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Ukrainian National Bar Association

Russian Federal Chamber Of Lawyers

Dear Colleagues,

together with my Council, I had the pleasure of hosting you in Milan, together or separately, on the occasion of ceremonies or conferences.

We have reciprocated your genuine feelings of friendship, which arise from the sharing of common values: individual freedoms and the settlement of conflicts on the basis of the law.

This condition constitutes our "being" lawyers which - in the diversity of language, culture, religion and political orientation - make us a united and transnational community.

The Italian Constitution states our uniqueness in art. 24, where the right of defense is stated, which if it is a right for citizens is a duty for us lawyers: the duty to ensure that their rights will always be respected.

But the Italian Constitution also contains another principle equally dear to us lawyers: the one provided for by art. 11 which reads "Italy repudiates war as an instrument of offense to the freedom of other people and as a mean of resolving international disputes".

I certainly do not wish to consider our Constitution as universal outside the borders of Italy, but I believe that the goal of resolving disputes through non-violent systems is inborn in the function of every lawyer in the world.

In this sense, our function goes beyond the private interests of our clients.

I think that the present war between brotherly peoples should make us call for an end to hostilities to reaffirm our common will to resolve the problems between Russia and Ukraine outside the armed conflict.

When the guns speak, the lawyers are silent.

When guns speak, rights cease to be such.

The forensic tradition, which knows how to be truly revolutionary, requires us not to remain silent.

In expressing my and my Council's closeness, I wish you to be able to recover your voice and to raise it in the name of rights, taking it away from weapons and bringing the controversy back in terms of mediation and respect for human life.

A fraternal embrace.

President
Avv. Vinicio Nardo

