



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

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Warsaw, 28 February 2022

Dr Dmitriy Evgenevich Shevtsov
President
Belarussian Medical Association

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Belarus
Email: shevtsoffd@mail.ru

Prof. Leonid Mikhailovich Roshal
President
Union of the Medical Community
"National Medical Chamber"
22 Bolshaya Polyanka str.
119180 Moscow
Russia
Email: info@nnpmp.ru

Dear Dr Shevtsov, Dear Prof. Roshal,

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 (okręgowe izby lekarskie) which associate and represent all medical doctors and dental practitioners in Poland, incl. 2 500 doctors from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine who live and work here.

I am calling the Belarussian Medical Association and the "National Medical Chamber" of Russia – as representatives of doctors in Belarus and Russia, members of the World Medical Association – 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. It was expressed by the World Medical Association in its numerous resolutions and statements.

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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 medical community in opposing war in Ukraine and its consequences.

With collegial regards,

Prof. Andrzej Matyja


President
Supreme Medical Council

Cc:

Dr Otmar Kloiber

Secretary General

World Medical Association

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