



State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland)

Native land of Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes that made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers

Remarks by Senator Kayse Jama on the Humanitarian Crisis Resulting from the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Oregon Legislative Assembly
Salem, Oregon

February 25th, 2022
10:00 AM PST

SENATOR KAYSE JAMA: Thank you Mr. President.

I come to you with a heavy heart as we witness the events rapidly unfolding in Ukraine.

When I was forced to flee my home country of Somalia because of the civil war in 1990, I witnessed first hand the brutality of domestic conflict, and the traumatic and lasting psychological impacts of war on the people caught in the crossfire.

With projections stating that 5 million people could be displaced across Europe as a result of Russia's military invasion into a sovereign nation, I cannot help but think of the millions of innocent Ukrainian civilians that are losing and fleeing their homes; losing their freedoms; and losing their lives.

Let us also remember the millions of children that will be forced to leave their homes, schools, and communities, many of whom will be displaced permanently.

As a former refugee, witnessing yet another nation being torn apart by violence, witnessing yet another people being forced to flee their homes, I am reminded of the horrors of war which I witnessed in Somalia over 30 years ago.

As leaders, we must make every commitment to maintaining peace, and condemning conflict.

As we continue the important duties of the legislature, let us keep the Ukrainian people in our hearts and in our prayers.

Thank You.