

## Investigation: why IAEA is passive and fails at protecting world nuclear peace

During almost a year Ukrainian and world experts and politicians called IAEA to stop Russia in their nuclear terror and blackmailing.

The IAEA's inefficiency has become evident over the course of the past year. Having not condemned the Russian war against Ukraine, hesitating to visit Ukrainian NPPs seized by Russian troops, giving no expertise, and continuing work with the aggressor prove that the IAEA as a world organisation has failed in its mission.

We are asking why IAEA doesn't follow its mission and fulfil its duties and looking for help to investigate the reasons.

We have already found two great investigations By Ukrainian investigating journalists [Molfar Global](#), [The Page](#) that could be useful.

Here's a comparison table of the biggest international law violations by Russia and IAEA

Date	Act of international law violation	IAEA reaction
24.02	Chornobyl NPP, located within the Exclusion Zone, was taken under Russian military control. The staff is taken as captives. The radiation level rises due to military equipment moving across contaminated soil.	<i>"The IAEA is <a href="#">following</a> the situation in Ukraine with <b>grave concern</b> and is appealing for maximum restraint to avoid any action that may put the country's nuclear facilities at risk". But no direct actions or condemnation of Russian nuclear terrorism.</i>
04.03	Zaporizhzhya NPP is under the control of Russian military units. They detonate shells and mines near the station, threatening to explode the biggest NPP in Europe. The staff is kept as hostages without permission to leave the plant.	<i>"I'm <b>extremely</b> <a href="#">concerned</a> about the situation at the Zaporizhzhya NPP and what happened there during the night. Firing shells in the area of a nuclear power plant violates the fundamental principle that the physical integrity of nuclear facilities must be maintained and kept safe at all time"</i>
04.07	At the Zaporizhzhya NPP, Russian soldiers deployed heavy artillery batteries, and laid anti-personnel mines along the shores of the reservoir whose water cools its six reactors. The Russian army has transformed Europe's largest nuclear power plant into a military base.	<i>"The IAEA has not been <a href="#">able</a> to visit the ZNPP since before the current military <b>conflict</b> in Ukraine. Director General Grossi has <b>repeatedly expressed deep concern</b> about the extremely difficult situation for Ukrainian workers at the plant."</i>

20.11	Powerful explosions shook the ZNPP. More than a dozen blasts from apparent shelling damaged some buildings, systems, and equipment of the plant.	<i>"The news from our team yesterday and this morning is <b>extremely disturbing</b>. Explosions occurred at the site of this major nuclear power plant, which is completely unacceptable. Whoever is behind this, it must stop immediately."</i> Director General Grossi <a href="#">said</a> . But no direct actions or condemnation of Russian nuclear terrorism.
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*"IAEA is unable to perform its functions and duties under conditions of influence and pressure from Russian representatives in these bodies, and therefore, their recommendations will not improve the safety of the ZNPP"* — [Yuriy Kostenko](#), Ex-Minister of Natural Environment Protection of Ukraine.

The IAEA General Conference [adopted](#) a decision in 2009 saying *"any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law and the Statute of the Agency"*. By occupying Ukrainian NPPs, Russia is violating key safety principles in terms of responsibility for the management of nuclear facilities, and its actions are contributing to the threat of a nuclear accident. The IAEA hasn't prevented military attacks on Ukrainian nuclear facilities and never condemned the aggressor, Russia. This shows that the IAEA failed to protect nuclear peace and does not realise its mission.

*"The resolution issued by the IAEA calls on Russia, not on Ukraine!!! to stop "violent actions". The IAEA fails by not demanding an immediate cessation of shelling by Ukraine"* — Alfred de Zayas, former UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic & Equitable International Order [said](#).

Despite Russian nuclear terrorism, the IAEA has strong ties with Russia. Namely, [Mikhail Chudakov](#), the Deputy Director General, among other Russian employees of the IAEA. Before this, Chudakov held senior positions within ROSATOM. The possibility that Chudakov has any decision-making or information-sharing role during the current nuclear crisis in Ukraine raises legitimate questions about the IAEA and its relationship to ROSATOM. This directly undermines the effectiveness of the IAEA, in particular in its relationship with Ukrainian nuclear authorities.

For more details and proficient opinions on the topic, we urge you to contact our experts:

- **Yuriy Kostenko**, Politician and leader of the Ukrainian People's Party. From 1992 to 1998 held cabinet minister ships with portfolios governing environmental protection and nuclear safety. Kostenko was a top-level representative of Ukraine in the negotiations with the Western powers and Russia on the denuclearization of Ukraine in the 1990s
- **Mark Savchuk**, Head of the Civil oversight Committee at the National Anticorruption Bureau of Ukraine.

- **Olga Kosharna**, an expert in nuclear energy and nuclear safety, previously worked at the State Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Ukraine and the National Institute for Strategic Studies in the Energy Security Department.