



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION  
OF CRIMEA

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10.05.2021 № 035/2021

**To UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material**

**Situation with Child Sexual Abuse in the Crimea**

*Submission for Report*

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The Association of Reintegration of Crimea<sup>1</sup>, as a registered non-governmental organisation, herewith submits the following responses (submission) to the questionnaire of the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, to inform the Rapporteur's annual thematic report on "Gender dimension of the sale and sexual exploitation of children and the importance of integrating a human rights-based and a non-binary approach to combating and eradicating sale and sexual exploitation of children", to be presented to the 76th session of the General Assembly in October 2021.

Our Association already informed the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery including its causes and consequences in March and April, 2021 by our submissions 016/2021 and 025/2021 on issues of contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking, regarding the situation on the Crimean peninsula<sup>2</sup>. Similarly, this submission deals with the question related to such contemporary form of slavery and human trafficking at the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereinafter – Crimea). The Association's response addresses the issues identified by the Association in the course of our work, namely the issue of intentional and organized Russian policies undermining the fundamental human rights of the residents of Crimea.

The illegal occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea by Russia since 2014 have been condemned in a series 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 75/29<sup>3</sup>, 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.

<sup>1</sup> <https://arc.construction/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Slavery/SR/ReportHRC48/CSOs/ARC.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> for example, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/263>



Thus, the international community never recognized the attempted annexation of Crimea by Russia. Human rights violations in the Crimea now are the subject to consideration in international courts, including the International Court of Justice (case 166)<sup>4</sup> and the European Court of Human Rights (case 20958/14 and others).<sup>5</sup>

The policy of Russian de-facto "authorities" in Crimea includes the discrimination of the citizens of Ukraine in Crimea that refused or could not get the so-called "Russian citizenship" after 2014, when Russia declared Crimean peninsula as allegedly "own territory". Such Ukrainian citizens resided in Crimea before the attempted annexation or resettled to the peninsula later due to Russian aggression on the East of Ukraine and the ongoing armed conflict there. Such Ukrainian citizens in 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 cannot 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<sup>6</sup>. Such situation creates the strong ground for child trafficking *en masse* in the Crimea.

As the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) pointed out in its thirty-first report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, based on the work of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (p. 104), in 2020, the "courts" in Crimea issued deportation and forcible removal orders against at least 178 individuals considered "foreigners" under the 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 Russia's "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"<sup>7</sup>. Throughout 2019 more than 360 persons have been deported from Crimea, mostly from the Simferopol, Sevastopol and Southern Coast of Crimea as the part of the purposeful policy of the Russia de-facto authorities to "squeeze out" the undesirable population<sup>8</sup>. For those purposes, the so-called "courts" in the Crimea regularly used illegally the article 18.8 of the Administrative Offences Code of Russia. However, sometimes the so called "courts" referred illegally to the article 18.10 of this Code ("Illegal labour activities of a foreigner in Russia")<sup>9</sup>.

Some of the cases of this type were used by Russian state propaganda, for its hate speech activities against Ukraine, Ukrainians, and citizens of Ukraine<sup>10</sup>. As we have previously informed the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery including its causes and consequences, such regime for Ukrainians in own State's territory, illegally occupied by Russia, is de-facto a specific contemporary form of slavery<sup>11</sup>. It is worth noting that Russia in own submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery including its causes and consequences gave only short review of its own legislation, but no any practical data on issues of forced labour. At that, Russia did not provide information on the issue of Crimea and other territories of Ukraine, illegally controlled by the Russia.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/166/166-20191108-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-207622>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Slavery/SR/ReportHRC48/CSOs/ARC.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/31stReportUkraine-en.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-shtrafuyut-i-vydvoryayut-ukrainczev-ne-poluchivshih-rossijskie-pasporta/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/901807667>

<sup>10</sup> <https://rg.ru/2018/02/13/reg-ufo/iz-kryma-deportirovali-23-ukrainskih-gastarbajtera.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Slavery/SR/ReportHRC48/CSOs/ARC.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Slavery/SR/ReportHRC48/States/Russian%20Federation-Ru.docx>





*Coming to issue of the criminal groups' activities related to the child sexual abuse and child trafficking would like to bring your attention to the following facts.* Criminal groups, involved in the child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the Crimea, are closely connected to Russia's special services and to the so-called "Crimean republican authorities"<sup>13</sup>. So there is no surprise that, no "criminal cases" or "court decisions" on those issues have been initiated or finalized in the Crimea by Russia de-facto "authorities" since 2014.

In 2015-2017 (no recent information is available from open sources) no criminal cases on such issues (article 127-1 "Human Trafficking" of the Russia's Criminal Code, illegally implemented in Crimea since 2014) have been under consideration in the Russia's "courts" illegally established in Crimea<sup>14</sup>.

Such groups, involved in the child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the Crimea, have features of ethnic-grounded criminal entities that operate in Yalta<sup>15</sup>, Alushta<sup>16</sup> and other places. They have close connection with "Crimean republican authorities" as the "Head of the Republic of Crimea" Sergey Aksyonov<sup>17</sup>, "Head of State Council of the Republic of Crimea" Vladimir Konstantinov<sup>18</sup>, head of "Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea" Igor Radionov<sup>19</sup> and others. Sergey Aksyonov played a key role in the criminal group "Seylem" before 2014, while Vladimir Konstantinov is a de facto boss of the concern "Consol" closely connected with the criminal world. Thus, the criminal groups that use forced labour in Crimea (including sexual exploitation and youth trafficking), are subordinated and closely cooperate with the Russian de facto "authorities".

These criminal groups operate internationally, with connections to some regions of Russia like Moscow Region<sup>20</sup>, Ossetia<sup>21</sup>, Chechnya, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan<sup>22</sup> and Ukraine's mainland. *The Armenian ethnic criminal group from Yalta is connected with child trafficking and child pornography, as well as with forced labour in building sector, and in the same time this group is the key sponsor of so-called "Friends of Crimea" project<sup>23</sup>, co-ordinated by the Russian government, with participation of some extremist and marginal politicians from Austria<sup>24</sup>, Italy, Germany, France<sup>25</sup> etc.*

The "Crimean authorities", including the highest "judges" are totally corrupted and connected to the organised criminal groups involved in the child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the Crimea, that enjoy impunity. The participation of the Crimean organised criminal groups in contemporary forms of slavery poses additional challenges to the identification of victims as there are no effective remedies in the occupied peninsula as a "grey zone"<sup>26</sup>. Legislative frameworks to combat child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the Crimea, are not effective in the Crimea, as Russia illegally applies its own legislation on the occupied territory since 2014, including in criminal and administrative proceeding. Ukraine has no possibility to use its own legislation as it does not control this region. Russia

<sup>13</sup> <https://arc.construction/5153?lang=ru>

<sup>14</sup> [http://vs.krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?id=75&name=docum\\_sud](http://vs.krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?id=75&name=docum_sud)

<sup>15</sup> <https://arc.construction/10072>

<sup>16</sup> <https://arc.construction/10172>

<sup>17</sup> <https://arc.construction/8656>

<sup>18</sup> <https://arc.construction/6015>

<sup>19</sup> <https://arc.construction/8712>

<sup>20</sup> <https://arc.construction/10705>

<sup>21</sup> <https://arc.construction/3537>

<sup>22</sup> <https://arc.construction/13499>

<sup>23</sup> <https://arc.construction/10072>

<sup>24</sup> <https://arc.construction/8345>

<sup>25</sup> <https://arc.construction/13035>

<sup>26</sup> <https://arc.construction/5153?lang=ru>



does not provide the current statistics regarding Crimea and on 2017 there was no case related to child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the Crimea.

The illegal application of Russia's criminal legislation and "Russian law enforcement system" combined with total corruption lead to the involvement of organised criminal group as an aggravating factor increasing penalties. Russia's de-facto "authorities" do not promote intelligence-led law enforcement to combat child sexual abuse and child trafficking. They use such technologies only for persecution their politic opponents and pro-Ukrainian civil initiatives in the Crimea. Russia's de-facto authorities do not support any legislative frameworks providing for sufficient safeguards against abuse. Russia's de-facto "authorities" illegally apply the Russian criminal legislation in Crimea in a formalistic manner on issues such as money laundering and criminal asset recovery connected with the child sexual abuse and child trafficking but such "authorities" do not persecute those processes where those de-facto "authorities" closely participate.

Russia's de-facto "authorities" apply illegal practices of "nationalization" against the property of their political opponents (such as pro-Ukrainian residents), but not against criminal groups. Such de-facto "authorities" in the Crimea do not combat corruption and obstruction of "justice", committed by the organised criminal groups in relation to child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the region. Russia's de-facto "authorities" do not protect witnesses in "criminal proceedings" involving organised criminal groups in Crimea, and since 2014 no "criminal proceedings" have been initiated against organised criminal groups in Crimea regarding the child sexual abuse and child trafficking.

The victims' and survivors' have no access to justice and to remedies in the modern Crimea. Any types of assistance are not provided to victims of child sexual abuse and child trafficking enslaved by the organised criminal groups in the Crimea. No compensations are paid, no protection is provided.

The key challenge to combating the child sexual abuse and child trafficking committed by organised criminal groups in the Crimea is the illegal occupation and the attempted annexation of the peninsula by Russia that directly caused the emergence of corrupted model of de-facto "authorities" in the region, closely connected to the criminal groups. The Russian officials use the tactics of appointing the representatives of the criminal clans for the positions at the "government" and "administrative" bodies, which gives the Russian federal authorities total control over such persons. Russia does not use correct international cooperation tools to tackle transnational organized crime relating to child sexual abuse and child trafficking in the Crimea.

So the Association of Reintegration of Crimea believes that a special research on the child sexual abuse and child trafficking in situations of armed conflicts and related "grey zones" like Crimean peninsula, made 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 counteraction the child sexual abuse and child trafficking.

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021



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