



December 21, 2023

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

RE: Over 700,000 Kidnapped Ukrainian Children

Dear Mr. President:

For many members of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), the issue of deportation and kidnapping at the hands of Russian occupying forces rings familiar and hits close to home. Many of us have had family members or know families that were victimized in such a terrible manner.

It is appalling to witness such horrors occurring again, but here we are. We must not let today's victims, especially children, disappear into oblivion to become nameless numbers on a list that is afterward mislaid.

In July, RFE/RL reported that Russian Children's Rights Commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova has said that more than 700,000 Ukrainian children have been taken from Ukraine to Russia since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Some were forcibly deported in family units, but many were kidnapped from living parents or after their parents had been killed by invading Russian forces.

More recently, we understand that thousands of other children have been relocated to Belarus for intensive indoctrination. Stealing a nation's children is tantamount to stealing its future, and for Putin this is one more prong to use in his attempt to destroy Ukraine as a nation and Ukrainians as a people.

Please demand accountability for all deported Ukrainians, especially children, as part of seeking justice for these war crimes and their speedy return to their homes.

The CEEC looks forward to a productive and dynamic dialogue with you. We can be contacted by reaching out to Karl Altai at ceecoalition@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

The Central and Eastern European Coalition (CEEC)

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