

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 956

Supporting the people of Ukraine.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2022

Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mrs. SPARTZ) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the people of Ukraine.

Whereas, on January 21, 1990, more than 300,000 Ukrainians called for unity and independence from the Soviet Union by forming a human chain between the cities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk;

Whereas, on December 1, 1991, more than 90 percent of Ukrainian citizens voted in a national referendum in support of independence, with majorities in every region;

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, the Euromaidan protests began in favor of signing the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement, resulting in the Revolution of Dignity and the removal of President Viktor Yanukovich by the Verkhovna Rada;

Whereas, in February and March of 2014, the Russian Federation invaded the peninsula of Crimea, illegally annexed

the region, held a sham referendum, and claimed the territory to be a part of Russia;

Whereas, beginning in April 2014, the Russian Federation invaded the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Eastern Ukraine instigating violence, stoking conflict, arming separatists, and spreading disinformation on Ukrainian soil;

Whereas, on July 17, 2014, Russian soldiers or Russian separatist fighters shot down the passenger flight MH17 flying over the Donbas with a Buk surface-to-air missile provided by the Russian Federation, killing all 298 innocent passengers on board;

Whereas, since February 2015, Russia has continued to fail to live up to its agreements under the Minsk agreements and the Russian-backed war in the Donbas has claimed approximately 14,000 lives;

Whereas the Russian military conducted a large-scale buildup in and around Ukraine in March and April 2021 under the guise of military exercises, leaving significant military equipment behind;

Whereas the Russian military initiated its most recent much larger military buildup in October 2021 that culminated in approximately 190,000 forces by the time of Russia's renewed full-scale incursion on February 24, 2022;

Whereas, on February 21, 2022, the State Duma of Russia passed a bill, approved by President Vladimir Putin, to officially recognize the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic as independent;

Whereas, on February 21, 2022, Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops into the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic after recognizing their independence;

Whereas the decision to recognize the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic as independent and order Russian troops into that territory was not only in violation of international law, Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the Minsk agreements, but also tantamount to a declaration of war;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russian forces, enabled by Belarus, launched its unprovoked full-scale renewed invasion of a peaceful, independent country, Ukraine;

Whereas, since 2014, the United States has provided \$3,100,000,000 in security assistance to Ukraine, including over \$1,000,000,000 over the course of the last year, \$200,000,000 of which was approved on December 27, 2021, and \$350,000,000 of which was approved on February 26, 2022;

Whereas it is the right of all countries to decide their own future, foreign policy, and security arrangements free from outside interference or coercion;

Whereas the Russian Federation repeatedly lied about their massive buildup of military forces around Ukraine and claimed that reports Russia would invade Ukraine were hysteria;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, the G7 issued a statement condemning the "large-scale military aggression by the Russian Federation against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine";

Whereas, on February 25, 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization condemned "in the strongest possible terms Russia's horrifying attack on Ukraine", called on Russia

“to turn back from the path of violence and aggression”,
and reaffirmed an “iron-clad” commitment to Article 5;

Whereas the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy,
the United Kingdom, and Canada joined with the United
States, committed to coordinated economic sanctions, in-
cluding severe restrictions, against Russia’s Central Bank
and full blocking sanctions against Vladimir Putin;

Whereas United States leadership is integral to nations
around the world in condemning and imposing costs on
the Russian Federation for its illegal, full-scale, renewed
invasion;

Whereas Russian forces have targeted civilians and have com-
mitted war crimes and crimes against humanity;

Whereas, in the days since the renewed full-scale invasion
began, Russian citizens have taken to the streets in cities
and towns across Russia to protest Putin’s illegitimate
and destructive war waged against a peaceful and sov-
ereign Ukraine; and

Whereas the United States, along with allies in Europe, the
Indo-Pacific, and others around the world, has been ac-
tively responding to Russia’s unprovoked war of aggres-
sion against Ukraine with critical military, humanitarian,
and financial support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian peo-
ple: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) demands an immediate cease-fire and the
- 3 full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian
- 4 territory;
- 5 (2) supports, unequivocally, Ukraine’s sov-
- 6 ereignty and territorial integrity;

1 (3) backs the continued use of sanctions, in co-
2 ordination with United States allies and partners, to
3 fully isolate the Putin regime economically for its
4 unprovoked aggression against Ukraine;

5 (4) urges the United States and its allies and
6 partners to deliver additional and immediate defen-
7 sive security assistance to help Ukraine address the
8 armored, airborne, and other threats Ukraine is cur-
9 rently facing from Russian forces;

10 (5) commits to continuing to support resistance
11 by the Ukrainian people as long as the Russian Fed-
12 eration continues to violate Ukraine's sovereignty
13 and territorial integrity;

14 (6) promises to continue to provide significant
15 additional aid and humanitarian relief to Ukrainian
16 refugees fleeing Russia's aggression, commends Eu-
17 ropean partners for their efforts to relieve suffering
18 on the ground, and urges the Russian Federation
19 alongside United States allies and partners to guar-
20 antee safe passage out of the country;

21 (7) reaffirms its strong support for the security
22 of United States allies and ironclad commitment to
23 Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
24 (NATO);

1 (8) emphasizes that NATO's relationship with
2 Ukraine is a matter only for Ukraine and the 30
3 NATO allies;

4 (9) pledges to support working with Europe and
5 international partners to bolster Europe's energy se-
6 curity and reduce its dependence on Russian energy
7 imports;

8 (10) underscores the importance of maintaining
9 United States energy independence for the benefit of
10 the American people and United States allies;

11 (11) reiterates that Crimea and the territories
12 illegally controlled by the illegitimate Russian-con-
13 trolled governments in Donetsk and Luhansk are
14 sovereign Ukrainian territory;

15 (12) declares that the war in Ukraine, a demo-
16 cratic country, is the frontline of democracy and
17 freedom versus authoritarianism represented by
18 Putin's Russia;

19 (13) supports the right of the Russian people to
20 protest, including the current protests against
21 Putin's unprovoked war against Ukraine, and de-
22 mands the immediate release of all those who have
23 been unjustly detained in Russia for expressing their
24 desire for peace;

1 (14) comprehends that strongmen, dictators,
2 and authoritarians are watching the world's response
3 to Putin's war against Ukraine and learning lessons
4 for their own aggressive actions domestically and
5 abroad, thereby making a strong and united re-
6 sponse important to deter the expansion of territory
7 by the use of military force beyond this crisis;

8 (15) states unambiguously that it will never
9 recognize or support any illegitimate Russian-con-
10 trolled leader or government installed through the
11 use of force, and that only the people of Ukraine can
12 choose their leadership through free and fair demo-
13 cratic elections without foreign interference, inter-
14 vention, or coercion;

15 (16) commits to ensuring the illegitimate dic-
16 tator of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, is held ac-
17 countable for permitting the use of Belarusian terri-
18 tory for, and committing Belarusian forces to,
19 Putin's unprovoked renewed full-scale invasion
20 against Ukraine; and

21 (17) stands steadfastly, staunchly, proudly, and
22 fervently behind the Ukrainian people in their fight
23 against the authoritarian Putin regime.

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