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The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

Letter dated 7 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my previous communications, I would like to reiterate our appreciation for your efforts to ensure the implementation of General Assembly Resolution [75/192](#), including the maintenance of monitoring activities regarding the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken note of the most recent report on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, ([A/76/260](#)), which was submitted pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution.

It is regrettable that, as reported, the Russian Federation has not halted its blatant illegal actions in the temporarily occupied Crimea, contrary to international law, including international humanitarian law, and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Its occupation authorities continue their repressive practices against Ukrainian citizens who seek to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms in full.

In that regard, I have the honour to inform you about yet another repressive action undertaken by the occupying Power in the temporarily occupied Crimea. On 3 and 4 September 2021 the Russian FSB conducted house searches and detained five Crimean Tatars, namely Eldar Odamanov, Aziz Akhtemov, Asan Akhtemov, Shevket Useinov and Nariman Dzhelyal.

The Russian occupation authorities also detained peaceful citizens who came to the FSB building in Simferopol on 4 September 2021 to get more details about their relatives and friends. Almost 60 persons including journalists who gathered near the FSB building were detained and released later on 4 September and early morning hours of 5 September.

Mr. Dzhelyal is the First Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People and a human rights activist. On 23 August 2021, he participated in the inaugural summit of the Crimea Platform in Kyiv, Ukraine. The fact that Mr. Dzhelyal has publicly supported the Crimea Platform and taken part in its inaugural summit may be the real motive of his persecution.



This terror tactic pursues the goal of intimidating representatives of the Crimean Tatar people and forcing them to leave the temporarily occupied peninsula. The fate of Ukrainian citizens detained and deprived of their rights and freedoms by the Russian Federation is reason for deep concern.

In view of the above, I would like to bring to your attention and to the attention of the Member States a comment issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (see annex).

I would like to underline that the Ministry resolutely protests against the aforementioned illegal actions and demands that the Russian Federation immediately release the five above-mentioned detainees and all citizens of Ukraine illegally detained since 2014.

The Ministry urges the international community to strongly condemn the illegal actions of the occupying Power, to increase pressure on the Russian Federation and to continue the active protection of the rights and freedoms of the residents of the Crimean Peninsula, including through the Crimea Platform.

I also hope that the above-mentioned illegal practices of the Russian occupation authorities will be duly addressed in future reports of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 65.

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

Annex to the letter dated 7 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in connection with another raid of illegal searches and detentions in the temporarily occupied Crimea

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely protests against yet another raid of illegal searches and detentions of residents in various areas of the temporarily occupied Crimea on September 3 and 4, 2021.

According to available information, FSB officers in the morning of September 3 detained Mr. Eldar Odamanov, at night of September 4 – Mr. Aziz Akhtemov, Mr. Asan Akhtemov and Mr. Shevket Useinov. In the morning of September 4, after searches in the residence the Deputy Speaker of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Mr. Nariman Dzhelyal was also detained.

We consider this punitive raid against the leaders of the Mejlis as a punishment for the participation in the founding Summit of the Crimea Platform on August 23, as well as yet another repression of the Russian Federation aimed at intimidating representatives of the Crimean Tatar people and forcing them to leave the temporarily occupied Peninsula.

The Russian Federation as an Occupying power in accordance with the norms of the international law is obliged to immediately cease political repressions against the local population of the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula.

The Russian Federation must also comply fully with the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions [68/262](#) of March 27, 2014 “The territorial integrity of Ukraine” and “The human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)” of 2016–2020 as well as the Order of the UN International Court of Justice on the application of precautionary measures in the framework of the lawsuit of Ukraine against the Russian Federation regarding the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We demand that the Russian Federation immediately release five mentioned detainees, as well as all illegally detained citizens of Ukraine.

We urge the international community to strongly condemn illegal actions of the occupying state, to strengthen pressure on the Russian Federation aimed at cessation of gross human rights violations on the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, to continue active protection of the rights and freedoms of the residents of the Crimean Peninsula, including through the Crimea Platform.