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**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human
rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs
and representatives**

Letter dated 7 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to my previous letters, I have the honour to transmit herewith for your kind attention the statement dated 7 July 2020 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on a new wave of searches and detentions in the temporarily occupied Crimea (see annex).

The Russian Federation, as the occupying power, continues to commit gross violations of its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine. Even in times of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and contrary to Security Council resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#), the occupying power seeks to destroy the identity of Ukrainians and the indigenous people of the peninsula, the Crimean Tatars, as well as of other ethnic and religious groups.

Information about new politically motivated arrests and court hearings comes in daily. As a result of today's new wave of illegal searches and detentions of Crimean Tatars carried out by the Russian occupation authorities in various districts of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, according to the available information, at least seven Ukrainian citizens were illegally detained – Emil Ziyadinov, Ismet Ibragimov, Alim Sufyanov, Seyran Khayretdinov, Oleksandr Sizikov, Vadym Bektemirov and Zekyrya Muratov.

Such actions of the Russian Federation constitute a continuation of the repressive practices against the Ukrainian citizens of the occupied Crimea, who seek to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms in full. In the territory of the occupied Crimea, the occupying state regards as a threat and terrorist activity what is considered normal in Ukraine and other democracies. Moreover, targeted searches of the homes of Crimean Muslims are evidence of persecution on religious grounds.



The human rights situation in the temporarily occupied Crimea is constantly deteriorating. The basic human rights (to life, to liberty and security, and to fair trial) and freedoms (of speech, assembly and religion, and from torture etc.) are widely neglected by the occupation authorities. The Russian Federation totally disregards also the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine”, which was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/168](#).

Ukraine demands that Russia faithfully fulfil its international legal obligations as an occupying power, which includes, in particular, putting an end to the repression against the local population of the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula.

I reiterate the call upon the Russian Federation to abide by its international obligations and to implement all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including the most recent resolutions, namely resolution [74/168](#), entitled “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine” and resolution [74/17](#), entitled “Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov”.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 63 and 70 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sergiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on a new wave of searches and detentions in the occupied Crimea, 7 July 2020

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely protests against today's new wave of illegal searches and detentions of Crimean Tatars carried out by the Russian occupation authorities in various districts of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

According to the available information, at least seven Ukrainian citizens were illegally detained following the searches – Emil Ziyadinov, Ismet Ibragimov, Alim Sufyanov, Seyran Khayretdinov, Oleksandr Sizikov, Vadym Bektemirov, and Zekyrya Muratov.

Such actions of the Russian Federation constitute a continuation of the repressive practices against the Ukrainian citizens of the occupied Crimea, who seek to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms in full. In the territory of the occupied Crimea, the occupying state regards as a threat and terrorist activity what is considered normal in Ukraine and other democracies.

Moreover, targeted searches of the homes of Crimean Muslims are evidence of persecution on religious grounds.

We demand that Russia faithfully fulfills its international legal obligations as an occupying power, which includes, in particular, putting end to repression against the local population of the occupied Crimean peninsula. We expect that the Russian Federation will start implementing UN General Assembly Resolutions [68/262](#) "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" of 27 March 2014 and "Human Rights Situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" 2016–2019, as well as the Order of the International Court of Justice on the application of provisional measures in the framework of the case initiated by Ukraine against the Russian Federation concerning the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We are grateful to the international community for not leaving the illegal actions of the Russian Federation in the occupied Crimea unnoticed. Recent interim report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, notes the continuing human rights violations by Russia in the occupied Crimea, including torture and other ill-treatment, the impunity of the Russian law enforcement agencies involved in these crimes, inadequate conditions in prisons, cruel and degrading treatment of prisoners, criminalization of freedom of expression in social media, and interference in the work of the media and human rights organizations, including those of Crimean Tatars.

We call on the international community to continue its active advocacy for the protection of the rights and freedoms of the inhabitants of the Crimean peninsula and to increase pressure on the Russian Federation to end human rights violations in the temporarily occupied Crimea.