

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 871

Condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

Whereas, on January 12, 1951, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (commonly known as the “Genocide Convention”), of which the Russian Federation is a signatory, came into effect;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation renewed their illegal and unprovoked large-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 9, 2022, Russian Forces attacked a maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of 3 individuals and injuries to 17 other individuals;

Whereas, on March 22, 2022, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry announced that the Russian military had forcefully and illegally kidnapped 2,389 Ukrainian children from temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine;

Whereas, on June 2, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that 200,000 children are among the Ukrainians who have been forcefully resettled in Russia;

Whereas forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the Genocide Convention;

Whereas, Maria Lvova-Belova, Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of Russia, admitted to kidnapping Ukrainian children and facilitating forced adoptions to Russian families;

Whereas Ukrainian authorities have stated that a number of the kidnapped Ukrainian children have families who remain in Ukraine, but have been separated due to the renewed Russian invasion;

Whereas on June 16, 2022, Russian authorities announced that children born in occupied Ukrainian territories after the February 24, 2022, invasion will be deemed Russian citizens;

Whereas, on June 22, 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner has verified that at least 320 children have been killed since Russia's renewed invasion began;

Whereas, on July 11, 2022, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres ordered an investigation into the deaths and injuries of Ukrainian children; and

Whereas, on July 13, 2022, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken issued a statement calling upon Russia to "im-

mediately halt its systemic filtration operations in Ukraine”, which have caused the disappearance, detention, or forcible deportation of between 900,000 and 1,600,000 Ukrainians (approximately 260,000 of whom are children): Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) holds the Government of the Russian Fed-
3 eration, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, re-
4 sponsible for the wrongful and illegal kidnapping of
5 children from Ukraine and officially condemns these
6 actions in the strongest terms;

7 (2) declares that the facilitation of illegal adop-
8 tions is contrary to Russia’s obligations under the
9 Genocide Convention and amounts to genocide;

10 (3) claims that the Russian Federation is at-
11 tempting to wipe out a generation of Ukrainian chil-
12 dren, thereby crippling Ukraine’s ability to nurture
13 the next generation of Ukrainian citizens and lead-
14 ers and to rebuild their country after Russia’s
15 unprovoked war, with the purpose of demolishing
16 Ukraine’s unique language, culture, history, and
17 identity; and

18 (4) asserts that the invasion of Ukraine by the
19 Russian Federation has significantly increased the
20 risks of children being exposed to human trafficking
21 and exploitation, child labor, gender-based violence,

- 1 hunger, injury, trauma, deprivation of education and
- 2 shelter, and death.

