



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2020

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda items 63 and 70 (c)

Security Council
Seventy-fifth year

**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 7 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to yet another violation by the Russian Federation, as the occupying Power, of its obligations under international law, including the provisions of humanitarian and human rights law, in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine.

The Russian Federation does not cease to commit international crimes in the occupied territories of Ukraine by terrorizing the local population. Just recently, the occupying Power has made the unlawful announcement of a “spring call” to the occupying army of the Russian Federation on the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula.

In total, the Russian Federation plans to send almost 3,300 people for military service from the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula. It has become known that it is expected that most of the conscripts will be performing their “military service” outside the Crimean Peninsula, in particular in the Southern Military District. It is even more worrying that parts of the Southern Military District are involved directly in carrying out armed aggression against Ukraine in Donbas.

The conscription of Ukrainian citizens to the occupying army and their relocation from the occupied territory to the territory of the Russian Federation constitute a direct violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions. The announcement of the so-called “spring call” in the context of the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is another breach of Russia’s obligations as an occupying Power. In addition, the call to the Russian Federation to stop the illegal practice of conscripting Crimeans into the occupying army and prosecuting them for refusing to perform so-called “military service” is contained in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine.



We reiterate our call to the Russian Federation to abide by its international obligations and implement all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including the most recent resolutions, namely resolution [74/168](#), on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, and resolution [74/17](#), on the problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

In this regard, please find attached the comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 6 April 2020 (see annex).

I would like to call on your authority and good offices to ensure the adherence by the Russian Federation, as the occupying Power, to its obligations under international law.

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

(Signed) **Sergiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia performing another conscription into military service on the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

6 April 2020

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over yet another conscription to military service by the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine – in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

In particular, this spring it is planned to send almost 3,300 people for “military service” from the territory of the Crimean Peninsula. Most cynically, majority of them are expected to serve beyond the Crimean Peninsula, in particular in the Southern Military District, whose military units and command are directly involved in carrying out armed aggression against Ukraine in Donbas.

Such actions by the Russian Federation constitute a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits Russia, as an Occupying Power, from forcing protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. It is also forbidden to pressure and propagate in favour of voluntary military recruitment, as well as to move persons under protection outside of the occupied territory.

Moscow continues to ignore calls from the international community to stop the violations of international law by pursuing conscriptions in the temporarily occupied Crimea. This is mentioned in particular in the UN General Assembly Resolution “Human Rights Situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, Ukraine”, adopted on 18 December 2019.

Moreover, the report of the UN Secretary-General “Human Rights Situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, Ukraine” dated 2 August 2019 which was prepared as a follow-up to the UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/73/263](#) states that since 2015 at least 18,000 Crimeans have been conscripted into service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. The report also records numerous criminal prosecutions by the Russian occupying authorities of Crimea residents for their unwillingness to serve in the Russian army.

While the world community is struggling with the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the announcement of the so-called “spring conscription” looks particularly brutal. According to Article 56 of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, “the Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring and maintaining ... public health and hygiene in the occupied territory, with particular reference to the adoption and application of the prophylactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.”

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demands from the Russian Federation to cancel the conscription to military service in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to ensure strict compliance with its international obligations as an occupying power.