



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION
OF CRIMEA

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To UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Russian Aggression in Ukraine and Global Food Security in COVID-19 Impact

Our Association of Reintegration of Crimea (ARC)¹, is non-governmental expert and human rights organisation², with activities devoted to Crimea's issues. ARC's expert researches are related with human rights of Crimean residents and ethnic groups, including social and economic rights, rights to development³. 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 Crimean residents' rights to food⁴

We informed UN bodies that 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 and worsened significantly the realization of right to food⁵.

As we pointed already to some UN bodies, since 24th of February 2022 Russia committed broad and open military aggression to all Ukraine's territory against Ukrainian mainland from own territory, and from the Russia-occupied Crimea, Belarus, Black and Azov seas.

Due last month of fights Russia occupied some territories of Chernigiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Zaporizhzhya, Zhitomir regions as key agrarian regions of Ukraine and strong fights are going near cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and others with total population more than 10 millions persons near the frontline.

In last weeks 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 the right to food⁶.

Due to such gross violation the human rights Ukraine immediately filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 February 2022⁷ and to the European Court of Human Rights⁸. 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 in the territory of Ukraine and to shall ensure that any military or irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it, as well as any organizations and persons which may be subject to its control or direction, take no steps in furtherance of those military operations.⁹

But 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, including ban on the discrimination and ban of arbitrary depriving liberty¹⁰.

Russian troops, Russia-controlled mercenaries and "military commandant's offices" created by Russian invaders in Chernigiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Sumy and Zaporizhzhya regions,

¹ <https://arc.construction/>

² https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations_b/20210005/1348

³ <https://arc.construction/14309>

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/food-systems/CSOs/Association-of-Reintegration-of-Crimea.doc>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Food/FoodSystems/CSO/ARC.doc>

⁶ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220307-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/182>

⁸ <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-7282553-9922068>

⁹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220316-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://arc.construction/26897>

commit various war crimes¹¹¹²¹³¹⁴, including destruction objects of civil infrastructure, such as objects of agrarian infrastructure.

Current satellite images allow claiming that Russian troops have damaged a number of grain storage facilities in eastern Ukraine since February 2022. The purpose of the aggressor's attacks on food storage facilities in Ukraine is also recognized by a number of experts¹⁵.

The aggressor also continues to blockade the ports of Ukraine, aimed at stopping the export of grain, and ships, chartered by Ukrainian agricultural companies were subjected to attacks from the Russian Navy. Russia will seek to cause a food crisis in countries, dependent on Ukrainian products in order to "shatter" the coalition of civilized countries that have condemned Russian aggression.

At the same time, in the occupied territories of southern Ukraine, Russian punishers are forcibly exporting the discovered food stocks to the Crimea and are trying to "reorient" the producers of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions, whose land and capacities are controlled by the Russian army, to the peninsula. Experts point that the attacks of the aggressor on the agricultural sector of Ukraine need to be assessed by international organizations, including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As FAO pointed on 25 March, the war in Ukraine has caused extensive damage and loss of life in key population centres, spread across rural areas, and sparked massive displacement. It is clear that the war has resulted in a massive, and deteriorating, food security challenge. It has already significantly disrupted livelihoods during the agricultural growing season, through physical access constraints and damage to homes, productive assets, agricultural land, roads, and other civilian infrastructure, added FAO experts¹⁶. All those war crimes, committed by Russian invaders during ongoing hostilities are connected with absolutely clear Russia's war targets in maximal destruction the civil object including agrarian infrastructure and mechanics¹⁷.

Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), said that the humanitarian situation in Ukraine is a catastrophe on top of a catastrophe and warned that Ukraine has turned from a breadbasket to a bread line. The food chain system must be stabilized, WFP's Director said, noting that the farmers of Ukraine are on the front line fighting. It is planting season for maize right now, while June and July are the harvest season for wheat. Ukraine and Russia account for 30 per cent of the global supply for wheat, 20 per cent of the supply of corn, and 70 or 80 per cent of the supply of sunflower oil¹⁸.

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 7th of March¹⁹. Russian invaders destroyed Ukrainian legal enforcement and court activities in the occupied territories.

In March 2022, state authorities of Ukraine had determined the amount of damage for the illegal use of the North Crimean Canal by the Russian occupiers, contrary to technological requirements of agrarian industry, which is about a million dollars per day.

On April 4, the mayor of Melitopol, abducted in March 2022 and then exchanged by the Russian troops, reported the agricultural machinery's theft from the community and on its transportation to the Crimea, committed by the collaborators. Satellite tracking also recently reported on the replacement of two modern tractors, stolen by occupiers at a farm near Kherson that were found in Chechnya after being taken to Russia via the occupied Crimea²⁰.

¹¹ <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-60888528>

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

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

¹⁴ <https://arc.construction/26892>

¹⁵ <https://arc.construction/28375>

¹⁶ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9171en>

¹⁷ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2022/ukraine-before-after-destruction-photos/>

¹⁸ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14846.doc.htm>

¹⁹ <https://www.osce.org/ru/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/513430>

²⁰ <https://arc.construction/28575>

The so-called Russia-controlled “acting minister of agriculture in Crimea” Alime Zaredinova, who currently plays a key role in the Russia’s system of plundering the resources of southern mainland Ukraine, said on allegedly “establishing a sustainable supply of products from the Kherson region”. The looting of the Kherson region by Russia did not lead to lower prices or expansion of products in the Crimea but in may cause the food crisis in the south of Ukraine’s mainland. In fact, Russia’s statements about such “agrarian cooperation” have an exclusively political dimension as a basis for the formation of an occupation punitive regime in Kherson and Melitopol, which will be logistically provided by the aggressor from the Crimea²¹.

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 Russia²². On 8 March 2022 UN human rights experts called on Russia to immediately end its invasion of Ukraine to avoid further bloodshed and loss of life; experts recalled that intentional attacks against civilians and civilian objects amount to war crimes²³. In other UN experts’ statements the negative impact of Russia’s aggression on right to life of persons with disabilities and older persons was condemned²⁴, and relevant risks for women’s right to life were pointed²⁵.

Ukraine’s attempts for the peace-building, including peace talks and negotiations with Russian government were unsuccessful and Russia rejects all peace propositions and it refuses to execute the demands of ICJ and ECHR orders to stop the aggression and hostilities. Those challenges for Ukrainian and global food systems are also strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that is still ongoing in Ukraine. Refugees from Ukraine and IDPs in Ukraine are now vulnerable and constrained in accessing adequate, nutritious and healthy food throughout the different phases of the pandemic, but the worst situation is for the Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine.

Our Association believes that urgent, immediate steps of the UN Special Rapporteur on protection right to food for Ukrainians also as for other nations using Ukraine-origin products, in condition of ongoing interstate conflict and hostilities, must be done, including all observation procedures and immediate visit to Ukraine.

We hope that above-pointed special statements of the UN experts and rapporteurs regarding situation in Ukraine must be supported by **next UN Rapporteur’s official position**.

Our Association believes that urgent, immediate steps of the UN OHCHR bodies must be done including all observation procedures and immediate visits to Ukraine. Monitoring procedure, mentioned in HRC resolution 49/1, must be started immediately.

6th April, 2022

Representative of the ARC
Dr. Borys Babin



²¹ <https://arc.construction/28575>

²² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>

²³ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28231&LangID=E>

²⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28200&LangID=E>

²⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28201&LangID=E>