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ORAL STATEMENT
Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine
UN Human Rights Council
52nd session
27 February 2023 – 4 April 2023

Mr President,

Amnesty International thanks the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine for their report.

The people of Ukraine have suffered unspeakable horror during this war of aggression over the last year. As Russian forces persevere with their offensive in Ukraine, grave human rights violations continue to be committed and human beings continue to lose their livelihood, their loved ones, their life.

The Commission's findings corroborate findings of war crimes and other violations committed by Russian forces that we have documented, including extrajudicial executions and torture, deadly strikes on civilian infrastructure and places of shelter, and unlawful killings committed on a vast scale through shelling of cities.

Many Ukrainian civilians, including children, older people and people with disabilities, have been deported from Ukraine to Russia or forcibly transferred deeper into Russian-occupied areas, in what amounts to war crimes and likely crimes against humanity. The ICC arrest warrants issued against Vladimir Putin and Russia's children's rights commissioner are an important signal – both for Ukraine and the rest of the world – that those who are allegedly responsible for crimes under international law in Ukraine will face arrest and trial, no matter how powerful they are.

We strongly support the Commission's call on Russia to cease aggression and all acts of violence against civilians; take all feasible precautions to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure and end massive attacks against energy-related infrastructure in Ukraine; release or return to Ukraine all Ukrainian civilians who have been unlawfully detained and/or deported to the Russian Federation.

Amnesty International urges the Council to fully engage with the Commission's findings, and actively commit to international justice for the victims of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine.

Comprehensive justice for Ukraine will only be achieved by strengthening and developing national, regional and international accountability mechanisms, and providing meaningful justice and reparations to victims. This will only be possible if the international community adopts a survivor-centred approach and provides robust and sustained support to existing and nascent justice processes. We further urge the Council to renew the Commission's mandate in full demonstrating that the international community's commitment to hold all perpetrators of gross human rights violations and crimes under international law to account is as urgent as ever.

We thank you.