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PERMANENT MISSION  
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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

## Seizing Power: Occupation, Torture, and Nuclear Safety Breaches at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Side Event on the margins of the 60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council  
on Corporate Complicity, War Crimes, and Risks of Nuclear Catastrophe

1 October 11:30 - 12:30 | Conference Room V, United Nations, Geneva

### Concept Note

Russia's military seizure of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) in March 2022 represents the first instance in history of an active nuclear facility under military occupation.

The situation raises four interrelated concerns:

1. Widespread and systematic arbitrary detention, torture, and persecution of civilians and ZNPP staff constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute.
2. Rosatom's dual role, coupled with the Russian state's control over it, underscores unmatched issues of corporate complicity and state responsibility for facilitating occupation policies that violate international law.
3. Coercion of nuclear personnel severed regulatory oversight, and militarization of the plant critically undermine operational safety, creating a transboundary nuclear risk.
4. Permitting the militarization of a nuclear facility sets a precedent for future conflicts, threatening the stability of international peace and security and the integrity of the global nuclear safety regime.

Urgent international action is required, including through independent monitoring, to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and a dangerous precedent that threatens **the stability of international peace and security** and **the integrity of the global nuclear safety regime**.

This multi-dimensional crisis demands coordinated diplomatic, legal, and operational responses to protect civilians, restore nuclear safety, and uphold international law.

## Event Format

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Co-sponsors:** Ukraine, Liechtenstein, Poland, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, The Netherlands, Montenegro, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Slovenia

**Organisers:** Truth Hounds, No Peace Without Justice

The event will feature a dynamic panel presentation, combining expert testimony from Truth Hounds investigators, legal analysis, and first-hand accounts from affected community representatives. The format is designed to facilitate a substantive and interactive discussion among delegations, civil society, and the media, moving beyond a simple briefing to a collaborative strategy session.

At this side event, Truth Hounds experts will present the findings of their comprehensive report, highlighting the interconnection of systematic human rights abuses and nuclear safety breaches, while addressing key pathways for achieving accountability and actively preventing these crimes from continuing and offering recommendations on how to address the situation.

### Preliminary Draft Agenda

#### 11:30 – 11:35 | Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Amb. Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations in Geneva

*Welcoming remarks and a high-level overview of the human rights and nuclear security crisis at the ZNPP.*

#### 11:35 – 12:10 | Panel Presentations: Key Findings and Perspectives

- **Ms. Alice Mee**, Truth Hounds Senior Researcher

*Presentation of key findings from the comprehensive report, including documented cases of torture, unlawful detention, persecution of civilians and ZNPP staff, and systemic threats to nuclear safety.*

- **Mr. Yuriy Uhryn**, Truth Hounds Legal Counsel

*Legal assessment of human rights abuses at ZNPP, accountability mechanisms for violations of international law*

- **Mr. Denys Lysenko**, Deputy head of the Department for Countering Crimes Committed in Armed Conflict at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine

*Ukrainian Prosecutorial Response to ZNPP War Crimes: Investigation Status, Legal Framework, and International Cooperation*

- **Mr. Shaun Burnie**, Greenpeace Ukraine Senior Nuclear Specialist (online)

*Expert assessment of nuclear safety and security risks, focusing on violation of international safety principles, operational challenges, and potential transboundary consequences.*

- **Mykola Yurlov, Counsellor**, Department of International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

*Rosatom's complicity in the crime of aggression: accountability via a special tribunal and compensation mechanism*

#### 12:10 – 12:25 | Interactive Dialogue & Q&A

- **Moderator:** Niccolò Figà Talamanca, Secretary-General of No Peace Without Justice

*Moderated Q&A session with Member States, international organizations, and civil society, providing opportunities for substantive engagement on human rights, nuclear safety, and accountability measures.*

#### **12:25 – 12:30 | Concluding Remarks and Event Close**

- **Niccolò Figà Talamanca**, Secretary-General of No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ)

*Key takeaways and a call to action for the international community, closing acknowledgement, thanks to participants, and formal adjournment of the event.*

#### **About the Organizers**

**Truth Hounds** – An independent Ukrainian human rights organization documenting abuses, collecting survivor testimony, and promoting accountability for violations of international law.

**No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ)** – An international NGO promoting human rights, rule of law, and accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity, working with local partners, including Truth Hounds, to strengthen international justice mechanisms.