermath of russia's war against Ukraine. They also touched upon the issues of humanitarian and economic assistance to Ukraine, as well as military aid.



The Program together with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is conducting an information campaign urging on the world community to close the skies over Ukraine.

[At these links](#) you will find visual materials that can be shared on social networks with the hashtag:

#StopRussianAggression
#CloseTheSkyoverUkraine
#StopPutin

Do not be indifferent, help us defend our country, Europe and the democratic values of the entire civilized world!

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