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Foreign Affairs Professionals

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Statement by James Dandridge II, President of DACOR, Inc.

DACOR President James Dandridge II today condemned the actions of Russian President Vladimir Putin ordering Russian military forces to invade the Republic of Ukraine in violation of international law that has prevented a major war in Europe for nearly 80 years. He called on leaders of democratic nations to join in condemning Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

“By abandoning diplomacy and ordering an unprovoked invasion of Russia's neighboring democracy, Putin has thrust an escalated war upon the people of Ukraine who have done nothing to provoke this senseless attack,” said Dandridge.

“The clarity of this gross violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is seen in the thousands of ordinary Russian citizens who have taken to the streets of Moscow and dozens of other cities throughout Russia to protest Putin's attack on the people of Ukraine. We are watching a tragedy of unspeakable proportions play out in the aftermath of an eight-year, faintly disguised but sustained Russian attack, first on Crimea and Ukraine's eastern provinces in 2014, and today on Ukraine's major cities,” he added.

Speaking a day earlier at an awards ceremony at the United States Department of State honoring the contributions of African-Americans to American diplomacy, Dandridge urged prayers for the people of Ukraine and defended American efforts to bring about a diplomatic solution to Russia's imagined security concerns related to NATO.

“The brave people of Ukraine wish only to live in peace with their neighbors. As a sovereign nation, they have the right to decide for themselves what form of government they wish to live under. Ukraine is a democracy, and its people have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” said Dandridge.



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“Diplomacy does not end with the start of war,” he added. “We must rally the outrage of other nations and channel this pressure on Russia to end Putin’s war.”

Echoing recent remarks by America’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield during an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, Dandridge called the attack on Ukraine an attack on the sovereignty of every UN Member State and the UN Charter. “As UN Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield told the world, we continue to believe that the diplomatic table is the only place where responsible nations resolve their differences,” said Dandridge.

DACOR, an organization of foreign affairs professionals, and its sister organization the DACOR Bacon House Foundation are dedicated to diplomacy as the essential activity of all international politics.