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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2026)

The EU has a clear position that international law must be upheld in all circumstances. There is no hierarchy of victims of human rights violations and abuses. They all deserve justice and accountability.

The EU's stance on Ukraine, the Middle East, and beyond demonstrates that the EU defends the rules, not rule-breakers. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, with serious consequences for international security and the rules based international order. The gravity of the situation has called for an unprecedented EU engagement.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has had widespread implications, including an aggravation of the risks and threats faced by the EU. Many Russian combatants, returning from the front were previously convicted and recruited from Russian prisons. Those combatants were radicalised by Russian tactics or have participated in war crimes themselves. Their presence constitutes a threat to the values, interests and security of the EU as a whole, as well as to the public policy or to the internal security or international relations of one or more Member States or of the EU as a whole.

EU's response to Russia's war of aggression does not diminish EU's focus on Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. On 28 May 2026 the EU adopted additional restrictive measures against extremist Israeli settlers and organisations which support them and are responsible for serious and systematic human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank¹. The EU will consider additional listings whenever necessary and appropriate.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/05/28/extremist-israeli-settlers-eu-lists-four-entities-and-three-individuals/>.