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Prevention of armed conflict

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights
situations and reports of special rapporteurs
and representatives**

**Letter dated 24 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the unlawful imprisonment of a Ukrainian citizen, Stanislav Aseev, in the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk oblast (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 31, 63 and 70 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the unlawful imprisonment of a Ukrainian citizen, Stanislav Aseev, in the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk oblast

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest to the Russian Federation in connection with the so-called “court decision” of the Russian occupation authorities in Donetsk sentencing a Ukrainian citizen, journalist Stanislav Aseev, to 15 years of imprisonment on charges of spying and calls to extremist activities.

The unlawful detention and the pseudo-sentence of Stanislav Aseev confirm once again that the occupation regime considers independent journalism as one of the main threats to its functioning. It is not surprising that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its report on the human rights situation in Ukraine for the period from 16 May to 15 August 2019 highlighted the absence of space for public expression of critical views in the occupied Donbas.

It should be stressed that unlawful imprisonment constitutes a crime in Ukraine. Those involved in Mr. Aseev’s detention will be held accountable in accordance with the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

We demand from the Russian Federation the immediate release of Stanislav Aseev and all other unlawfully detained Ukrainian citizens. We call on the international community to condemn the unlawful imprisonment of Mr. Aseev and to strengthen the pressure on Russia in order to secure the unconditional release of all Ukrainian citizens who are held hostages in the Russian Federation or on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Kyiv, 22 October 2019
