

Dear Chargé d’Affaires, Kristin M. Kane,

- Considering that the Russian Federation invaded the sovereign territory of Ukraine after declaring the beginning of a “special military operation” on the 24th of February of 2022;
- Regarding that this invasion violates the obligations stated on the 2nd article of the Charter of the United Nations, imposing that member states of the UN shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or the political independence of any State;
- Recalling the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed on the 1st of August of 1975 in Helsinki, promising all participant States sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, the inviolability of frontiers, the territorial integrity of States and equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- Conforming with the drafted resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, called in emergency special session on the 2nd of March 2022, “deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine” and demanding “the Russian Federation immediate cease its use of force against Ukraine”;

Thousands of citizens, convened by the Association of Ukrainians in Portugal, decided to express their repulsion towards the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian military and therefore are peacefully manifesting in Lisbon in form of a **Human Chain for Peace** in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

The respect towards the Charter of the United Nations and the requirement that it shall be respected by all member States, moves these citizens to protest. We protest in solidarity with all the victims of this conflict in a fraternal manner for the respect of freedom and self-determination of the peoples. We do not find any justifiable reason to this invasion and therefore admonish the country represented by Your Excellency in Portugal to repulse with us under the strongest terms.

We second the sanctions imposed to the invader country and its people in power, as a nonviolent way of expressing disapproval from the international community towards their acts.

We are urging the Government and citizens of the country represented by your Excellency to continue sending every possible effort to find a solution, under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations, to bring back peace and respect to the inalienable rights of the Ukrainian people.

We trust that the special responsibility of your country, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, will serve peace, mutual respect of peoples and peaceful interactions.

We ask once again, to do everything within your power to end this aggression and support the remaintenance of fair and lasting peace in Ukraine.

Best regards

In representation of the citizens who protested in Lisbon the 4th of March 2022

The Association of Ukrainians in Portugal