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**Office of the United Nations High  
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**Input to Comprehensive report on “Importance of casualty recording for the  
promotion and protection of human rights”**

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Since its establishment in 2015, the NGO Crimean Tatar Resource Center (CTRC) has been monitoring and recording human rights violations in the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimea, Ukraine.

Starting from February 2022, the CTRC records war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russian troops in Ukraine.

The information we collect is verified, processed and analyzed, resulting in analytical reports that are published monthly, quarterly and annually. Thematic analytical reports are also published<sup>1</sup>.

This information is submitted to the special, universal and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights and other interested parties<sup>2</sup>. Such material is helpful during the adoption of resolutions<sup>3</sup>, preparation of reports of foreign and international organizations, as well as during international court proceedings.

Based on the collected evidence, during its activities, the CTRC sent 24 applications to the ECHR, which have been accepted for consideration and a decision is expected. And thanks to the cooperation of the CTRC with the lawyers of Ukraine in the case “Ukraine vs.

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<sup>1</sup> [Analytical reports of CTRC](#)

<sup>2</sup> [For the entire period of its work, the CTRC has submitted 93 applications and reports to the international human rights organizations](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Resolutions on Crimea](#)

Russia” in the UN IC regarding the violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, an interim decision of the ICJ<sup>4</sup> was adopted, by which it obliged Russia to restore the activities of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people - the representative body of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people on the territory of Crimea.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the CTRC has been monitoring, documenting, publicizing and informing international organizations about the deportation of Ukrainian children from the occupied territories to Russia, which, according to the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide<sup>5</sup>, is a sign of genocide. As a result, 82 deported children were returned to Ukraine<sup>6</sup>.

Due to the fact that CTRC timely recorded and forwarded information to the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, more than 60 people who were abducted in the newly occupied territories of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions during 2022 returned home alive or their whereabouts were ascertained. And the previous practice of such interaction with the Working Group regarding Crimea ensured the cessation of the use of such practice on the territory of the peninsula. However, the fate of 21 people still remains unknown<sup>7</sup>. In December 2022, the CTRC proposed to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe to develop a mechanism for prompt response to the forcible abduction of people in the occupied territories of Ukraine. Currently, the work on the development of such a mechanism is ongoing.

However, instead of kidnapping and killing disloyal inhabitants of the peninsula, the occupation authorities resorted to other repressive measures. To do this, the Russian Federation began in violation of Art. 64 IV of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of the Civilian Population in Time of War of August 12, 1949<sup>8</sup>, to use their own criminal legislation in the occupied territory and persecute the Crimean Tatars and pro-Ukrainian activists. The systematic recording and documentation of violations of the rights of political prisoners forces the Russian Federation to create at least the appearance of competition and openness of the “trial process”. However, this does not solve the main problem - illegal persecution and deprivation of liberty only for a political position. Today, 166 people are in prison, 118 of whom are the representatives of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people<sup>9</sup>.

Unfortunately, the recording of such crimes at this time does not allow to restore the rights of the victims and ensure the establishment of justice, given the fact that the active phase of the armed conflict continues. However, this information and recording is an important and key element in the process of establishing the truth and administering justice.

That is why the CTRC has developed an electronic register of war crimes, crimes against humanity and human rights violations committed by Russia in Ukraine. Work on filling this register is still ongoing, but we can already talk about its advantages. This registry allows for automatic analysis of data on events, victims and witnesses, comparing this information and recreating a more accurate picture of the events. This information is transferred to the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine as part of the investigation of these crimes, and will also be the basis for the preparation of expert analytical materials for relevant international organizations and international judicial institutions, which will ensure an impartial investigation and prosecution of those guilty of these crimes. In this way,

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<sup>4</sup> [ICJ ORDER OF 19 APRIL 2017](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Ukraine returned deported children from Crimea and Russia](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Victims of the occupation of Crimea](#)

<sup>8</sup> [IV GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR OF 12 AUGUST 1949](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Victims of the occupation of Crimea](#)

international responsibility for crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine during the Russian military aggression will be ensured.

A separate important aspect in recording crimes is ensuring the prosecution of the guilty and the fight against impunity. That is why, since 2018, the CTRC has been working on the introduction of personal sanctions against persons responsible for human rights violations, similar to the Magnitsky Act. Accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and human rights violations must be proportionate to the actions committed. Therefore, the CTRC has developed a Methodology of assessment of the expediency of imposing personal sanctions on persons who cooperate with the occupation administrations of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories, which consists of 12 points<sup>10</sup>. Subsequently, a Classification of people, responsible for human rights violations in the occupied Crimea<sup>11</sup> was developed. Based on these documents, the CTRC sent a verified list of 50 persons with supporting documents to the countries that have a law similar to the Magnitsky Act, the EU and the relevant authorities of Ukraine with the aim of imposing personal sanctions on them.

The CTRC is convinced that bringing those responsible for these terrible crimes to justice is a reliable preventive mechanism to prevent their repetition in the future. Since it was the impunity of the organizers and executors of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar people in 1944, which has signs of genocide, that led to the continuation of such a policy by Russia in the occupied Crimea from 2014 and its spread to the entire territory of Ukraine in 2022.

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<sup>10</sup> [Methodology of assessment of the expediency of imposing personal sanctions on persons who cooperate with the occupation administrations of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Classification of people, responsible for human rights violations in the occupied Crimea](#)