On unprovoked military aggression

An open letter in support of Ukraine

The Russian government must stop its invasion of Ukraine and withdraw its military forces

The undersigned Nobel laureates voice our support for the Ukrainian people and the free and independent state of Ukraine as it faces Russian aggression.

In a move that recalls the infamous attack of Nazi Germany on Poland in 1939 (using similar tricks of feigned provocation) and on the Soviet Union in 1941, the government of the Russian Federation,
led by President Putin, has launched an unprovoked military aggression — nothing else but a war — against its neighbor, Ukraine. We choose our words carefully here, for we do not believe the Russian people have a role in this aggression.

We join in condemning these military actions and President Putin’s essential denial of the legitimacy of Ukraine's existence.

There is always a peaceful way to resolve disputes. The Russian invasion blatantly violates the United Nations Charter, which says “All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.” It ignores the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, which obligated Russia and others to respect the sovereignty, independence, and existing borders of Ukraine.

Russia’s security concerns can be addressed within the framework of the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, and the 1990 Paris Charter. To make war, as President Putin and his collaborators have done, is an unwarranted, bloody, and unproductive way to a future.

The Russian invasion will stain the international reputation of the Russian state for decades to come. It will pose barriers to its economy and inflict hardships on its population. The sanctions
The sanctions imposed will restrict the ease of movement of its talented and hardworking people in the world. Why raise this fence between Russia and the world now?

Hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers, Russian soldiers, and Ukrainian civilians, including children, have died already. It’s so sad, so unnecessary. We gather in this appeal to call upon the Russian government to stop its invasion of Ukraine and withdraw its military forces from Ukraine.

We respect the calm and the strength of the Ukrainian people. We are with you. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of all, Ukrainians and Russians, who have died and been injured already. May peace come to this piece of our beautiful world.
Richard Axel, 2004, Medicine
David Baltimore, 1975, Medicine
Barry Clark Barish, 2017, Physics
J. Georg Bednorz, 1987, Physics
Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, 1996, Peace
Paul Berg, 1980, Chemistry
Bruce A. Beutler, 2011, Medicine
Elizabeth H. Blackburn, 2009, Medicine
Michael S. Brown, 1985, Medicine
Linda B. Buck, 2004, Medicine
William C. Campbell, 2015, Medicine
Mario R. Capecchi, 2007, Medicine
Thomas R. Cech, 1989, Chemistry
Martin Chalfie, 2008, Chemistry
Emmanuelle Charpentier, 2020, Chemistry
Steven Chu, 1997, Physics
Aaron Ciechanover, 2004, Chemistry
J. M. Coetzee, 2003, Literature
Elias James Corey, 1990, Chemistry
Robert F. Curl Jr., 1996, Chemistry
Angus S. Deaton, 2015, Economics
Johann Deisenhofer, 1988, Chemistry
Jennifer A. Doudna, 2020, Chemistry
Jacques Dubochet, 2017, Chemistry
Shirin Ebadi, 2003, Peace
Robert F. Engle III, 2003, Economics
Gerhard Ertl, 2007, Chemistry
Eugene F. Fama, 2013, Economics
Andrew Z. Fire, 2006, Medicine
Joachim Frank, 2017, Chemistry
Jerome I. Friedman, 1990, Physics
Leymah Roberta Gbowee, 2011, Peace
Andre Geim, 2010, Physics
Reinhard Genzel, 2020, Physics
Andrea Ghez, 2020, Physics
Sheldon Glashow, 1979, Physics
Joseph L. Goldstein, 1985, Medicine
Carol W. Greider, 2009, Medicine
David J. Gross, 2004, Physics
F. Duncan M. Haldane, 2016, Physics
Jeffrey Connor Hall, 2017, Medicine
John L. Hall, 2005, Physics
Serge Haroche, 2012, Physics
Oliver Hart, 2016, Economics
ARThUR B. MCDONALD, 2015, PHYSICS
DANIEL L. MCFADDEN, 2000, ECONOMICS
CRAIG C. MELLO, 2006, MEDICINE
ROBERT C. MERTON, 1997, ECONOMICS
HARTMUT MICHEL, 1988, CHEMISTRY
PAUL R. MILGROM, 2020, ECONOMICS
PAUL L. MODRICH, 2015, CHEMISTRY
WILLIAM E. MOERNER, 2014, CHEMISTRY
EDVARD MOSER, 2014, MEDICINE
MAY-BRITT MOSER, 2014, MEDICINE
GERARD MOUROU, 2018, PHYSICS
HERTA MULLER, 2009, LITERATURE
FERID MURAD, 1998, MEDICINE
ROGER B. MYERSON, 2007, ECONOMICS
ERWIN NEHER, 1991, MEDICINE
YROJI NOYORI, 2001, CHEMISTRY
SIR PAUL NURSE, 2001, MEDICINE
CHRISTIANE NUSSLEIN-VOLHARD, 1995, MEDICINE
JOHN O’KEEFEE, 2014, MEDICINE
YOSHINORI OHSUMI, 2016, MEDICINE
ORHAN PAMUK, 2006, LITERATURE
ARDEM PATAPOUTIAN, 2021, MEDICINE
JAMES PEEBLES, 2019, PHYSICS
EDMUND S. PHELPS, 2006, ECONOMICS
WILLIAM D. PHILLIPS, 1997, PHYSICS
H. DAVID POLITZER, 2004, PHYSICS
STANLEY B. PRUSINER, 1997, MEDICINE
VENKATRAMAN RAMAKRISHNAN, 2009, CHEMISTRY
SIR PETER J. RATCLIFFE, 2019, MEDICINE
MARIA RESSA, 2021, PEACE
CHARLES M. RICE, 2020, MEDICINE
ADAM G. RIESS, 2011, PHYSICS
SIR RICHARD J. ROBERTS, 1993, MEDICINE
MICHAEL ROSBASH, 2017, MEDICINE
ALVIN E. ROTH, 2012, ECONOMICS
JAMES E. ROTHMAN, 2013, MEDICINE
BERT SAKMANN, 1991, MEDICINE
OSCAR ARIAS SANCHEZ, 1987, PEACE
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KAILASH SATYARATHI, 2014, PEACE
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RANDY W. SCHENKMAN, 2013, MEDICINE
BRIAN P. SCHMIDT, 2011, PHYSICS
GREGG L. SEMENZA, 2019, MEDICINE
PHILLIPA SHARP 1993, MEDICINE
PHILLIP A. SHARP, 1993, MEDICINE
K. BARRY SHARPLESS, 2001, CHEMISTRY
DAN SHECHTMAN, 2011, CHEMISTRY
ROBERT J. SHILLER, 2013, ECONOMICS
HIDEKI SHIRAKAWA, 2000, CHEMISTRY
HAMILTON O. SMITH, 1978, MEDICINE
WOLE SOYINKA, 1986, LITERATURE
SIR JAMES FRASER STODDART, 2016, CHEMISTRY
HORST L. STORMER, 1998, PHYSICS
DONNA STRICKLAND, 2018, PHYSICS
JACK W. SZOSTAK, 2009, MEDICINE
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KIP STEPHEN THORNE, 2017, PHYSICS
SUSUMU TONEGAWA, 1987, MEDICINE
DANIEL C. TSUI, 1998, PHYSICS
HAROLD E. VARMUS, 1989, MEDICINE
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ARIEH WARSHEL, 2013, CHEMISTRY
RAINER WEISS, 2017, PHYSICS
M. STANLEY WHITTINGHAM, 2019, CHEMISTRY
ERIC F. WIESCHAUS, 1995, MEDICINE
TORSTEN N. WIESEL, 1981, MEDICINE
FRANK WILCZEK, 2004, PHYSICS
JODY WILLIAMS, 1997, PEACE
DAVID J. WINELAND, 2012, PHYSICS
KURT WUTHRICH, 2002, CHEMISTRY
SHINYA YAMANAKA, 2012, MEDICINE
MICHAEL W. YOUNG, 2017, MEDICINE
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