



Via email: uno_us@mfa.gov.ua

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE AND CONDEMNING THE ERITREAN REGIME
FOR SUPPORTING THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE.**

March 1, 2022

Sergiy Kyslytsya

Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN
220 East 51st Street, New York, N. Y. 10022.

Re: In solidarity with the people of Ukraine

Dear Ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya,

We are shocked by the Russian aggression and its large-scale military invasion into the sovereign land of Ukraine. This act is a violation of fundamental international law and norms. Thus, we call upon the government of Russia to immediately cease its military assault and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As human rights activists and justice seekers, we in the Eritrean Global Yiakl Movement stand for peace, freedom, democracy, and rule of law. As victims of wars, the Eritrean people have experienced many devastating humanitarian tragedies that resulted in deaths, injuries, displacement, and destruction. In this dreadful time of war, we wish to express our empathy and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

It is worth noting, the people of Eritrea and Ukraine have traveled a long and difficult journey in pursuit of justice, freedom, and independence; and stood ground against repressive expansionist imperial powers. Both Eritrea and Ukraine gained independence in the same year in 1991. Ukraine on August 24, 1991, followed by a referendum in December 1991; similarly, Eritrea became independent on May 24, 1991, followed by a referendum in April 1993, both securing their rightful place among independent nations of the world.

In the face of insurmountable challenges of the last thirty years, we applaud Ukraine for its unrelenting efforts to restore dignity for its citizens by forging ahead with democratic reforms, instituting rule of law, and upholding human rights. Alas, Eritrea regressed to authoritarian rule led by President Isaias Afwerki.

On February 28, 2022, even though the U.N. Human Rights Council had overwhelmingly approved a request to hold an urgent debate on the crisis in Ukraine, to our dismay the Eritrean regime had sided with Russia and voted against the proposal. It is worth remembering that, previously, the Eritrean regime has supported the illegal occupation of Crimea by Russian forces in 2014.

At this juncture, as we express our disappointment, we wish the brotherly people of Ukraine to know the actions taken by the repressive government of Eritrea do not represent the views and opinions of the Eritrean people. The decision was an irresponsible and historic mistake, and we are sorry for that.

The Eritrean regime has consistently proved that it is a menace to regional and world peace and we urge the international community to use all the resources at its disposal to help the Eritrean people install a democratic and responsible government.

Since Eritrean Global Yiakl Movement is rooted in the pursuit of justice and change for the democratic system in Eritrea, we recognize the importance of raising our voices together and declare our solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are suffering due to Russian aggression.

Finally, while we are calling upon Russia to halt its military campaign and to resolve issues peacefully, we also support the government and people of Ukraine to exercise their right to defend their sovereign homeland.

Wish you peace and security.

Truly yours,

Eritrean Global Yiakl Movement

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