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Int’l public opinion fixed on shocking warfare in Ukraine



International public opinion on Thursday continued to watch in shock and horror after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the commencement of military operations against targets in Ukraine, something that most Western leaders called and condemned as a blatant invasion and attack against a sovereign country.
Explosions, ostensibly caused by artillery, warplane and missile attacks, were reported in several Ukrainian cities, including the capital of Kiev. Television footage, in fact, showed tens of thousands of residents fleeing the country’s major cities by vehicle.

In the southeast corner of Ukraine, and specifically at the Sea of Azov port city of Mariupol, Ukrainian forces have reportedly cut off the entire region. The Mariupol district is of particular interest to Greece, as roughly 150,000 ethnic Greeks live in and around the city, a community dating back two millennia.

Back in Greece and in a related development, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Thursday morning chaired a high-ranking national security council meeting to examine the situation.

Both Mitsotakis and the Greek government have categorically condemned the

invasion of Ukraine and related attacks.

One of the first Orthodox Primates to refer to the now dire situation was the Patriarch of All Romania, His Beatitude Daniel, who called and prayed for an immediate end to the war and the establishment of peace.

His Beatitude stated that “… the Romanian Orthodox Church, in line with all other important institutional bodies of Romania and the European Union, expresses its grave concern over the commencement of warfare in Ukraine, a war begun by Russia against a sovereign and independent state… At the same time, we express our solidarity to the Romanian Orthodox Christians living in Ukraine, and convey our willingness to assist them, according to our resources.”