

Solène Guarinos
War Criminals
TRT 2:30

ON CAPITOL HILL TODAY, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT URGED CONGRESS TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES IN HOLDING WAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ATROCITIES.

AS SOLENE GUARINOS REPORTS, IT COULD HELP THE PROSECUTION OF RUSSIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMES IN UKRAINE.

SO FAR, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DOCUMENTED 35-THOUSAND WAR CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINIAN CITIZENS CAUSED BY THE INVASION OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.

IN THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN DICK DURBIN TALKED ABOUT THE GRIZZLY ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN IZIU.

SOT :20 The once picturesque riverside city was now unrecognizable. Mass graves were filled with hundreds of unidentified bodies, including children, bodies with crushed bones, victims' hands tied in behind their backs, faces mutilated beyond recognition. Many showing signs of torture.

HE ADDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT LOOK AWAY AND MUST FACE THOSE CRIMES.

LAWMAKERS ARE TRYING TO PREVENT WAR CRIMINALS FROM FLEEING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND GETTING INTO THE U-S TO FIND A SAFE HAVEN.

BUT AMERICAN LAWS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS HAVE NOT BEEN CLEAR OR SWIFT.

IN 1945 GERMANY, THE NUREMBERG TRIALS UNCOVERED NAZIS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE, MARKING THE FIRST-EVER PROSECUTIONS FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.

SEVERAL NAZIS ESCAPED TO THE U-S AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1979 THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CREATED A NAZI-HUNTING UNIT TO TRACK DOWN FORMER NAZI CRIMINALS LIVING IN THE U-S.

BUT EVEN THE CURRENT 1996 WAR CRIMES ACT DOESN'T ALLOW AMERICANS TO PERSECUTE FOREIGN-BORN WAR CRIMINALS, ALLOWING THEM TO SETTLE IN THE U-S.

LAWMAKERS HEARD FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT THE SHAMEFUL LOOPHOLES THAT STILL ALLOW WAR CRIMINALS TO GET AWAY WITH THEIR CRIMES.

ONE MAN WHO TRACKED DOWN NAZIS FOR FOUR DECADES IS ELI ROSENBAUM, A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR FOR WAR CRIMES.

SOT (:12) Right now, a perpetrator from Bucha could come to the United States and we wouldn't be able to persecute him or her for war crimes. That's just not acceptable.

RANKING MEMBER CHUCK GRASSLEY SAYS THE U-S STILL DOES NOT HAVE A LAW ON THE BOOKS PROHIBITING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.

SOT (:11) They can't be allowed to live freely in our country. We have to have options to exclude extradites and punish war criminals.

GRASSLEY INTRODUCED A NEW BILL IN MAY TO EXTEND THE WAR CRIMES ACT SO THAT THOSE WHO COMMITTED WAR CRIMES CAN BE BROUGHT JUSTICE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT U-S CITIZENS OR MILITARY.

SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN LINDSEY GRAHAM URGED ACTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND SENT A MESSAGE TO VLADIMIR PUTIN.

SOT (:20) If the Russians see and the Ukrainians see a blow to economic and military systems, a further escalation of Russia by making them a state sponsored terrorism, and a viable lane of prosecution on war crimes being committed right before our eyes, I think it can turn the tide of battle in 2023. We, as Congress, can create a great effect on the outcomes of this war.

GRAHAM WARNED THAT IF PUTIN USES NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON UKRAINE IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ATTACK ON N-A-T-O, EVEN THOUGH UKRAINE IS NOT OFFICIALLY IN THE ALLIANCE.

LAWMAKERS HOPE TO PASS STRONGER LEGISLATION BEFORE 2023.

SOLENE GUARINOS, CAPITOL HILL.