Position of the Board of the 'Themis' Judges' Association of 24 February 2022 on the Russian aggression against Ukraine

'*We the peoples of the united nations determined* *to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, (…) to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, (…) , that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest (…)*'.

This is an extract from the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, an instrument of international law created in the ruins of the Second World War and also signed by Russia.

According to the Charter, the primary objective of the international community is to maintain international peace and security through the application of effective collective measures to prevent and remove threats to peace, to suppress acts of aggression and other breaches of peace, and to mitigate and settle disputes or situations likely to lead to a breach of peace peacefully, in accordance with the rules of justice and international law.

Today, at 4 a.m. Polish time, by attacking Ukraine, Russia denounced the Charter of the United Nations to the international community, thereby showing that it is no longer a state which respects peace, democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

We must now be united and show solidarity, because only by acting together are we strong. Within the European Union, within NATO, within the community of civilised Western democratic countries.

The Themis Judges' Association condemns Russian aggression against the sovereign Ukrainian State and expresses its solidarity with the Ukrainian people, joining in their pain with the families of the victims of Russian aggression.