



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
28 May 2019

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-third session**
Agenda items 67 and 74(c)

**Security Council
Seventy-fourth year**

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

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

**Letter dated 17 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Call of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People to the Parliaments and the Governments of the United Nations to Recognize the Genocide of the Crimean Tatar People (see annex).

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 67 and 74 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Call to the Parliaments and the Governments of the United Nations to Recognize the Genocide of the Crimean Tatar People

On May 18, 1944, following the decisions of the USSR State Committee of Defense the Crimean Tatar people were subjected to mass deportation from their historical native land – the Crimea.

About 200 000 Crimean Tatars, mostly women, children and elderly, were deported under the chekist operation to remote areas of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

The deportation was held by the USSR National Commissariat of Internal Affairs troops as a specially designed punitive operation, which included armed encirclement of the villages, forced ousting of Crimean Tatars from their houses, protracted detention of people at squares or cemeteries, forced loading of people into overcrowded cattle wagons, and confiscation of all immovable and movable property.

At the special settlements the Crimean Tatars were used as a source of hard grueling labor, including mines, sawmills, construction of irrigation channels.

According to various estimates, within the first years of the exile more than 46% of Crimean Tatars died at the special settlements out of hunger, malnourishment, mass diseases, tortures and the backbreaking labor.

The forceful detention of the Crimean Tatars in exile and the ban on their return and settlement back in their native land, in the Crimea, lasted up until November 1989.

According to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the genocide means acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Thus, the violent deportation of the Crimean Tatar people from the territory of their historical inhabitation, deliberate putting them to settlement places with poor conditions that caused numerous deaths of the Crimean Tatars, especially women and children, deprivation of basic means for living, decades-long ban to return and settle in the Crimea – the historical land of genesis of the Crimean Tatar people, targeted language and cultural assimilation, shall all be considered, in compliance with the international law, as the traces of the genocide.

The 4th session of the fourth Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar people (December 9–11, 2005) recognized the deportation of May 18, 1944, as well as the following decades of the forced detention of Crimean Tatars in exile, as the act of genocide of the Crimean Tatar people – the indigenous people of the Crimea.

With the Resolution of May 20, 2014, № 1140-VII “On the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on guarantees of rights of the Crimean Tatar people as a part of the State of Ukraine” Ukraine’s parliament recognized the Crimean Tatar people as indigenous people of Ukraine and guaranteed the protection and fulfillment

of their” natural right to self-determination within the sovereign and independent Ukrainian State.

With the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of May 14, 2015, № 412-VIII “On appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, world leaders and members of the international community on condemnation of the Violation of rights and freedoms of the Crimean Tatar people” the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine appealed to international community to condemn the violent deportation of Crimean Tatars, committed by the USSR’s communist regime on May 18, 1944.

With the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of November 12, 2015, № 792-VIII “On the recognition of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people” the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine recognized the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people from the Crimea in 1944 as a genocide of the Crimean Tatar people. At the same time, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine stated that the systematic pressure on the Crimean Tatar people, repressions against the citizens of Ukraine based on their ethnicity, the practices of ethnic and politically motivated persecution of the Crimean Tatars and their bodies, such as the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar people, on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine by the state bodies of the Russian Federation since the start of the temporary occupation was a deliberate policy of ethnocide of the Crimean Tatar people.

Anniversaries of the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people in Ukraine are commemorated annually at the state level.

The recognition by the world community of the fact of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people according to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide will serve not only the restoration of historical justice, but also will contribute to avoidance of similar crimes against the Crimean Tatar people and/or any other people in the future.

Refat **Chubarov**
Head of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People