



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION
OF CRIMEA

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To UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Including its Causes and Consequences

Situation with Forced Displacement and Slavery in the Crimea

Submission for Report

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The Association of Reintegration of Crimea¹, as a registered non-governmental organisation, herewith submits the following responses (submission) to the questionnaire of the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery including its causes and consequences on issues of the nexus between forced displacement and contemporary forms of slavery, for the Special Rapporteur's forthcoming report to the 48th session of the Human Rights Council.

Our responses (submission) are devoted to the situation with situation of forced displacement and contemporary forms of slavery in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol (hereinafter – Crimea). The response deals with the issues identified by the Association in its work, namely the issue of intentional and organised Russian policy against civil and labour rights in the Crimea.

Illegal occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea by Russian Federation (hereinafter – RF) since 2014 have been condemned in a set of international acts, including UN GA resolutions 2014 68/262, 2016 71/205, 2017 72/190, 2018 73/263 2019 74/168, 2020 75/192, 2018 73/194, 2019 74/17, 2020 75/29², resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1988 (2014), 2028 (2015), 2067 (2015), 2112 (2016), 2132 (2016), 2145 (2017), 2198 (2018), 2231 (2018) etc., of the European Parliament's resolutions 2014/2841 (RSP), 2014/2965 (RSP), 2016/2556 (RSP), 2016/2692 (RSP), 2017/2596 (RSP), 2017/2869 (RSP), 2018/2754 (RSP), 2018/2870 (RSP), 2019/2734 (RSP), 2019/2202 (INI) etc.

So the attempted annexation the Crimea by Russia was never recognized by the international community. Human rights violations in the Crimea now are the subject to

¹ <https://arc.construction/>

² for example, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/263>

consideration in international courts, including the International Court of Justice (case 166)³ and the European Court of Human Rights (case 20958/14 and others).⁴

The policy of Russian de-facto authorities in Crimea includes the discrimination of the citizens of Ukraine in the Crimea that refused or could not get the so called “Russian citizenship” after 2014, when RF declared Crimean peninsula as allegedly “own territory”. Such Ukrainian citizens resided in the Crimea before the attempted annexation or resettled to peninsula later due to Russian aggression on the East of Ukraine and to ongoing armed conflict there. Such Ukrainian citizens in the Crimea are determined by the Russian de-facto authorities as “foreigners”, which have to get the “residence permits” and the “special allowance” to work. But in reality thousands of such persons can not have the “residence” and the “special allowance” in the Crimea, due to the system of total corruption, bureaucracy and politic position of the Russian de-facto authorities in this region.

As Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) pointed in its thirty-first report by the on the human rights situation in Ukraine, based on the work of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (p. 104), in 2020, “courts” in Crimea issued deportation and forcible transfer orders against at least 178 individuals considered “foreigners” under RF immigration law, including 105 Ukrainian citizens (93 men and 12 women). Those Ukrainian citizens who were ordered to leave Crimea either did not possess RF passports, had registration or “propyska” in mainland Ukraine, or failed to apply for or to obtain Russian “residence permits”, and were thus considered as “not having residency rights in Crimea”⁵.

During 2019 more that 360 person were deported from Crimea, first of all from the Simferopol, Sevastopol and Southern Coast of Crimea as the part of the purposeful policy of the RF de-facto authorities to “squeeze out” the population, undesirable for them⁶. For those purposes so-called “courts” in the Crimea used usually the article 18.8 of the Administrative Offences Code of RF (“Violation by the foreigner the regime of residing in RF”). But sometimes so called “courts” used for such deportation the article 18.10 of this Code (“Illegal labour activities of the foreigner in RF”)⁷.

Some such cases were used by Russian state propaganda, for its hate speech activities against Ukraine, Ukrainians and citizens of Ukraine. For example, in February 2018 Russia’s official edition “Rossiyskaya Gazeta”, published by the Government of Russia, published the article “23 Ukrainian Gastarbeiters Were Deported from Crimea” devoted to the punishment by the abovementioned articles 18.8 and 18.10 the group of workers, used in the kindergarten’s reconstruction in Novoozernoye settlement (Western Crimea)⁸. Even the term “gastarbeiters”, used before exclusively by the Nazi regime in Germany, shows by itself the real relation of Russian de-facto authorities to the Ukrainian citizens’ labour rights. So all such Ukrainian citizens in the Crimea are vulnerable for possible deportation and their work is used as “illegal” without any guarantees and with

³ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/166/166-20191108-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf>

⁴ <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-207622>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/31stReportUkraine-en.pdf>

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-shtrafuyut-i-vydvoryayut-ukrainczev-ne-poluchivshih-rossijskie-pasporta/>

⁷ <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/901807667>

⁸ <https://rg.ru/2018/02/13/reg-ufo/iz-kryma-deportirovali-23-ukrainskih-gastarbajtera.html>

minimal possible payments. So such work of Ukrainians in own State's territory, illegally occupied by Russia, is de-facto a specific contemporary forms of slavery.

The deportation of the residents of Ukraine from the occupied territory of Ukraine is a violation of the norms of international humanitarian law, this is another war crime of the RF de-facto authorities, committed in the Crimea. Separation of Ukrainian citizens from their families in the Crimea violates the right to respect for private and family life. The persecution of Crimeans in the occupied territory for the absence of Russian "documents" violates a number of the international norms. The absence of such documents, in fact, has become a sign, by which Ukrainian citizens are regularly discriminated in the Crimea, including their labour rights and freedom of movement.

The Association of Reintegration of Crimea believes that a special research on the contemporary forms of slavery in situations of armed conflicts and related "grey zones" like Crimean peninsula, done by the UN Special Rapporteur, may be a starting point for improvement of the situation. The Special Rapporteur's visit to Ukraine, including Crimea would contribute to collection of information, and would enable the Rapporteur to make a first-hand impression of the situation with contemporary forms of slavery.

14th March, 2021

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