



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Human Rights Council –55th session
Item 10 – Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner report on the situation of human rights in Ukraine

Statement by Jean-François Kammer, Deputy Permanent Observer
28 March 2024

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta commends the High Commissioner's Update on Ukraine.

Since more than two years now the Order of Malta has put in place extensive operations of humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the war in Ukraine, and to the refugees, within Ukraine and in several neighboring countries. We are shocked by what we can witness, the extensive destruction and harm to essential civilian infrastructures, and by the fact that civilians and relief operators are deliberate targets of military operations.

Our Grand Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly stressed, the most recently in his addresses to Davos Switzerland on 14th January or at the Munich Security Conference on 16th February, that the road to diplomacy, mediation and finally peace has no alternative in order to alleviate the human suffering and allow the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economic and social life.

At the same time the Order of Malta tirelessly repeats that all parties involved in a conflict have to comply with the basic rules of the International Humanitarian Law.

We intend to pursue our humanitarian effort, medical and psychosocial support, as well as distribution of safe shelters for displaced persons. Our assistance to war victims reflects the Order of Malta's holistic approach worldwide, which treats both body and mind. During the past two years Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, has reached nearly 70.000 people in Ukraine, offering advice through a dedicated team of 70 therapists.

Thank you.