



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION
OF CRIMEA

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To UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

**Russia's Systemic, Structural and Institutional Racism
during Aggression in Ukraine**

Our Association of Reintegration of Crimea (ARC)¹, is non-governmental expert and human rights organisation, with activities devoted to Crimea's issues.

ARC's expert researches are related with human rights of Crimean residents and ethnic groups, including collective rights and non-discrimination issues. Since 2020 we sent more than 50 submissions and proposals to UN human rights' strictures, major part of them were published in the UN web-sources, including the issues of counteraction racial discrimination²³.

We informed international structures on the systemic, structural and institutional racial discrimination the ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars by the Russia-controlled "administrations" and "officials" in the Russia-occupied Crimea⁴⁵; and those illegal processes are still going on⁶⁷⁸⁹¹⁰¹¹.

Sending answers on the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee's research on patterns, policies, and processes leading to incidents of racial discrimination and on advancing racial justice and equality.

2. Since 24th of February 2022 Russia committed broad and open military aggression to all Ukraine's territory. Due last eight monthes Russia occupied some territories of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhya regions and active hostilities were in Chernigiv, Kyiv, Sumy, Zhitomir regions of Ukraine.

Strong fights are going now near cities of Mykolaiv, Slavyansk, Kherson, Kupiansk and others with total population more than 8 millions persons near the frontline.

In last eight monthes Russia-controlled troops and mercenaries committed in Ukraine, during this operation, gross violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights' law already, including broad crimes against civil population, objects of civil infrastructure, using the slogans of Russian nazism as racial discrimination of Ukrainians and other persons who do not belong to the so-called "Russian world"¹².

3. Russia commenced an unprovoked invasion throughout Ukrainian territory, which is

¹ https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations_b/20210005/1348

² <https://owncloud.unog.ch/s/FH8BRDGyRWEeXO9?path=%2FCivil%20Society#pdfviewer>

³ <https://owncloud.unog.ch/s/Gx716OB9FcqPMts?path=%2FCivil%20Society%20Organizations>

⁴ <https://arc.construction/25679>

⁵ <https://arc.construction/26117>

⁶ <https://arc.construction/33215>

⁷ <https://arc.construction/33291>

⁸ <https://arc.construction/35505>

⁹ <https://arc.construction/35966>

¹⁰ <https://arc.construction/29768>

¹¹ <https://arc.construction/35401>

¹² <https://sofrep.com/news/russian-soldiers-gang-raped-ukrainian-woman-as-her-child-was-crying-in-the-next-room/>

already causing catastrophic harms to Ukraine and its people, including gross violation the international humanitarian law and destruction the fundamental human rights¹³¹⁴¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷¹⁸. Human Rights Watch has documented several cases of Russian military forces committing laws-of-war violations against civilians in occupied areas¹⁹.

All war crimes, committed by Russian invaders during ongoing hostilities, are connected with absolutely clear Russia's war targets in maximal destruction the civil infrastructure, including objects, essential for ethnic Ukrainians, and all kinds of minorities²⁰²¹.

As mayor of Kharkiv stated in 31st of March, 2022 Russian troops destroyed more than 1290 apartment buildings in this one-million city, most of them were multi-floor ones²². Up to this date 90% of apartment building in Mariupol, city with 400 thousands inhabitants, are destroyed²³ Among 3300 multi-storey residential buildings in Mykolaiv 400 were destroyed partially and 60 – totally²⁴; those data are proved by UNOSAT maps²⁵.

So thousands of Ukrainians, lost their houses and save access to administrative, medical and social services due to Russian aggression and related hostilities. Due to the Russian occupation and blockade against “Ukrainian nationalists”, Kherson city was approaching a humanitarian catastrophe, as the city was critically short of medicines²⁶²⁷.

Russian invaders' structures ban the Ukrainian language on the Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine, they destroy Ukrainian libraries and ban Ukrainian literature, block Ukrainian media and web-sources, transfer illegally the educational process on the “Russian standards”²⁸²⁹.

4. Due to such gross violation the human rights³⁰ Ukraine filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 February 2022³¹³² and to the European Court of Human Rights³³. Russian government refused to execute the demand of the ECtHR and the order of ICJ to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022.³⁴ UN Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted its resolution 49/1 on 4 March 2022 where it expressed grave concern at the documented harm to the enjoyment of many human rights, resulting from the aggression against Ukraine by Russia³⁵.

On 8 March 2022 UN human rights experts called on Russia to immediately end its invasion of Ukraine to avoid further bloodshed; experts recalled that intentional attacks

¹³ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220307-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-60888528>

¹⁵ <https://hromadske.radio/en/news/2022/03/09/members-of-the-wagner-group-have-been-killed-in-ukraine>

¹⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60547807>

¹⁷ <https://arc.construction/26892>

¹⁸ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113652>

¹⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/03/ukraine-apparent-war-crimes-russia-controlled-areas>

²⁰ <https://arc.construction/34855>

²¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2022/ukraine-before-after-destruction-photos/>

²² <https://nv.ua/kharkiv/harkov-obstrely-skolko-domov-razrusheno-dannye-31-marta-novosti-harkova-50229919.html>

²³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2022/03/31/7336102/>

²⁴ <https://www.liga.net/politics/interview/mer-aleksandr-senkevich-rakety-do-nas-doletayut-za-tri-minuty-pod-pritselom-ves-nikolaev>

²⁵ <https://unitar.org/maps/map/3540>

²⁶ <https://arc.construction/27786>

²⁷ <https://arc.construction/31687>

²⁸ <https://arc.construction/34255>

²⁹ <https://arc.construction/32882>

³⁰ <https://arc.construction/27141>

³¹ <https://arc.construction/34993>

³² <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/182>

³³ <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-7282553-9922068>

³⁴ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220316-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

³⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>

against civilian objects amount to war crimes³⁶. In other UN experts' statements the negative impact of Russia's aggression on persons with disabilities and older persons was condemned³⁷, and relevant risks for women's right to life were pointed³⁸³⁹.

The European Disability Forum called in open letter for all parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in Ukraine⁴⁰.

UN General Assembly in its resolution ES-11/1 on 2 March 2022 recognized that the military operations of Russia inside the sovereign territory of Ukraine are on a scale that the international community has not seen in Europe in decades and that urgent action is needed to save this generation from the scourge of war⁴¹.

UN General Assembly in its resolution ES-11/2 on 24 March 2022 stressed that the sieges of cities in Ukraine further aggravate the humanitarian situation for the civilian population and hamper evacuation efforts, and therefore demands to put end to these sieges⁴².

On 7 April 2022 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution ES-11/3⁴³ calling for Russia to be suspended from the Human Rights Council⁴⁴.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted on 12th of May a resolution on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression.

UN Human Rights Council pointed that Russia should immediately cease its aggression, withdraw all its forces from the whole territory of Ukraine, and provide international human rights and humanitarian institutions with unhindered, immediate and safe access to persons transferred from conflict-affected areas of Ukraine⁴⁵.

There are no peacekeeping missions in Ukraine; as such initiatives were blocked by the Russian government. Activities of UN Missions in Ukraine need to be urgently improved and OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine de-facto stopped its activities since 7th of March;⁴⁶ later Russia blocked the prolongation such Mission's activities.

All Ukraine's attempts for the peace-building, including peace talks and negotiations with Russian government were unsuccessful⁴⁷ and Russia rejects all peace propositions and it refuses to execute the demands of ICJ and ECtHR orders to stop the aggression, war crimes, racial discrimination and hostilities that are directly pointed against Ukrainians' right not to be discriminated.

11. Above-pointed issues of Russia's aggression against Ukraine are the main human rights challenges arising from systemic, structural and institutional racism of Russia-controlled structures against citizens of Ukraine, ethnic Ukrainian, including belonging to minorities, and Ukrainian-speaking persons.

Our Association believes that next urgent, immediate steps of the UN Human Rights Council on protection the Ukrainians' right not to be discriminated, in condition of ongoing interstate conflict and hostilities, of ongoing Russia's discriminative and racist policy must be done, including all observation procedures and visit to Ukraine.

³⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28231&LangID=E>

³⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28200&LangID=E>

³⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28201&LangID=E>

³⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/ukraine-millions-displaced-traumatised-and-urgently-need-help-say-experts>

⁴⁰ <https://www.edf-feph.org/protection-and-safety-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-ukraine/>

⁴¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3959039?ln=ru>

⁴² <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3966630?ln=en>

⁴³ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3967950?ln=ru>

⁴⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115782>

⁴⁵ <https://arc.construction/31039>

⁴⁶ <https://www.osce.org/ru/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/513430>

⁴⁷ <https://arc.construction/31706>

We hope that above-pointed special statements of the UN experts and rapporteurs regarding situation in Ukraine must be supported by next UN HRC's and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' official positions. Our Association believes that urgent, immediate steps of the UN OHCHR bodies must be done; monitoring procedure, mentioned in UN HRC resolution 49/1, must be enforced immediately.

Such UN steps must counteract the gross human rights violations committed by the Russian troops in Ukraine; such UN steps must include the activities of the Human Rights Council and in the framework of High Commissioner for Human Rights' and Human Rights Council's mandates.

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