



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION
OF CRIMEA

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14.03.2022 № 61/2022

To UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Russian Aggression against Ukraine and Death Penalty

Our Association of Reintegration of Crimea (ARC)¹, is non-governmental expert and human rights organisation², with activities devoted to Crimea's issues. ARC's expert researches are related with human rights of Crimean residents and ethnic groups, including their fundamental rights. Since 2020 we sent more than 50 submissions and proposals to UN human rights' strictures, major part of them were published in the UN web-sources, including the issues of violating the Crimean inhabitants' rights to life³.

Illegal occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea by Russia since 2014, as a part of Russian-Ukrainian interstate conflict, changed the situation in the region. Systematic gross violations of the human rights and humanitarian standards, racial discrimination of ethnic Crimean Tatars and Russians, were committed in last seven years by Russia in the Crimea, were condemned by the UN GA resolutions⁴, resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, of the PACE, of the European Parliament's resolutions etc. Gross human rights' violations, correlated with crimes against humanity in Crimea and racial discrimination in the region are now subject to consideration in International Court of Justice (case 166)⁵ and the European Court of Human Rights (case 20958/14 and others).⁶

UN GA Resolution 76/179 on 16 December 2021⁷ condemned the reported serious violations and abuses committed by Russia against residents of the Crimea, in particular – extrajudicial killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, as well as reported abuses of other fundamental freedoms.

Since 24th of February 2022 Russia committed broad and open military aggression to all Ukraine's territory from own territory, from occupied Crimea, Belarus, Black and Azov seas against Ukrainian mainland. Due last weeks of fights Russia occupied some territories of Chernigiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Zaporizhzhya, Zhitomir regions and strong fights are going near cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and others with total population more than 10 millions persons near the frontline.

In last weeks Russian troops committed in Ukraine, during this operation, gross violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights' law already. Russia commenced an unprovoked invasion throughout Ukrainian territory, which is already causing catastrophic harms to Ukraine and its people⁸.

¹ <https://arc.construction/>

² https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations_b/20210005/1348

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/SR/Femicide/2021-submissions/CSOs/association-of-reintegration.pdf>

⁴ for example, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/263>

⁵ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/166/166-20191108-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf>

⁶ <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng/?i=001-207622>

⁷ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/179>

⁸ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220307-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>

Ukraine immediately filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 February 2022⁹ and to the European Court of Human Rights¹⁰. Russian government, propaganda and military forces uses the hate speech against the ethnic Ukrainians, in Russian officials' statements and use the new Nazi symbols as letter "Z" for marking own troops, paramilitaries and "support actions" in Ukraine and occupied territories.

On March 10, Russia stopped its participation in the Council of Europe and refused officially to execute the demands of European Convention on Human Rights, including ban on the death penalty¹¹. Russia-controlled "administrations" in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine declare the usage of the death penalty by their punitive structures already.

Russian troops and "military commandant's offices" created by Russian invaders in Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions use actively the practice of extrajudicial executions of local civil population and Ukrainian prisoners of war.

Russian troops use actively mercenaries in their military activities in Ukraine, including Russia-occupied territories¹²¹³. As it was pointed on the special session of UN General Assembly on 28th February 2022, more than 350 civil citizens, including 16 children were killed by the Russian troops during first five days of war, more that 2000 civil citizens were wounded. Till 13th of March, 2022 more new was crimes were committed by the Russian troops, including usage civil population as hostages and "human shield", destruction objects of civil infrastructure, including pipe electric lines, bomb the civil objects, including kindergartens, schools and hospitals by missiles and artillery, kill medics that try to give aid to victims of war and enforced civil labour in military purposes. More than 3500 civil person, including 90 children were killed by Russian troops and Russia-controlled mercenaries to this date, especially in Chernigiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Sumy Regions of Ukraine.

Among civil persons, who were victims of Russia-controlled mercenaries, there are persons who tried, to replace themselves from the hostilities zone, who hided in the shelters and were used as a "life shield" by Russian troops. A lot of persons were killed or kidnapped as "non-loyal" ones or during looting their property. Russian occupation of Melitopol and other cities in Southern Ukraine in March 2022 led to mass actions of resistance to the aggressor¹⁴. Russian troops block the humanitarian corridors established to evacuate civil population from hostilities zones and occupied territories.

Currently, the situation is extremely difficult in Mariupol and settlements in the North of Kyiv Region, where there is virtually no heating, electricity and an acute food crisis¹⁵. Due to the fierce resistance of the population of Kherson Region, the occupiers are trying to impose an administrative-police regime, for which Rosguard units were introduced in the region, which illegally detained more than 400 Ukrainian citizens on racial grounds, including Ukrainian youth representatives¹⁶.

Now the International Criminal Court started investigation on the war crimes committed by Russian invaders in Ukraine and it collect relevant proofs. Also the crimes' against civil population committed by Russian troops and paramilitaries are investigated by the Ukraine's legal enforcement bodies and by prosecutors' offices of some European countries, including Germany. There is now peacekeeping missions in Ukraine as such initiatives were blocked

⁹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/182>

¹⁰ <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-7282553-9922068>

¹¹ <https://arc.construction/26897>

¹² <https://hromadske.radio/en/news/2022/03/09/members-of-the-wagner-group-have-been-killed-in-ukraine>

¹³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60547807>

¹⁴ <https://arc.construction/26918>

¹⁵ <https://arc.construction/26887>

¹⁶ <https://arc.construction/26892>

by the Russian government. Activities of UN Monitoring Mission in Ukraine are low and OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine de-facto stopped its activities since 7th of March¹⁷. Russian invaders destroyed Ukrainian legal enforcement and court activities in the occupied territories so there victims of Russian troops and Russia-controlled mercenaries, including victims of forced labor have no access to justice.

UN Human Rights Council adopted its resolution 49/1 on 4 March 2022 where it expressed grave concern at the documented harm to the enjoyment of many human rights, including the rights to life, resulting from the aggression against Ukraine by Russia¹⁸. On 8 March 2022 UN human rights experts called on Russia to immediately end its invasion of Ukraine to avoid further bloodshed and loss of life; experts recalled that intentional attacks against civilians and civilian objects amount to war crimes¹⁹. In other UN experts' statements the negative impact of Russia's aggression on right to life of persons with disabilities and older persons was condemned²⁰, and relevant risks for women's right to life were pointed²¹.

All those steps of the Nazi policy of Russian government and by the Russia-controlled "administrations" in Russia-occupied Crimea, South, North and East of Ukraine in areas of death penalty and extrajudicial executions directly violate the right to life, guaranteed to the Ukrainian citizens by the international law. Our Association believes that urgent, immediate steps of the UN OHCHR must be done including all observation procedures and immediate visit to Ukraine. Monitoring procedure, mentioned in HRC resolution 49/1, must be started immediately.

We hope that special statement of the UN OHCHR in framework of its mandate on the Russia's policy on occupied territories of Ukraine in areas of death penalty and extrajudicial executions, on Russia's war crimes, committed in Ukraine, will be extremely important for further defense of rights of Ukrainian citizens in the zone of conflict and in the occupied territories in Ukraine.

We believe that urgent steps of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights must be done including all observation procedures and immediate visit to Ukraine.

14th March, 2022

Representative of the ARC
Dr. Borys Babin



¹⁷ <https://www.osce.org/ru/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/513430>

¹⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28231&LangID=E>

²⁰ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28200&LangID=E>

²¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28201&LangID=E>