



Recommendation 2285 (2024)¹

Missing persons, prisoners of war and civilians in captivity as a result of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its [Resolution 2573 \(2024\)](#) “Missing persons, prisoners of war and civilians in captivity as a result of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine” and underlining its unwavering support to Ukraine in ensuring a decisive victory over the Russian Federation following the full-scale military aggression against Ukraine unleashed by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, the Parliamentary Assembly reiterates its condemnation of the situation related to the fate of prisoners of war and civilians held in Russian captivity and will remain involved until the last captive is released and/or repatriated.
2. The Assembly believes that the Council of Europe should ensure that this topic remains high on the international political agenda of all Council of Europe member States, as well as observer States and States whose parliaments enjoy observer or partner for democracy status with the Assembly in order to prevent persons from going missing while in the hands of the Russian Federation, to clarify the identity and whereabouts of missing persons, and to ensure the proper treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians held in Russian captivity in line with international humanitarian law and human rights standards, their prompt release, their socio-medical rehabilitation and the accountability of the Russian Federation and the perpetrators of the crimes committed against these persons.
3. Convinced that it shares the same political priority, the Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to keep the topic under close scrutiny in the context of its continuous deliberations regarding the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the next steps towards creating a reliable mechanism that will ensure justice and compensation for Ukraine and its people, notably the setting-up of an international mechanism to compensate the victims and the establishment of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine.
4. The Assembly reminds the Committee of Ministers that likeminded States, including Council of Europe member States, may introduce a package of international targeted sanctions against Russian officials responsible for the unlawful deprivation of liberty of Ukrainian civilians. In the same vein, and based on the principle of universal jurisdiction, they may initiate criminal prosecution against Russian officials responsible for the unlawful deprivation of liberty of civilians.
5. The Assembly remains available to discuss with the Committee of Ministers possible next steps on the issue of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians held in Russian captivity during a future joint committee meeting.

1. *Assembly debate* on 2 October 2024 (29th sitting) (see [Doc. 16050](#), report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, rapporteur: Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 2 October 2024 (29th sitting).

