

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 27 March 2025, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



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in Vienna

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The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the following.

The Russian Federation continues its campaign of coercion and persecution against Ukrainian citizens who refuse to accept Russian passports or sign contracts with Rosatom. Over the past six months alone, several of these individuals have been sentenced by Russian occupation "courts" to prison terms exceeding 10 years. These actions mark an escalation of repression specifically targeting the qualified Ukrainian personnel from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).

This systematic pressure and intimidation constitute a clear violation of Pillar 3 of the IAEA's Seven Indispensable Pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during armed conflict, which states: *"The operating staff must be able to fulfil their safety and security duties and have the capacity to make decisions free of undue pressure."*

Faced with escalating repression, qualified Ukrainian staff licensed by Ukraine's national nuclear regulator have been forced to abandon their positions at the ZNPP. As a result, staffing levels at the plant has dropped threefold. This sharp decrease in qualified personnel has already had tangible consequences for nuclear safety, significantly undermining the ability to conduct essential maintenance and repair work at the ZNPP.

These alarming developments have been documented in the IAEA Director General's reports, which highlight specific instances of safety degradation at the ZNPP. Notably, the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ) has reported unplanned maintenance activities stemming from failures in key components of the plant's cooling and safety systems.

Secretariat
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The frequency and nature of these incidents – including repeated failures in heat removal systems – are indicative of the cumulative impact of the massive reduction in licensed Ukrainian personnel and the lack of qualified replacements. The progressive deterioration of routine safety functions not only confirms the unsustainable staffing situation at the ZNPP but also clearly demonstrates how Russia's actions are escalating the risk of a potential nuclear accident.

In light of these developments, Ukraine calls upon all IAEA Member States to exert political and diplomatic pressure on the Russian Federation to secure the immediate release of illegally imprisoned Ukrainian personnel from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the IAEA Secretariat to circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna 27 March 2025