



**PRESIDENT
SUPREME MEDICAL COUNCIL**
Prof. Dr. habil. Andrzej Matyja

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Warsaw, 1 March 2022

Prof. Igor Vladislavovich Tokarevich
Chairman
Belarussian Dental Association
28 Sukhaya str.
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Belarus
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Prof. Andrej Il'ich Jaremenko
President
Russian Dental Association
Aptekarsky Lane 4, building 1
105005 Moscow
Russia
Email: director-star@mail.ru

Dear Prof. Tokarevich, Dear Prof. Jaremenko,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Polish professional self-government of physicians and dentists composed of the Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists (Naczelna Izba Lekarska) and 24 regional chambers of physicians and dentists (okręgowie izby lekarskie) which associate and represent all medical doctors and dental practitioners in Poland, incl. dentists from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine who live and work here.

I am calling the Belarussian Dental Association and the Russian Dental Association – as representatives of dentists in Belarus and Russia, members of the FDI World Dental Federation – to speak out against what is happening in Ukraine right now. Against war and use of military force, death and suffering of both soldiers and civilians. The world is shocked by the invasion of Ukraine which was started by the leaders of Belarus and Russia and the extent of attacks, incl. reported attacks on civilians and even healthcare facilities.

We are aware that sometimes it requires courage to stand up and publicly express opposition against war waged by authorities of one's own country. But medical professionals and other healthcare professionals have the professional and moral duty to oppose war and any other form of armed conflict.

In this context, I would also like to recall the example of colleagues from the Turkish Medical Association who – despite the risk of being persecuted by authorities – publicly expressed their anti-war stance in January 2018 in a statement entitled "War is a matter of public health":

"War is a human-made matter of public health causing harm in nature and human and threatening public life.

Every conflict, every war brings a huge humanitarian tragedy with it by causing irreparable physical, psychological, social and environmental damages.

As member of a profession that vows to make people live, we keep in mind that advocating life and looking out for the peace climate is our primary duty.

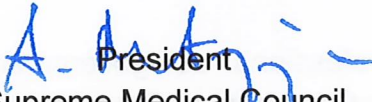
The only way to deal with war is to perpetuate a fair, democratic, equalitarian, independent and peaceful life.

No to war, peace right now!"

We are looking forward to your response by joining the world dental community in opposing war in Ukraine and its consequences.

With collegial regards,

Prof. Andrzej Matyja


President
Supreme Medical Council

Cc:

Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya
President
FDI World Dental Federation