



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2019

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda items 34, 67, 74 (c) and 78 (a)

Security Council
Seventy-fourth year

Prevention of armed conflict

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights
situations and reports of special rapporteurs
and representatives**

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 18 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in relation to the illegal decision of the Lefortovo district court in Moscow to extend the arrest of 24 Ukrainian servicemen (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 34, 67, 74 (c) and 78 (a), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr Yelchenko
Ambassador, Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in relation to the illegal decision of the Lefortovo district court in Moscow to extend the arrest of 24 Ukrainian servicemen

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest in relation to the illegal decision of the Lefortovo district court in Moscow on the extension of detention of 24 Ukrainian servicemen, who were seized by Russia in the Black Sea waters, until 24 and 26 July 2019.

The Russian Federation once again resorted to the closed type of court hearing by which it confirmed previous assessments of its full awareness of the illegality of the court process and attempt to cover the blatant facts of violation of norms of international law, namely the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which establishes the immunity of military vessels and members of their crews, and the Third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (1949).

Once again, we demand from the Russian side to provide the documented information on the health condition and the course of medical treatment of the Ukrainian servicemen wounded during the armed seizure by Russia, to release them from detention and to secure their return back to Ukraine.

On 17 April, Ukraine filed a request to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea seeking provisional relief against the Russian Federation and the release of the three Ukrainian naval vessels and 24 servicemen.

We commend our international partners – the European Union member States, the United States of America, Canada and Switzerland – for solidarity with Ukraine in its struggle for the release of the Ukrainian servicemen from Russian captivity. We call on the international community to increase the pressure on the Russian Federation in order to secure the release and return of 24 Ukrainian servicemen back home in the shortest time possible.
