



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION
OF CRIMEA

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To UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights

Lifecycle of Plastics and Human Rights: Situation in 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 Toxics and Human Rights devoted to analysis the impact of the lifecycle of plastics on the human rights². Our responses (submission) are devoted to the situation with plastic the Crimean peninsula, namely the issue of relevant intentional and organised Russia's policy in the Crimea, that violate brutally the collective and individual rights to safe environment, sustainable development and ecologic information³.

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 75/29⁴, 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. The attempted annexation the Crimea by RF was not recognized by international community.

RF state policy in the Crimea is targeted to destruction as unique local ecosystems⁵⁶ so the other nature objects, that become parts of the urbanised spaces⁷⁸⁹¹⁰¹¹. The Crimea's

¹ <https://arc.construction/>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SRToxicsandhumanrights/Pages/lifecylce-plastics.aspx>

³ <https://ctrcenter.org/en/news/5065-ekocid-v-krymu-chto-delat>

⁴ for example, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/263>

⁵ <https://arc.construction/7198>

⁶ <https://arc.construction/6196?lang=ru>

⁷ <https://arc.construction/12754>

communal infrastructures is degrading since 2014¹² in conditions of increasing corruption in the local Russia-controlled “administrations”¹³ and of the permanent changes of Russia-appointed “heads” of the Crimean cities and towns. “Heads of local administrations” were changed by the “federal authorities” since 2014 four times for Simferopol¹⁴, three times for Yevpatoria¹⁵, four times for Yalta¹⁶, three times for Sevastopol¹⁷ etc.

Importantly, that the Crimean became a destination for more than 400 thousands Russian citizens illegally resettled by the de facto Russian authorities to Crimea, including military officers, officials, servicemen, and their families¹⁸. The quantity of Simferopol’s population increased from 300 thousand in 2014 to 500 thousand in 2020 and it continues to grow. Yet, the infrastructure of Simferopol, including its water and sanitation systems^{19,20}, road network, schools, kindergartens, hospitals²¹ etc. does not satisfy the needs of its half-million residents²², including the plastic wastes issues.

Waste management policy of Russian de-facto authorities in 2015-2021 was realised without any planning or qualified regulation²³. It causes situation of ongoing garbage filling not only the numerous Crimean landfill but also cities, towns and settlements of peninsula. Our Association reflected in own publication the rubbish collapse in Balaklava²⁴, Kerch^{25,26,27}, Simferopol²⁸, Sevastopol^{29,30,31,32} and Yevpatoria^{33,34}.

Our researches proved that the corrupted Russia’s “regional administration” in the Crimea has direct material benefits from functioning the unallowed scrapyards³⁵ and that it imitates the re-cultivation of the closed landfills (among such 18 object only one was re-cultivated de-facto and 5 more “on paper” only)³⁶. New landfills are planned with a

⁸ <https://arc.construction/9763>

⁹ <https://arc.construction/10294?lang=ru>

¹⁰ <https://arc.construction/11478?lang=ru>

¹¹ <https://arc.construction/11571?lang=ru>

¹² <https://arc.construction/11681?lang=ru>

¹³ <https://arc.construction/9682?lang=ru>

¹⁴ <https://arc.construction/10938>

¹⁵ <https://arc.construction/12734>

¹⁶ <https://arc.construction/11343>

¹⁷ <https://arc.construction/8623>

¹⁸ <https://arc.construction/5816>

¹⁹ <https://arc.construction/7625>

²⁰ <https://arc.construction/5483>

²¹ <https://arc.construction/6449>

²² <https://arc.construction/6010>

²³ <https://arc.construction/3431?lang=ru>

²⁴ <https://arc.construction/12395?lang=ru>

²⁵ <https://arc.construction/11662?lang=ru>

²⁶ <https://arc.construction/11249?lang=ru>

²⁷ <https://arc.construction/5773?lang=ru>

²⁸ <https://arc.construction/8191?lang=ru>

²⁹ <https://arc.construction/4246>

³⁰ <https://arc.construction/5379?lang=ru>

³¹ <https://arc.construction/1753?lang=ru>

³² <https://arc.construction/2700?lang=ru>

³³ <https://arc.construction/5825?lang=ru>

³⁴ <https://arc.construction/10495?lang=ru>

³⁵ <https://arc.construction/10657?lang=ru>

³⁶ <https://arc.construction/9324?lang=ru>



brutal violation of the minimum sanitarian and ecologic demands³⁷. Main Crimea's garbage tycoons, closely connected with such "administration", has no any interest in own business procedures' modernization,³⁸ acting via monopolized entities such as "Krymekoresursy" and "Altfater-Krym".³⁹

So such Russia's de-facto authorities make directly negative impact on the implementation of relevant policy and legal framework on plastics wastes and processes with them. There are no discussions on a possible legally-binding instrument on plastics, and on any provisions on environmental human rights in the Crimea. Scrapyards and landfills, full of plastic wastes, make deep negative impacts on the most vulnerable groups in the Crimean society, including youth and representatives of the indigenous Crimean Tatar People.

There are no good examples of access to environmental and health information, and meaningful opportunities for participation in decision-making, on plastics policy and legislation. In the village of Kamyanka near Simferopol, which became "famous" for a huge landfill⁴⁰, the de-facto authorities pompously opened a waste processing plant in February 2021. But less than a day later, it broke down, and the local corrupted rubbish business returned to the established schemes of dumping garbage into the environment⁴¹.

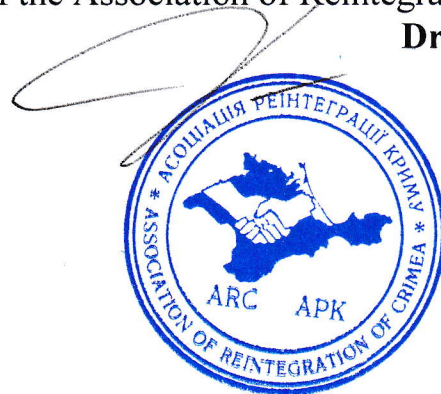
So Russia's de-facto "authorities" wastes' policy in the Crimea, including the plastic issues, has strong negative impacts on human rights including right to health, the right to a healthy environment, the right to life, health and adequate standard of living and dignity, the right to body integrity, the right to adequate food, the right to land and the right to safe drinking water, the right to housing, the right to meaningful and informed participation, the right to development, the rights of future generations etc.

The Association of Reintegration of Crimea believes that a special research, done by the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, on the environment pollution in situations of armed conflicts and related "grey zones", such like Crimea may be a starting point for improvement of the situation. It would be beneficial if that research could pay attention to the situation with the systematic pollution of the Crimean environment. The Special Rapporteur's visit to Ukraine, including the Crimea, would contribute to collection of information, and would enable the Rapporteur to make a first-hand impression of the situation with pollution the Crimea's environment and of the execution the relevant international demands in the region.

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³⁷ <https://arc.construction/2489?lang=ru>

³⁸ <https://arc.construction/7956?lang=ru>

³⁹ <https://arc.construction/5472?lang=ru>

⁴⁰ <https://arc.construction/5910?lang=ru>

⁴¹ <https://arc.construction/10388>