

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 304

Commending the International Criminal Court's issuance of an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Maria Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, for two war crimes related to the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2023

Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commending the International Criminal Court's issuance of an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Maria Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, for two war crimes related to the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

Whereas, on March 17, 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Maria Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office

of the President of the Russian Federation, for committing two war crimes related to the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children to the Russian Federation, stating that the Court believes that “each suspect bears responsibility” for these war crimes;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation at the direction of Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, in November 2022, Amnesty International published a report which documented the forcible deportation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, by Russian forces and their proxies into Russia;

Whereas the Russian Federation has amended its domestic legislation to enable the swift placement and adoption of these forcibly deported children with Russian foster families while issuing said children Russian citizenship;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) issued a report on March 16, 2023, which found that the Russian Federation has committed war crimes, including forcibly deporting children from occupied territories in Ukraine to the Russian Federation, since February 24, 2022;

Whereas the March 2023 UNHRC report stated that “International humanitarian law prohibits the evacuation of children by a party to the armed conflict, with the exception of a temporary evacuation . . . [for] reasons relating to the health or medical treatment . . . The written consent of parents or legal guardians is required . . . The transfers were not justified by safety or medical reasons”;

Whereas the Yale School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab found that Russian adoption facilities are engaging in systematic “re-education” efforts that expose children from Ukraine to Russia-centric academic, cultural, patriotic, and military education, and multiple facilities are advertised as “integration programs” with the apparent goal of integrating children from Ukraine into the Russian Government’s vision of national culture, history, and society;

Whereas the Yale School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab also verified that thousands of Ukrainian children, some only toddlers, have been victims of this forcible deportation to Russia and that many of these children are being held in 43 camps across Russian Federation territory, including two camps in Siberia;

Whereas the 117th Congress passed legislation directing the United States to assist with “investigations and prosecutions of foreign nationals related to the situation in Ukraine, including to support victims and witnesses”; and

Whereas President Zelenskyy of Ukraine has thanked the ICC for its “historic” decision to issue arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, stating that “in the criminal proceeding being investigated by [Ukraine’s] law enforcement officers, more than 16,000 forced deportations of Ukrainian children by the occupier have already been recorded. But the real, full number of deportees may be much higher”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) denounces the Russian Federation’s full-
- 3 scale invasion of Ukraine and calls on the Russian

1 Federation to immediately withdraw all forces from
2 the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine;

3 (2) stands outraged by actions taken by Rus-
4 sian Armed Forces, Government, and their proxies
5 to remove Ukrainian children from their homes and
6 forcibly integrate them into Russian society;

7 (3) condemns the ongoing, unlawful, and sys-
8 tematic deportation, forcible transfer, and “re-edu-
9 cation” of Ukrainian children from occupied terri-
10 tories of Ukraine to the Russian Federation and
11 within occupied territories of Ukraine under the di-
12 rection of Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova;

13 (4) recognizes the devastating psychological, in-
14 tergenerational harm and trauma caused to Ukrain-
15 ian parents, families, and communities by the forc-
16 ible removal of their children and to the Ukrainian
17 children separated from their families and commu-
18 nities;

19 (5) supports the decision of the International
20 Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for Vladimir
21 Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and
22 Maria Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children’s
23 Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian
24 Federation, for committing war crimes related to the
25 unlawful deportation of children from occupied areas

1 of Ukraine to the Russian Federation and within oc-
2 cupied territories of Ukraine;

3 (6) calls for the Russian Federation to imme-
4 diately reveal any existing records of the deportation
5 of children and adoption of deported children to
6 Ukrainian authorities;

7 (7) calls for the Russian Federation to imme-
8 diately return all deported Ukrainian children back
9 to their homes in Ukraine so they can be reunited
10 with their families and communities;

11 (8) condemns the Russian Federation for all
12 atrocity crimes and the gross violations of human
13 rights it has committed in Ukraine such as targeting
14 civilians, destroying critical civilian infrastructure re-
15 lated to energy and health care, and using torture
16 and sexual violence as weapons of war; and

17 (9) calls on President Biden to direct all de-
18 partments and agencies to support the International
19 Criminal Court's investigation and prosecution of
20 atrocity crimes committed in Ukraine, including
21 those related to the Russian Federation's unlawful
22 transfer and deportation of children.

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