Harris embraces call for war crimes probe of Russia

Aamer Madhani Zeke Miller

WASHINGTON, Poland — Vice President Kamala Harris’ visit to the Polish capital Wednesday, in which she called for an international crime commission to investigate Russian violations of Ukrainian territorial integrity, created a stir among eastern flank allies, Harris expressed during a joint press conference in Warsaw, where she is demonstrating U.S. support for NATO’s response to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Speaking alongside Polish President Andrzej Duda at a press conference in Warsaw, where she is demonstrating U.S. support for NATO’s eastern flank allies, Harris expressed outrage over the bombing Wednesday of the maternity hospital in the southern Ukrainian town of Mariupol and scenes of bloody pregnant women being evacuated, as well as other attacks on civilians. She stopped short of directly accusing Russia of having committed war crimes.

“Absolutely there should be an investigation and we should all be watching,” said Harris, noting that the United Nations has already started a process to review allegations. “I have no question the eyes of the world are on this war and what Russia has done in terms of this aggression and these atrocities.”

Harris’ visit to Poland came amid a kerfuffle between Warsaw and Washington, where she is demonstrating U.S. support for NATO’s response to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Psaki said.

Just as Harris arrived in Warsaw late Wednesday, the Pentagon definitively rejected the idea, saying it would ruin the mission of escalating the Russia-Ukraine war.

At Thursday’s news conference, both Harris and Psaki sought to brush aside differences on the tighter mask issue.