



Genocide Watch
Alliance Against Genocide

Russia Country Report 2024

Russia has a long history of persecuting ethnic minorities and societal dissidents. Imperial Russia organized Jewish [pogroms](#). The Soviet Union committed genocide against Ukrainians during the [Holodomor](#) and against Kazakhs during the [Kazakh famine](#). It committed war crimes against Polish officials in the [Katyn Massacre](#) and [purged](#), imprisoned, and murdered millions of domestic political opponents throughout the Soviet era. During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Russian forces killed [one million civilians](#). Russia engaged in genocidal warfare by invading [Georgia](#), [Chechnya](#) and [Ukraine](#). On Feb. 24, 2022, following its [illegal annexation](#) of Crimea in 2014, Russia began a [full-scale invasion](#) of Ukraine. It is now committing genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

Russia has tried to legitimize its aggression against Ukraine by arguing that it is “[denazifying](#)” the country. This is “genocidal mirroring.” It is Russia that has become a Nazi state. Russia claims that Ukraine [is not a state](#) in its own right. Russian forces in Ukraine have [deliberately massacred](#) thousands of Ukrainian civilians and destroyed essential Ukrainian water, electrical, and healthcare infrastructure. They [murdered hundreds of Ukrainian civilians](#) during the Bucha Massacre of 2022 and have committed other genocidal massacres across Ukraine.

Russian troops [systematically](#) torture, [rape](#), and sexually assault Ukrainian civilians. Some Russian troops have accompanied their rapes with statements expressing the [explicit intent](#) to stop Ukrainian women from reproducing. Russia has purposely [deprived Ukrainian](#) civilians of food and water. Russia [funds](#) the Wagner Group, a mercenary organization that has killed, raped, and tortured thousands of civilians in [Ukraine](#), [Mali](#), [Sudan](#), and the [Central African Republic](#). [Thousands](#) of Ukrainians have died. The war has displaced [millions](#).

Russia has contravened [Article 2e](#) of the Genocide Convention in occupied Ukraine by forcibly transporting [over 19,000 Ukrainian children](#) to Russia. It has sent children to [re-education camps](#) where they are prohibited from using the Ukrainian language. They are indoctrinated in the Russian language, history, and culture. Russian families have adopted Ukrainian children and given them [Russian citizenship](#).

Russia denies responsibility for the genocide in Ukraine. Putin himself [denied](#) that the Russian Army committed the Bucha Massacre. He even decorated the troops who committed it. Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia’s Children’s Commissioner, [rejected](#) claims that Russian deportation of Ukrainian children constitutes genocide, despite its violation of Article 2e of the Genocide Convention. The ICC has charged Putin and Lvova-Belova with genocide.

Russia uses the invasion of Ukraine to justify its suppression of Russian media. Russia passed [two laws](#) that make it a crime to report the occupation as a “war” or “invasion.” It is a crime to participate in or report on protests. In 2022, Russia expanded its [foreign agents law](#), barring reporters deemed to be “foreign agents.” Under the law, it has arrested, prosecuted, imprisoned, and fined American journalists and [multiple](#) Russian human rights [defenders](#) and [shut down](#) all non-governmental Russian human rights organizations. It arrested, imprisoned, and murdered Alexei Navalny, the strongest Russian opposition leader.

Russia continues to attack LGBTQ+ rights. In December 2022, the Russian Parliament [declared](#) it illegal to promote non-heterosexual relationships. Russia’s Supreme Court recently [banned LGBTQ+ advocacy](#). Since 2017, Chechnya, led by Ramzan Kadyrov, has initiated [multiple campaigns](#) aimed at detaining and [torturing](#) gay men. Kadyrov has said he desires to remove gay people in the region to “[cleanse our blood](#).” Gay men who wish to avoid criminal charges can “[volunteer](#)” to [fight](#) for Russia in occupied Ukraine.

Because Russia is committing genocide in occupied Ukraine and oppressing its citizens, Genocide Watch considers Russia to be at **Stage 8: Persecution**, **Stage 9: Extermination** and **Stage 10: Denial**.

Genocide Watch recommends:

- The United States, European Union, and NATO must supply the Ukrainian government with armament, including tanks, Patriot missiles, artillery, ammunition, cruise missiles, and jets critical to defeating Russia.
- The International Court of Justice must recognize that Russia has violated the Genocide Convention.
- The ICC must try Putin and Russian leaders for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.
- The United States, United Kingdom, and European Union must force corporations that continue to operate in Russia, like PepsiCo and Unilever, to totally cease their operations in Russia.