



RUSSIAN WAR CRIMES IN UKRAINE

Witness Biographies

Wolfgang Benedek

Professor of International Law (ret.), University of Graz

Wolfgang Benedek currently holds the position as Head of Institute of International Law and International Relations and as Director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy of the University of Graz. His main research interests are in the fields of human rights, human security, and the regulation of the internet as well as international economic law where he has a focus on the WTO and Global Governance. He also has a specific interest in South-Eastern Europe and Africa. He has been involved in several research projects funded by national and European research foundations. He is the executive editor of the European Yearbook on Human Rights. He teaches international law and human rights law, international economic and development law, human rights in the Balkans, human security and the governance of the information society. He is long-time chair of the NGO World University Service (WUS) Austria.

Marco Sassòli

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

Marco Sassòli has been Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva since 2004. He has been a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) since 2013 and a Special Advisor (pro bono) on international humanitarian law (IHL) to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He has published widely on IHL, human rights law, international criminal law, the sources of international law, the responsibility of states and non-state actors and Swiss constitutional law. He is recognized as a leading expert in IHL. Professor Sassòli was the Director of the Geneva Academy from August 2018 to August 2020. He was also Director of the department of Public International Law and International Organization at the University of Geneva from 2009–2016. From 2001–2003, he taught at the Université du Québec à Montréal, where he remains an associate professor. From 1985–1997 he worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), notably as Deputy Head of its Legal Division, Head of the ICRC delegations in Jordan and Syria and as Protection Coordinator for the former Yugoslavia. Professor Sassòli has served as Executive Secretary of the ICJ, as registrar at the Swiss Supreme

Court and Chair of the Board of Geneva Call, an NGO that promotes respect for humanitarian norms among armed non-state actors.

Veronika Bílková

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague

Veronika Bilkova is the head of the Centre for International Law at the Institute of International Relations, Prague. She also teaches public international law at the Faculty of Law of the Charles University in Prague. Since 2010, she has represented the Czech Republic in the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and since 2020 she has been the chair of the Czech Government's Committee on Human Rights of Older Persons. Having a background in both law and political science, she likes to combine theoretical research with a more policy-oriented approach. In her research, she focuses on human rights, international humanitarian law, the use of force, fight against terrorism, and the theory of international law. In her policy-oriented studies, she concentrates on human rights and democracy promotion in foreign policy.

Beth Van Schaack

Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice

Dr. Beth Van Schaack was sworn in as the Department's sixth Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (GCJ) on March 17, 2022. In this role, she advises the Secretary of State and other Department leadership on issues related to the prevention of and response to atrocity crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Ambassador Van Schaack served as Deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large in GCJ from 2012 to 2013. Prior to returning to public service in 2022, Ambassador Van Schaack was the Leah Kaplan Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Stanford Law School, where she taught international criminal law, human rights, human trafficking, and a policy lab on Legal & Policy Tools for Preventing Atrocities. In addition, she directed Stanford's International Human Rights & Conflict Resolution Clinic. Ambassador Van Schaack began her academic career at Santa Clara University School of Law, where, in addition to teaching and writing on international human rights issues, she served as the Academic Adviser to the United States interagency delegation to the International Criminal Court Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda. Earlier in her career, she was a practicing lawyer at Morrison & Foerster, LLP; the Center for Justice & Accountability, a human rights law firm; and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Iryna Venediktova

Prosecutor General, Ukraine

Iryna Venediktova is a Ukrainian politician, academic and lawyer. Since March 2020, she has been the prosecutor general of Ukraine, the first woman to hold this office. In 2018, Venediktova became a legal adviser to Volodymyr Zelensky. She was a member of the campaign headquarters of the candidate for President of Ukraine Zelensky, as an expert on judicial reform. In the July

2019 Ukrainian parliamentary election, she was elected as an MP of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament) on the party-list of the pro-president political party “Servant of the People” (No. 3 on the party list). On 29 August 2019, Venediktova took the chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Legal Policy.

Timothy Snyder

Professor of History, Yale University; Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna

Timothy Snyder is the Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. He speaks five and reads ten European languages. Snyder’s work has appeared in forty languages and has received a number of prizes, including the Emerson Prize in the Humanities, the Literature Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Václav Havel Foundation prize, the Foundation for Polish Science prize in the social sciences, the Leipzig Award for European Understanding, the Dutch Auschwitz Committee award, and the Hannah Arendt Prize in Political Thought. Snyder was a Marshall Scholar at Oxford, has received the Carnegie and Guggenheim fellowships, and holds state orders from Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland. He has appeared in documentaries, on network television, and in major films. His books have inspired poster campaigns and exhibitions, films, sculpture, a punk rock song, a rap song, a play, and an opera. His words are quoted in political demonstrations around the world, most recently in Hong Kong. He is researching a family history of nationalism and finishing a philosophical book about freedom. Professor Snyder is completing a short book about the history of Ukraine and its current crisis, is working on a history of Eastern Europe as well as a family history of nationalism, serves as Series Editor for the Rochester Studies in East and Central Europe, and is on the Editorial Board of *New Studies in European History* (a series at Cambridge University Press), of the *Journal of Modern European History*, and of *East European Politics and Societies*. He also leads the “United Europe-Divided Memory” project at the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, which examines the possible formulation of a postwar transnational European history.