



**Dr. Daniela De Ridder's Speech at the OSCE PA
Autumn Meeting in Warsaw**

November 24-25, 2022

**THE WAR IN UKRAINE
THE ROLE OF THE OSCE AND
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

SESSION 3

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FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Dear Madam President,

Dear Mr Vice-President,

Dear Mr Mecacci,

Dear colleagues,

As Special Representative for Eastern Europe, I strongly condemn Russia's war of aggression. It is a fundamental attack on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Ukrainian people.

Russia is targeting civilian infrastructure. In light of the Russian army's failures, President Putin is increasingly directing his war against the population. The number of civilians killed increases with each passing day, including many children. More than 14 million people have already been forced to flee the war. There are numerous reports of violations of the international humanitarian law of war: mass summary executions, rape, torture, and scorched earth looting and pillaging.

The crimes against humanity and war crimes must be punished! Impunity only encourages the perpetrators to commit further crimes. Therefore, I call upon the members of the Parliamentary Assembly to support the criminal investigations of the International Criminal Court and to advocate for their own criminal investigations in the OSCE participating States in accordance with the principle of international law!

Two former staff members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission were sentenced to prison terms by the illegitimate authorities in the occupied territories of Ukraine for carrying out their official duties. They must be released immediately! The compliance of the warring parties with their human rights obligations must be monitored without any gaps. To this end, we should make intensive use of existing instruments such as the Moscow Mechanism. Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank ODIHR Director Mecacci for his efforts.

Dear colleagues,

Russia's war against Ukraine also threatens the food security of the world's population. It is to be strongly condemned that Russia uses hunger as a weapon against the Ukrainian civilian population. It is unacceptable that the supply of food on the world market is being reduced in order to push through political interests with the increased prices. People in poorer countries in particular are dependent on grain imports from Ukraine.

For this reason I would like to thank all those who made the extension of the grain agreement possible. But the issue must receive greater attention in the future. It is essential to integrate global food security issues into the security architecture of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly:

This is a fundamental component of economic and environmental security.

Dear Colleagues,

without dialogue, diplomacy and reconciliation of interests, conflicts cannot be resolved and peace cannot be secured in the long term. I am very passionate in promoting this.

Thank you for your attention.

Dr. Daniela De Ridder