



[World Leaders Condemn the Russian Invasion of Ukraine as Concern Grows Regarding a Major Humanitarian Crisis](#)

Russia has been facing widespread global condemnation from world leaders over its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. In a vote held this week, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly reprimanded Russia for its actions, demanding a cessation of the fighting and a withdrawal of its military forces from Ukraine. The human rights situation is a growing concern, as a large number of refugees are fleeing to escape the violence. Meanwhile, others who have remained in Ukraine are resorting to safeguarding in subway tunnels or homemade bomb shelters. Particularly troubling are the commonplace accounts of mass civilian casualties and the targeting of residential areas by Russian forces. The destructive assault has sparked fears of a worsening humanitarian crisis both domestically and outside of Ukraine, as civilians are subjected to indiscriminate attacks while the refugees who have left face freezing temperatures, long waits, and a lack of basic accommodations at neighboring borders.

There has been near universal international denouncement of Moscow's actions. The United States, the European Union, and many other countries and international organizations have been implementing harsh sanctions against Russia to try and squeeze the Kremlin. This weaponization of the global economy has had an impact so far, as the ruble has lost nearly a third of its value against the U.S. dollar. Many large Russian banks have also been cut off from the SWIFT banking system, which facilitates the transfer of funds from country to country. Even in the private sector, companies like Apple, Disney, and Ford are cutting back operations in Russia and oil companies such as Exxon, BP, and Shell have also pulled their stakes. All of this has been done in an effort to try and isolate Russia both economically and diplomatically, which it is hoped, would force them to cease their egregious hostilities in Ukraine.

As a result of the growing crisis, several nearby countries have accepted an estimated at least 1 million refugees, with Poland taking in nearly half of them. These nations have tried to prepare for Ukrainian refugees, but their ability to accept this large influx has elicited worry over them being put under strain. Though the acceptance of refugees should be applauded, social justice and rights activists have shed light on the stark contrast in some cases between the treatment of Ukrainian asylum seekers and those from non-European countries like Syria. This is underscored by the comments of Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov who recently told journalists that "These are not the refugees we are used to... these people are Europeans...these people are intelligent; they are educated people. This is not the refugee wave we have been used to, people we were not sure about their identity, people with unclear pasts, who could have been terrorists." Prejudiced and insensitive remarks like this should not be tolerated, and only serve to feed further bigotry. A person in need, be it a refugee or dissident, must be treated with consistency irrespective of their place of origin.

In recent events on the ground, Russia has captured the strategically important port city of Kherson. This city, located in Southern Ukraine on the banks of the Dnieper River's exit into the Black Sea, is the first significant urban center to fall to Russia since the invasion began last week. An investigation into war crimes committed in Ukraine by Russia has also been launched by the International Criminal Court, and the probe comes after repeated and consistent accounts of airstrikes killing civilians.