



The Embassy of the Russian Federation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## Embassy comment on the London conference aimed at accusing Russia of committing war crimes in Ukraine

We took note of the conference taking place today, March 20, 2023 in London with justice ministers of several unfriendly states of the collective West under the auspices of the UK, on the subject of some sort of legal “responsibility” of our country for the events in Ukraine.

Yet another meeting of our adversaries with a pseudo-judicial flourish could well have been treated as a routine anti-Russia flash mob, had it not been for one particular aspect. The conference is taking place exactly on the 20th anniversary of the US-led coalition forces’ invasion of Iraq, carried out with active complicity of the UK, in violation of the UN Charter and the fundamental norms of international law, and under the false pretext of Baghdad’s access to chemical weapons. According to quite modest estimates, the 2003 American military venture resulted in the death of 200,000 Iraqis (independent estimates go up to 1.2 mln), another 4 mln becoming refugees, while the country itself was plunged into devastation, poverty and bloody interfaith conflicts, from which it has yet to recover.

We would like to also recall that in 2007 the Iraqi city Mosul was literally razed to the ground following US forces’ carpet bombing and shelling. Facts continue to emerge on the numerous war crimes perpetrated by the occupants against peaceful Iraqi citizens. However, for some reason, none of the Western leaders responsible for the decisions of the illegal attack against Iraq have since been held to account or faced charges in court.

Against the background of outrageous crimes of the Iraqi war, attempts by Kiev regime’s Western sponsors to incriminate our country with acts it did not commit are disgusting in their hypocrisy. It looks as if they are using such events to discredit the actions of our military who, engaged in the Special Military Operation, are carrying out the honourable mission of protecting peaceful citizens of Donbass and other regions who have been suffering from tyranny and violence of Ukrainian nationalists for many years. They seek to legitimize the policy of blindly supporting the Kiev regime and further escalating the conflict. The other aim is to endow a bogus aura of legitimacy to the legally preposterous actions of the International Criminal Court used by this Hague institution’s officials to please the West and try to elevate the Court’s faded international profile.

The fact that the highlight of the dubious London event were messages from representatives of the Kiev regime are illustrative of their attempts to distract attention from thousands of real crimes committed by the AFU and Ukrainian neo-Nazi formations since 2014 against the residents of Odessa, as well as Mariupol, Volnovakha, Elenovka, Kupyansk, Donetsk, Lugansk, Makeevka and other cities of Donbass. It is a shame that not an ounce of truth can be found on these events in the British media, currently specialising in tainting Russia’s image.

We call on the UK authorities, who acted as the ringleaders of today’s conference, to stop replicating groundless accusations against our country. Should London be genuinely interested in ending the bloodshed in Ukraine, it ought to start with immediately ending illegal weapons supplies to the AFU who are using them for the barbaric shelling of Russian cities. The policy of “cancelling” alternative views will not help Kiev regime’s sponsors to evade responsibility for their complicity in its war crimes. The time for this responsibility will inevitably come after all objectives of the Special Military Operation have been attained.



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