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Headline: A Chance for Peace: OSCE Must Strengthen the Peace Monitoring Mission in Donbas, Ukraine. The US must reverse its withdrawal of OSCE peace observers in Ukraine.

According to Nonviolence International, there is an improved chance for peace if the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine is strengthened with additional personnel and resources. NVI calls on the US to reverse its withdrawal of OSCE monitors in the Donbas and echoes some of the Sergey Lavrov Russian foreign minister's criticism of the OSCE's lack of capacity to document violations, particularly those by the Ukrainian military.

Many of the regional peace groups agree. On Feb 1st, the Eastern European Network of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict strongly recommended, "Strengthening the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to a level where it will be able to quickly record, confidently attribute and immediately make public any violation of the ceasefire regime in the Donbass."

GPPAC went on further to say that, "We believe that for a constructive and long-term resolution of the current extremely dangerous international situation, it is necessary not only to prevent any further escalation of the armed confrontation, but also to achieve a genuine, sustainable settlement of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. The first step toward such a settlement should be the complete cessation of hostilities on all sides along the existing line of demarcation, as well as the adoption of a set of measures to ensure the rights of people living in the region. **We believe that this could be facilitated through a significant quantitative and qualitative strengthening of the corresponding OSCE observation mission to a level where it would be able to quickly record, confidently attribute and immediately make public any violation of the ceasefire regime, and carry out effective measures in response to such violations.** We are sure that modern technical means and political will of the leaders of the OSCE member states make it possible to perform such a task."

NVI's Director, Michael Beer, declared, "We need the US government to beat the drums of peace."

Beer states, "While the US is concerned about the safety of its OSCE it is at moments such as these when we most need peace monitors." It is critically important to maintain the



personnel, who are currently involved in monitoring the situation along the line of contact and to take every possible measure to expand their capacity. There are few areas of agreement at the moment, but strengthening the Peace Monitoring Mission in Ukraine should be one of them.

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