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CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE: LEGISLATIVE REGULATION

In early February 2022, satellite imagery showed the largest deployment of Russian troops to its border with Belarus since the end of the Cold War. Negotiations between the United States, Russia, and European powers – including France and Germany – failed to bring about a resolution. In late February 2022, the United States warned that Russia intended to invade Ukraine, citing Russia's growing military presence at the Russia-Ukraine border. President Putin then ordered troops to Luhansk and Donetsk, claiming the troops served a «peacekeeping» function. The United States responded by imposing sanctions on the regions and the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline a few days later. Nevertheless, just prior to the invasion, U.S. and Ukrainian leaders remained at odds regarding the nature and likelihood of an armed Russian threat, with Ukrainian officials playing down the possibility of an incursion and delaying the mobilization of their troops and reserve forces.

On February 24, 2022, during a last-ditch UN Security Council effort to dissuade Russia from attacking Ukraine, Putin announced the beginning of a full-scale land, sea, and air invasion of Ukraine targeting Ukrainian military assets and cities across the country. U.S. President Joe Biden declared the attack «unprovoked and unjustified» and issued severe sanctions against top Kremlin officials, including Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov; four of Russia's largest banks; and the Russian oil and gas industry in coordination with European allies. On March 2, 141 of 193 UN member states voted to condemn Russia's invasion in an emergency UN General Assembly session, demanding that Russia immediately withdraw from Ukraine [1].

The conflict has taken a massive toll on every single person, but in particular women and girls as reports of sexual and physical violence, exploitation and abuse continue to increase.

Damage and destruction to medical facilities as well as a shortage of service providers and critical supplies have also severely compromised the delivery of essential health services including access to maternal care for the estimated 265,000 women who were pregnant when conflict erupted, and specialized services for gender-based violence survivors [2].

Women and girls constituted most of the alleged victims, while some reporting instances of sexual violence were also men and boys. A national hotline on domestic violence, human trafficking and gender-based discrimination has been set up, and has received multiple shocking reports ranging from gang rape, to coercion, where loved ones are forced to watch an act of sexual violence committed against a partner or a child [3].

Recently, on September 23rd, the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine reported to the UN Human Rights Commission on their findings from Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Sumy, that they had uncovered evidence of war crimes including of sexual and gender-based violence and that the victims ranged in age from four to 82 years old. Horrifying personal testimonies in print and electronic media attest to the appalling tragedies survivors endure at the hands of Russian soldiers. Civil society organizations and service providers in Ukraine and working with Ukrainian refugees also report an increased need in their services to help survivors [4].

Список використаних джерел

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4. Ensuring Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence resulting from Russia's War against Ukraine, 3 October 2022 by U.S. Mission to the OSCE. URL: <https://osce.usmission.gov/ensuring-accountability-for-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-resulting-from-russias-war-against-ukraine/>.

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POLICING IN TIME OF WAR: PROBLEMS AND WAYS OF DEVELOPMENT

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched a large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, killing Ukrainian citizens and destroying towns and villages as a result of offensive hostilities, including missile, artillery and air strikes. In order to repel the aggressor and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state, martial law was imposed in Ukraine by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 64/2022 as of 24 February 2022. So, the conduct of contemporary military operations takes place in a highly complex and contested terrain of legal and social norms. Whether a military force is engaged in conventional armed conflict, counter-insurgency, anti-terrorism, peacekeeping/enforcement, stability operations, or law enforcement, there is a convergence of a dense mixture of law, doctrine and policy that guides military decision-making.

The synchronization of law and policy on the one hand, and of formalism and social effect on the other, needs to be constantly reconciled. Involvement of police officers has become a key feature of operational planning