

International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM)

HRC 49Special Debate Ukraine

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The International Human Rights Association of American Minorities deplores the loss of life in Ukraine, calls for an immediate cease-fire, prompt humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation of victims.

IHRAAM condemns the violation of the *jus cogens* prohibition of the use of force and deplores that in the recent past Article 2(4) of the UN Charter has been violated with impunity by states conducting military activities without approval of the Security Council against among others Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Somalia. IHRAAM deplores the continued bombardment of civilians in Yemen, the world's worst humanitarian disaster. It notes the silence of the international community when Armenians of Nagorno Karabagh were victims of a Blitzkrieg that resulted in thousands of civilian deaths. Such instances of illegal use of force have created what may be termed "precedents of permissibility" and diminished the authority of the United Nations. This Council must condemn the use of force by all states with the same resoluteness.

While IHRAAM calls upon Russia to stop its aggression on Ukraine, third parties must refrain from adding fuel to the fire. NATO should respect the legitimate security interests of Russia, who feels threatened by its hostile eastward expansion and by the flooding of Ukraine with lethal weapons. IHRAAM recalls that article 2(4) of the Charter prohibits not only the use of force but also the threat of the use of force.

We encourage Ukraine and Russia to negotiate in good faith and respect the human rights of civilians and soldiers. This war is not a simple fist-fight among schoolboys, there is potential of further escalation, which must be avoided by all.

In 1962 the world was saved from nuclear Apocalypse by a negotiated *quid pro quo*. The Soviets removed missiles from Cuba, the Americans removed missiles from Turkey. Today the world demands a compromise that will guarantee sustainable peace based on a new security architecture for Europe and the world. The goal must not be "victory" of one side over the other, or "winner takes all", but a readjustment of the power imbalances that lead to armed conflict. The goal is peace with justice. *Pax et Iustitia*.