

item 3 #18

9th UN Forum on Minority Issues, Geneva, 24-25 November 2016

Minorities in situation of humanitarian crisis

STATEMENT of Anti-discrimination Centre Memorial

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Since the military conflict of Russia and Ukraine started, the situation of Roma minority living in the conflict affected zone has gone disastrous. In the territories of so called Donetsk and Luhansk peoples republics, Roma faced pogroms, kidnappings, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, violence by military groups, bans to leave the war zone. Those Roma who escaped out of the unrecognized "republics" to Russia haven't found asylum or any other status, facing no good will and assistance of Russian migration authorities; in Ukraine the displaced Roma are also often denied social support, as the state and charitable resources are not sufficient.

The post-war situation of Roma living in the territories now controlled and governed by Ukraine is also difficult. Such common problems of Roma as low level of education, lack of personal documents, unemployment - aggravate their situation, in comparison with the majority population, and lead to the extreme poverty, marginalization and vulnerability.

The situation of Roma affected by the military conflict in Ukraine should be included into the agenda of negotiations and communications on international level, including the United Nations. ADC Memorial calls the UN to support Ukraine in overcoming the consequences of the war, including provision of humanitarian aid programs for the inhabitants of Eastern Ukraine and direct aid to Roma living in the post-conflict zone.

The situation of Crimean Tartars also should be mentioned in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, political and military. The Medjlis of Crimean Tartar people, a self-government body who did not recognize the annexation of Crimea, was banned in Russia, leaders and activists - members of the Medjlis are repressed by the Russian state, there are arbitrary searches of their homes, arbitrary detentions, accusations in extremism and terrorism.

The international community, including the UN institutions and instruments, should do it's best to immediately stop political repressions against Crimean Tartars, as well as to support Ukraine in its efforts for improvement of the situation of Crimean Tartars who had to move to other regions of Ukraine.