



**UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)**

**CSCE Hearing: Making Russia Pay: Sovereign Asset Confiscation for
Ukrainian Victory
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

Senator Ben Cardin, Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing today. Putin's unlawful war of aggression in Ukraine is a brazen violation of international law and Russia's freely undertaken commitments as an OSCE participating state. The horrors Russia is inflicting on Ukraine continue even as we hold this hearing.

There is no question whatsoever that support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression is critical. I call on all my colleagues to support urgent passage of supplemental appropriations for Ukraine.

The supplemental is a lifeline to Ukraine, on and off the battlefield.

Obviously, Russia has a moral and legal obligation to pay for the damage it has done in its genocidal war.

Given the scale of the issue and the nature of the rebuilding effort before us, we must look comprehensively at supporting Ukraine's efforts to rebuild its country and restore its role in the global economy.

More broadly, The United States and our European allies must maintain strong unity in the face of Russian lawlessness. We are once again headed into a difficult winter, but we must remain resilient and continue our support. This is the only way we will be able to halt Russian aggression and send a unified message about respect for international law.

I am grateful to see the many distinguished witnesses who care deeply about restoring peace and justice in the world. Russia's full-scale invasion is not only an attack on Ukraine, but an attack on any notion that there are international rules and norms. We must fight back in a way that reinforces these rules and norms and I look forward to hearing from you how we might do that.

Thank you and yield back.