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Prevention of armed conflict

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

**Letter dated 14 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the abduction of the mayor of Melitopol by the Russian occupiers (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 (a) and 67, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sergiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 14 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the abduction of the mayor of Melitopol by the Russian occupiers

The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is accompanied by gross violations of norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as other human rights violations by the Russian military.

Among such gross violations was the abduction of Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov on March 11. Russian troops, who have been launching missile and bomb attacks on civilian facilities and infrastructure in Ukraine, including children's hospitals and schools, over the course of two weeks, are cynically accusing the Mayor of "terrorism".

The abduction of the Mayor of Melitopol is classified as a war crime under the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocol that prohibit the taking of civilian hostages during the war.

We call on the international community to respond immediately to the abduction of Ivan Fedorov and other civilians, and to increase pressure on Russia to end its barbaric war against the Ukrainian people.

The fact of the abduction of the Mayor of Melitopol, along with hundreds of other facts of war crimes by Russian occupiers on the Ukrainian soil, are being carefully documented by law enforcement agencies. The perpetrators of this and other crimes will be brought to the strictest responsibility.
