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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Letter dated 19 July 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to once again draw your attention to the illegal and outrageous activity of the online project Mirotvorets (“Peacemaker”, website: <https://myrotvorets.center>), run by Ukrainian nationalists and radicals with clear and unequivocal support from officials in Kiev. The project was launched in 2014 to disclose personal data of alleged “enemies of Ukraine” in order for them to be intimidated, threatened or even killed by ultra-right activists. Over the past years, the project has blacklisted more than 240,000 people, including politicians, journalists and human rights defenders. Contrary to the provisions of international and national law, the owners of this website published their personal data, including passport details, permanent addresses, phone numbers and links to their social media accounts, thus putting their lives at risk.

It is particularly appalling that children and teenagers have also become targets of the Mirotvorets project. We raised this issue in our letters to Henrietta Fore, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), dated 18 October 2021 and 4 January 2022. Back then, we expressed our deep concern about the case of Faina Savenkova, a 13-year-old writer from Lugansk whose personal data, including home address, were posted on the Mirotvorets website. Faina also wrote you a letter on this issue herself. We have to register that, unfortunately, the engagement by UNICEF was very formal and apparently did not change this situation, which puts at risk the safety and well-being of a child. All the files mentioned are attached for your reference (see annex).

Moreover, we are compelled to note that insufficient United Nations involvement has contributed to the aggravation of the situation. Russian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have recently discovered that at least 327 children and adolescents are now included in the Mirotvorets database. The actual figure might be even more considerable. The results of the research by our NGOs are attached.

We reiterate that the malicious practice of disclosing personal data of minors, to which official Kiev is turning a blind eye, is absolutely unacceptable and should be condemned by the United Nations, as it poses an immediate threat to the safety of children.



We therefore ask you to take the necessary steps to draw the attention of the Ukrainian authorities to the criminal activities of the Mirotvorets project and force them to close it.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70, and of the Security Council.

Taking into account the sensitive information contained in the attachments to the annex, I kindly ask you to issue this letter without the attachment containing personal data.

(Signed) Dmitry **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

**Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Постоянный представитель
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций



Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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136 East 67th Street
New York, NY 10065

No. 3075 /n

New York, "48" October 2021

Dear Ms. Fore,

Attachment

Please find attached a letter addressed to H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General UN, by Faina Savenkova, a child writer from Eastern Ukraine (Donbass). Despite being only 12 years old she is already quite well known for a number of her fairy-tales and science-fiction books. She lives in Lugansk. This city didn't recognize 2014 coup in Ukraine and had to face, together with Donetsk, a large-scale Ukrainian military operation which resulted in ongoing civil war.

Faina had nothing to do with this, she is just a normal kid going to school. She like other kids of Donbass lives under the threat of a possible shelling by Ukrainian army which has already took the life of dozens of kids in her neighborhood.

Being a writer, she describes what she sees in her posts on social media. In June this year on the occasion of the World children day

Ms. Henrietta H.Fore
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund
New York

she recorded an appeal to the members of the Security Council asking them not to forget about the children of Donbass. She is not engaged in politics, she just wants peace for her land.

The reason she wrote to the Secretary General is that she suddenly discovered that her name was included into the infamous “Mirotvorets” (Peacemaker) web-site, managed by Ukrainian nationalists and radicals with a clear support from officials in Kiev. This site was launched in 2014 to provide personal data of alleged “enemies of Ukraine” so that any extremist could find them and their relatives and intimidate or threaten their life. And Faina’s home address is now on display at this site. It means that her life is in danger, and this threat is real. Hundreds of people were persecuted or even killed by Ukrainian radicals after appearing in the database of this site.

The fact that a 12-year old girl is being treated as an enemy of Ukraine is very illustrative. It shows with whom Kiev is in reality waging a war in Donbass: with children, women, peaceful civilians. They suffer most from Ukraine’s refusal to implement Minsk agreements.

Faina has already submitted relevant questionnaire at the UNICEF web-site.

I hope that the UN will pay attention to this scandalous situation.

Please accept, Ms. Fore, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Vassily Nebenzia

To: His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-
General United Nations, United Nations
Headquarters New York, NY 10017.

Dear Mr. Guterres,

My name is Faina Savenkova, I am 12 (twelve) and I live in the city of Lugansk, Donbass.

Unfortunately, more than a half of my life has been spent in the conditions of war (sometimes more active, sometimes almost invisible for an outsider). Just like many children of my generation, I hardly remember the pre-war life of my region and the word "peaceful life" sounds as something unattainable.

This is the subject of my many essays and prose works which are published in Russia and thanks to my friends, sometimes get translated into foreign languages.

In my texts I advocate the end of the war in Donbass, which I know mostly through the suffering of peaceful citizens, children in the first place.

Hence I decided to turn to the UN on the Day of Protection of Children. My plea to your Organization is to ask you to stop the shootouts, to save human lives, that are still lost in Lugansk and Donetsk every day.

But the war does not limit itself to shootouts and bombings. Just recently a Ukrainian self-styled site Mirotvorets (Peacemaker) declared me an unwanted person in Ukraine and published my personal data in the Internet. The Ukrainian government does not condemn or cut short the activity of this site, so the "Peacemaker" declared me an enemy of Ukraine. I am accused of participating in anti-Ukrainian public affairs campaigns and of spreading "fake" information.

This is not true, it is a lie whose aim is to make Ukrainian population hate me, to intimidate and denigrate me.

But now I am afraid for my life, and I am worried about my life, my health and the security of my family.

On October 13 I made a public appeal to Vladimir Zelensky, the president of Ukraine. I asked him to outlaw and block the "Peacemaker" site – there is more than enough legal reasons for such a move.

But the "Peacemaker" continues to operate. What is worse, it updates and makes more detailed the information on my family, deeply hurting me and my loved ones.

Unfortunately, I am not the only child who became a victim of the "Peacemaker"'s aggression. This site often publishes the personal data of the children like me.

I read about the activity of the UNICEF foundation, so I turn to you asking to influence the Ukrainian government pushing pushing it towards the fastest possible blocking of the Peacemaker's site in Ukraine, as well as its possible "mirror offsprings". Please, help me to force the Ukrainian government to fulfill its own laws. Children are protected by the law in almost every country in the world now. Now, please, add this "protection by action". Children should not become victims of harassment and psychological violence on the part of the adults.

Yours,

Faina Savenkova

18.10.21

Faina

Savenkova Faina

Постоянный представитель
Российской Федерации
при Организации
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136 East 67th Street
New York, NY 10065

No. 14 /n

« 4 » January 2022

Dear Ms. Fore,

I would like to draw your attention to ongoing violations of the rights of the children in Ukraine whose personal data is being published on the infamous website “Myrotvorets” (Peacemaker), managed by Ukrainian nationalists. This website was launched in 2014 to publicly reveal private information of alleged “enemies of Ukraine” to keep them intimidated, threatened and even killed by ultra-right supporters or sympathisers.

We have already raised this issue following the public disclosure of data of Ms. Faina Savenkova, a 13-year old writer from the Eastern Ukraine. We very much appreciate your heartfelt reaction to this scandalous case in your letter dated October 29, 2021 (attached). Officials and media both in Russia and Ukraine took great interest in UNICEF’s engagement in this situation. We talked to Faina and she was very much looking forward to meeting Mr. Murat Sahin, UNICEF’s representative

Attachment

Ms. Henrietta Fore
Executive Director
United Nations Children’s Fund
New York

in Ukraine, as was envisaged in your letter. Unfortunately this meeting still hasn't taken place, which is the reason of big disappointment for those who promote rights of children in Russia and Ukraine.

Attachment

We have been recently informed that the personal data of at least three more children is on display at "Myrotvorets" (respective screenshots are attached to this letter, please handle this data confidentially).

Clearly this is only a tip of the iceberg and a meticulous search will produce many more results. It means that the case of Faina is not an isolated episode but rather an evidence of a consistent trend.

This is deeply concerning and is a clear violation of Article 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which states that "no child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation". Since CRC is at the heart of UNICEF's work we strongly believe that this violation shouldn't go unnoticed.

In this respect we would like to request UNICEF to publicly address this issue and appeal to the removal of any data of children from "Myrotvorets".

We would also like to ask your personal engagement in the case of Ms. Faina Savenkova in order to organize her in person meeting with one of the designated representatives of UNICEF office in Ukraine.

Please accept, Ms. Fore, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Vassily Nebenzia