

Remarks by Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Efforts to Support Ukraine Against Russian Aggression
Thursday, May 12, 2022
Delivered Virtually from the International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Thank you, Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, and Members of the Committee. I'm honored to join you today from Nuremberg, where 75 years ago Nazi perpetrators were held accountable for crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The international legal architecture we utilize today to prosecute those responsible for atrocity crimes is not only a result of our own efforts at Nuremberg, but of *all those* who liberated Europe, including the Soviet Union. Tragically, Russia has turned its back on this history and its international and domestic legal obligations, including under the Geneva Conventions.

The United States supports accountability mechanisms for atrocities committed in Ukraine, including investigations by Ukraine's national authorities; international investigations, including at the International Criminal Court and the United Nations; and investigations by third countries that can establish jurisdiction. We support the important work of human rights documenters and forensic experts on the ground inside and outside Ukraine, the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry and the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Expert Mission.

This week on May 11th, we launched a multilateral U.S., EU, and UK initiative – the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA) – to provide strategic advice, operational assistance, and training to Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General to ensure fair and effective prosecutions. We are also coordinating closely with USAID on documentation efforts.

We note that there is legislation emerging in Congress that would close existing gaps in our War Crimes Act and criminalize crimes against humanity to enable more prosecutions.

At this moment, there is global consensus that Russia's conduct is intolerable and those responsible for atrocities must be held accountable. We must continue to support domestic, international, and multilateral initiatives to advance justice and

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accountability, preserve the sanctity of international law, and respond to victims' legitimate demands for justice.

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to your questions.

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