



# HRSP NEWSLETTER

*U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section*

March 2024

## **Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin meets with the U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, DOJ's War Crimes Accountability Team, and Other DOJ Officials.**

On March 7, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland welcomed to the Justice Department Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin (PG Kostin), Ambassador Oksana Markarova of Ukraine to the United States, and Director Yurii Belousov of the Prosecutor General's Department for Countering Crimes Committed in Conditions of Armed Conflict. On March 6 and 7, PG Kostin and Director Belousov also met with numerous Justice Department officials in Washington, D.C.



*AG Garland and PG Kostin.*

AG Garland expressed the Department's continued support and commitment to working with Ukraine on all fronts and across numerous areas. He highlighted the Department's work holding Russia accountable for war crimes, through the work of the Justice Department's War Crimes Accountability Team (WarCAT) as well as the Department's participation in the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression in The Hague (ICPA). He also noted the Department's ongoing work to seize illicit Russian assets for the benefit of the people of Ukraine, to prosecute those who facilitate the evasion of sanctions imposed on Russia, and to fight back against the export of sensitive technologies through Task Force KleptoCapture (TFKC) and the Disruptive Technology Strike Force (DTSF).

During the meeting, AG Garland reiterated the Department's commitment to working closely with Ukraine to secure their democratic future through the prosecution of high-level corruption and highlighted recent successes including the December [war crimes indictment charging four Russia-affiliated military personnel](#) and recent [cases](#) brought by TFKC and the DTSF. AG Garland and PG Kostin also discussed the impact of relationships

developed across the Department including with the Environment and Natural Resources Division, the FBI's Art Crime Team, and the Office for Access to Justice (ATJ).

On March 6, PG Kostin met with Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew G. Olsen to discuss cooperation in identifying and prosecuting illicit actors and how to better coordinate efforts to freeze and seize Russian assets linked to funding Russian's aggression through TFKC. In addition, they discussed engaging with partners in Europe and the United Kingdom on preventing the export of sensitive dual-use technologies to Russia and to other foreign adversaries for malign purposes.

On March 7, PG Kostin also met with Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Counselor for International Affairs Bruce C. Swartz, WarCat, TFKC, the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT), Resident Legal Advisor at U.S. Embassy Kyiv Jared Kimball, the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), Environment and Natural Resources Division's Environmental Crimes Section, ATJ, and the Office of International Affairs (OIA). In addition, PG Kostin met with victim witness support experts of the Office of Victims of Crime, Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.



*PG Kostin and AAG Olsen.*



*From left to right: DAAG Swartz, PG Kostin, WarCAT Director Christian Levesque, OPDAT Resident Legal Advisor at U.S. Embassy Kyiv Kimball, and Deputy Chief Joseph Poux of ENRD's Environmental Crimes Section.*



*Ukrainian delegation with representatives from the Justice Department's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section.*

The meetings were a follow-up to the meetings in September 2023 to discuss progress made and priorities moving forward including investigating and prosecuting war crimes of torture and sexual violence and providing support and resources to victims and witnesses of these horrific crimes. They discussed increased efforts to provide guidance, case-based mentoring, expertise, and capacity building to Ukrainian prosecutors and investigators on investigating war-related cyber-attacks to critical infrastructure and environmental crimes, as well as the theft and smuggling of cultural property and protecting cultural heritage.

It also was an opportunity to demonstrate the United States' unwavering support and confidence in the Prosecutor General's Office's critical work and understand the current challenges they are facing and how the Department can help.

The Justice Department is proud to stand by our Ukrainian law enforcement partners in their courageous and crucial work and looks forward to continued collaboration and partnership.

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