Mr. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
Prime Minister’s Office
South Block, Raisina Hill

New Delhi-110011
INDIA

Dear Prime Minister,

As a member of ACAT Italy, affiliated to FIACAT (International Federation of ACATs - Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), an NGO in Consultative Status with the United Nations, I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. This war has been going now on for almost a year and is contrary to international law, including human rights law and humanitarian law.  An unimaginable level of destruction has been achieved.

In addition to the Ukrainian people, people in poorer countries are also suffering extremely from the consequences of the war. Hunger threatens millions of people worldwide. Even a nuclear disaster in nuclear power plants or the use of nuclear bombs by the Russian military now seems real. New crimes committed by Russian soldiers against the civilian population or captured Ukrainian soldiers become known every day.

A UN commission of enquiry recently confirmed the suspicion of war crimes. In a report shared on October 18th 2022, it confirmed that people in Ukraine, including many children, are victims of torture, rape, arbitrary executions and disappearances on top of horrific attacks. In early September, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights complained that there were credible reports of children being forcibly taken to Russian-occupied territories or to Russia, where they were threatened with forced adoptions by Russian families.

Dear Prime Minister, you have condemned the Butcha massacres and told Russia's dictatorial president that this time cannot be an era of war. I ask you, as the head of the government of the largest democracy in the world, to take an initiative requiring that the people who have been deported to Russia, especially the children, be released to return to their families in Ukraine with the help of the United Nations or, if necessary, be  put into the care of the United Nations.

I also appeal to you to make it unmistakably clear to President Putin that a continuation or escalation of the war, the violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law committed in the process and the annexation of foreign territories can no longer be tolerated by the world community.

In the hope of your support, I remain with respectful greetings.

Copy to: Indian Embassy in Roma – Via XX Settembre, 5 – 00187 Roma - Italia