



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION  
OF CRIMEA

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

**Russian Aggression against Ukraine and Challenges for Children's Rights to Development**

Our Association of Reintegration of Crimea (ARC)<sup>1</sup>, is non-governmental expert and human rights organisation<sup>2</sup>, with activities devoted to Crimea's issues. ARC's expert researches are related with human rights of Crimean residents and ethnic groups, including their fundamental rights, right to development, also as with issues of the transitional justice for peninsula, with relevant cultural, economic, social, financial impacts. 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 violating the Crimean children's rights<sup>3</sup>.

Illegal occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea by Russia since 2014, as a part of Russian-Ukrainian interstate conflict, changed the situation in the region. Systematic gross violations of the human rights and humanitarian standards, racial discrimination of ethnic Crimean Tatars and Russians, including children and youth, were committed in last seven years by Russia in the Crimea, were condemned by the UN GA resolutions<sup>4</sup>, resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, of the PACE, of the European Parliament's resolutions etc. Gross human rights' violations, including children rights' violations, correlated with crimes against humanity in Crimea and racial discrimination in the region are now subject to consideration in International Court of Justice (case 166)<sup>5</sup> and the European Court of Human Rights (case 20958/14 and others).<sup>6</sup>

UN GA Resolution 76/179 on 16 December 2021<sup>7</sup> condemned the reported serious violations and abuses committed by Russia against residents of the Crimea, in particular – extrajudicial killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, politically motivated prosecutions, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence, including sexual violence, arbitrary detentions and arrests, torture and ill-treatment, as well as reported abuses of other fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, religion or belief and association and the right to peaceful assembly.

**Since 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 Russia committed broad and open military aggression to all Ukraine's territory** from own territory, occupied Crimea, Belarus, Black and Azov seas against Ukrainian mainland. Due last weeks of fights Russia occupied some territories of Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Sumy, Zaporizhzhya and strong fights are

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

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations\\_b/20210005/1348](https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations_b/20210005/1348)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/GA76/Association-of-reintegration-of-crimier.pdf>

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/166/166-20191108-JUD-01-00-EN.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-207622>

<sup>7</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/179>

going near cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and others with total population more than 8 millions persons near the frontline. Russian troops committed in Ukraine, during this operation, gross violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights' law already. Russia commenced an unprovoked invasion throughout Ukrainian territory, which is already causing catastrophic harms to Ukraine and its people, including children<sup>8</sup>.

Ukraine immediately filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 February 2022<sup>9</sup> and to the European Court of Human Rights<sup>10</sup> Russian government, propaganda and military forces uses the hate speech against the ethnic Ukrainians, including children, in Russian officials' statements and use the new Nazi symbols as letter "Z" for marking own troops, paramilitaries and "support actions" in Ukraine and occupied territories. On March 10, Russia stopped its participation in the Council of Europe and refused officially to execute the demands of European Convention on Human Rights. Aggressor state prepares now the mass criminal deportation of the Crimean Tatar People from Crimea, including children, as a "knowingly disloyal" part of the population<sup>11</sup>.

Russian troops use actively mercenaries in their military Nazi activities in Ukraine<sup>1213</sup>. As it was pointed on the special session of UN General Assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, more than 350 civil citizens, including 16 children were killed by the Russian troops during first five days of war, more that 2000 civil citizens were wounded. Till 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2022 more new was crimes were committed by the Russian troops and "Wagner Group", including usage civil population as hostages and "human shield", destruction objects of civil infrastructure, including pipe electric lines, bomb the civil objects, including kindergartens, schools and hospitals by missiles and artillery, kill medics that try to give aid to victims of war. More than 1000 civil person, including 50 children were killed by Russian troops and Russia-controlled mercenaries to this date, especially in Chernigiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Sumy Regions of Ukraine<sup>14</sup>, now the quantity of Russia-killed children is more than 80.

Among civil persons who were victims of Russia-controlled mercenaries there are children who tried, with their parents or Ukrainian officials to replace themselves from the hostilities zone, who hid in the shelters and were used as a "life shield" by Russian troops. A lot of persons were killed or kidnapped as "non-loyal" ones or during looting their property. Russian occupation of Melitopol and other cities in Southern Ukraine in March 2022 led to mass actions of resistance to the aggressor<sup>15</sup>.

As the situation in Kherson and Zaporizhia Regions shows, the Russians are trying to create a food blockade, take the settlements "by exhaustion" to create intolerable living conditions, provoke panic and chaos in the streets. Thus, the aggressor State wants to provoke a food crisis and a critical shortage of fuel throughout Ukraine. The so-called "humanitarian corridors" are used by the Russians to break into settlements, again under the guise of a "living shield" of the civilian population. Currently, the situation is extremely difficult in Mariupol and settlements in the North of Kyiv Region, where there is virtually no heating, electricity and an acute food crisis<sup>16</sup>. Due to the fierce resistance of the population of Kherson Region, the occupiers are trying to impose an administrative-police regime, for

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220307-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/182>

<sup>10</sup> <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-7282553-9922068>

<sup>11</sup> <https://arc.construction/26897>

<sup>12</sup> <https://hromadske.radio/en/news/2022/03/09/members-of-the-wagner-group-have-been-killed-in-ukraine>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60547807>

<sup>14</sup> <https://kyivindependent.com/uncategorized/wagner-group-establish-headquarters-in-rostov-on-don/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://arc.construction/26918>

<sup>16</sup> <https://arc.construction/26887>

which Rosguard units were introduced in the region, which illegally detained more than 400 Ukrainian citizens on racial grounds, including Ukrainian youth representatives<sup>17</sup>.

Now the International Criminal Court started investigation on the war crimes committed by Russian invaders in Ukraine against children and it collect relevant proofs. Also the crimes' against children committed by Russian mercenaries are investigated by the Ukraine's legal enforcement bodies and by prosecutors' offices of some European countries, including Germany. There is now peacekeeping missions in Ukraine as such initiatives were blocked by the Russian government. Activities of UN Monitoring Mission in Ukraine are low and OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine de-facto stopped its activities since 6th of March. Russian invaders destroyed Ukrainian legal enforcement and court activities in the occupied territories so there victims of Russia-controlled mercenaries have no access to justice. At the same time Russia's special services use Ukrainian children in propaganda purposes as in happened with orphanage in Vorzel town near Kyiv where the allegedly children's evacuation was declared by Russian military propaganda<sup>18</sup>, using the Red Cross emblems to cover Russian war troops maneuvers; but in reality that orphanage was evacuated to Kyiv by Ukrainians humanitarian structures<sup>19</sup>.

All those steps of the Nazi policy of Russian government and by the Russia-controlled "administrations" in Russia-occupied Crimea, South, North and East of Ukraine are directly violate the children's rights, guaranteed by the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Our Association believes that urgent, immediate steps of the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material must be done including all observation procedures and immediate visit to Ukraine.

We hope that special statement of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Russia's Nazi policy and aggression, on war crimes against children, committed in Ukraine, violating the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015, in framework of Rapporteur's mandate will be extremely important for further defense of rights of Ukrainian children in the zone of conflict.

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13th March, 2022

Representative of the ARC  
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<sup>17</sup> <https://arc.construction/26892>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.kp.ru/daily/27375.5/4557542/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/810343.html>