EU strongly condemns use of torture, ill-treatment and killing of Ukrainian prsoners of war and civilian detainees

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The European Union condemns in the strongest terms the use of torture, ill-treatment and killing of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees, EU Ambassdor to the United Nations, Stavros Lambrinidis, said in a statement yesterday in New York at the UN Security Council Arria formula meeting on violations of international humanitarian law against Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees.

"The UN's Independent Commission of Inquiry has concluded that Russian authorities committed crimes against humanity through a coordinated state policy of systematic and widespread use of torture across their detention facilities," Lambrinidis said. *"There is a disturbing rise in reports of executions of Ukrainian servicepersons captured by Russian forces. Since February*

2022, OHCHR has verified the summary execution of 170 civilians, including in places of detention, and 68 prisoners of war."

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, Lambrinidis also condemned prisoners' lack of access to basic needs (medical care, food and water), and the denial of access for the ICRC and other independent monitors to assess their conditions in captivity and reconnect them with their families.

He also said that international humanitarian law, including the third and fourth Geneva Conventions, *"must be upheld"* and Russia *"must ensure unimpeded access"* of the ICRC and human rights monitoring mechanisms to prisoners of war, both in temporarily occupied territories and in detention facilities in Russia itself.

"These actions further highlight that Russia and its leadership must be held fully accountable for waging this war of aggression and for other crimes under international law. Impunity emboldens violators and perpetuates cycles of violence," the EU Ambassador said in New York.