

March 2, 2022

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Ukrainian people remain in the fight for their very survival against an unprovoked and unjustified invasion launched by Russian dictator, Vladimir Putin. While the Ukrainian resistance to this invasion has been an inspiration for free peoples around the world, it seems that Putin's tactics are to force the Ukrainian people into submission. There are credible reports that Putin's forces are now encircling and laying siege to major Ukrainian cities. I urge you to begin considering options to provide urgent food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies to Ukrainian civilians trapped by Putin's attempted blockade.

In an address to the European Parliament yesterday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that "all of the big cities in [Ukraine] are now blocked." Open source intelligence has shown that Putin's forces are aiming to encircle Kyiv, and other major cities, in Ukraine. While I acknowledge your administration's efforts, to date, to improve supply lines into Ukraine from Poland and other neighboring countries, this alone will not prevent an imminent humanitarian catastrophe in besieged Ukrainian cities if Ukrainian forces are not able to break Russian lines.

As your administration considers options for delivering humanitarian assistance, any operation should be clearly and publicly communicated to the Russian Ministry of Defense in order to avoid misunderstandings. There are several other options that I believe can be pursued to ensure that Moscow is clear that a humanitarian airlift will not lead to an uncontrolled escalation of conflict between the United States and the Russian Federation. These include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing a de-confliction phone line between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Russian Ministry of Defense;
- Organize the airlift in cooperation with, or potentially under the auspices of, the Holy See, Israel and other countries not allied with NATO or the Russian Federation; and
- Consider the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to drop humanitarian supplies into Ukrainian cities, to avoid risks to the lives of American service members.

I am cognizant that any action taken by the United States may be misconstrued by Putin as an escalation. However, Putin's threats cannot be allowed to paralyze the world's ability to

prevent a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. We do not seek war with Russia, but Russia should also not want a war against us. We must demonstrate the resolve and determination that America has always shown when confronted by the violent expansionism of an evil empire. The people of Ukraine, and the world, are looking to you to demonstrate this leadership.

I stand ready to assist the Ukrainian people in their fight for national sovereignty. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator