

# Information Circular

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**General Distribution**

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## Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 30 April 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.



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations  
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 Permanent Mission of Ukraine expresses its profound disappointment with the continued obstruction by the occupying administration and Russian military forces of the IAEA expert mission's access to critical areas at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). According to recent reports by the IAEA, during their regular inspections, the expert team was again denied access to the western parts of the turbine halls of two reactor units, significantly restricting their capability to perform essential verification tasks.

It is particularly alarming and unacceptable that, in stark contrast to the restricted access imposed on the official international mission, individuals affiliated with Russian propaganda media and bloggers are routinely provided unrestricted access to all areas within the ZNPP premises.

During one such unauthorized visit, Russian propagandists documented, through photographs and videos, the presence of Russian military personnel, weapons, and military equipment within sensitive operational zones of the nuclear facility. Photographic evidence clearly identifies soldiers belonging to units of the 104th Guards Air Assault Regiment, which has actively participated in combat operations against Ukraine since the outset of Russia's full-scale invasion, including the occupation of Ukrainian territories and illegal military control over the ZNPP itself (photos attached).

The documented unauthorized military presence and activities within the ZNPP not only constitute a blatant violation of international nuclear safety standards and nuclear security guidance's, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the IAEA Nuclear Security Series (in particular NSS No. 13, INFCIRC/225/Rev.5, on the Physical Protection of Nuclear

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Material and Nuclear Facilities), relevant resolutions of the IAEA General Conference and Board of Governors and the Seven Indispensable Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security as outlined by the IAEA Director General in March 2022 but also represent an unacceptable militarization of a civilian nuclear facility in violation of established international principles and norms.

The illegal presence of military personnel within the restricted premises of this highly sensitive nuclear facility significantly elevates risks and poses a direct threat to nuclear safety and security. In an environment dominated by armed forces of an occupying power, the notion of professional, independent management of the nuclear facility becomes fundamentally compromised. The plant's leadership, staff decisions, and operational choices are inevitably influenced—if not outright dictated—by the military presence, which undermines any assumption of safe, technically sound, and autonomous operation.

Furthermore, the IAEA mission regularly reports hearing military activities close to the ZNPP, including artillery and missile strikes targeting Ukrainian towns and settlements situated across the Dnipro River.

These facts constitute an urgent and ongoing threat to regional and international nuclear safety, requiring the continued attention of the international community.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly 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.

Enclosure: 10 pages.



Vienna, 30 April 2025