



# Holding Russia Accountable for Violating International Law

## Overview

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When it faced aggressive actions by Russia, we stepped in on behalf of the Government of Ukraine to pursue justice in multiple international fora.

## Problem

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- In 2014, Ukraine experienced a democratic “Revolution of Dignity.” The Russian Federation responded with a series of violations of international law, including an illegal attempt to annex Crimea from Ukraine.
- Russia’s actions including supplying the powerful anti-aircraft missile system that shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

## Covington Team

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Co-chair of the firm’s Arbitration Practice Group. She represents both states and corporate clients in complex international disputes, drawing upon her expertise in public international law, investment, and international trade.



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Practice combines international and antitrust law, drawing on his experience of 15 years in government. His international practice focuses principally on investor-state arbitration and public international law disputes, on which he advises both states and corporate clients.



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Focuses on appellate litigation, as well as questions of international law and other transnational legal issues that arise in both U.S. and international tribunals.



## Strategy

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- We worked with the Government of Ukraine to create a comprehensive legal strategy to seek justice for Ukraine in all available fora.
- In the International Court of Justice, we launched a case challenging Russia's violations of two treaties concerning the financing of terrorism and racial discrimination.
- We are simultaneously suing Russia in an arbitration for violations of the law of the sea.

## Results

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- The cases are ongoing, but we have already achieved early victories.
- In April 2017, shortly after launching the case in the International Court of Justice, the Court granted our request for provisional relief by an overwhelming 13-3 margin, ordering Russia to respect the rights of the Crimean Tatars, a vulnerable minority population in occupied Crimea.