

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 536

Expressing the sense of the Senate that President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2022

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal.

Whereas, under international law, a war crime is a serious violation of the laws or customs of war as defined by international customary law and international treaties;

Whereas war crimes also include initiating a war of aggression as prosecuted at the Nuremberg trials following World War II and more recently defined in the 2010 amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

Whereas a war criminal is a person who has planned, ordered, or carried out an act during the conduct of a war that violates accepted international rules of war; and

Whereas Articles 26 and 27 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, done at Vienna May 23, 1969, state, “Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith. . . . A party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) President Vladimir Putin of the Russian
3 Federation has committed war crimes as defined by
4 the United Nations, the International Criminal
5 Court, and other international bodies by—

6 (A) initiating an unprovoked war;

7 (B) violating the sovereignty of Ukraine
8 repeatedly;

9 (C) targeting civilian infrastructure, in-
10 cluding hospitals, schools, and apartment build-
11 ings, militarily;

12 (D) targeting government facilities unre-
13 lated to legitimate military objectives; and

14 (E) attempting to overthrow the democrat-
15 ically elected government led by President
16 Volodymyr Zelensky; and

17 (2) since President Vladimir Putin is the Com-
18 mander in Chief (equivalent) of the Armed Forces of
19 the Russian Federation and as such was involved in
20 the planning of the invasion of Ukraine, he is cul-

- 1 pable of launching a war of aggression and the sys-
- 2 tematic commission of war crimes during that war
- 3 by Russian troops.

