

Fifteenth session of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Item 3: Study on Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between indigenous peoples and States, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition

Statement by Liudmyla Korotkykh, Crimean Tatar Youth Center

The way of official recognition of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people by the Ukrainian state was very long and difficult. Only after the beginning of the occupation of Crimea Ukraine became active in restoration and realization of the rights of the Crimean Tatar, Karaites and Krymchaks peoples and adopted the Law of Ukraine "On the Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine" in 2021 in close cooperation with Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people – representative institution of indigenous Crimean Tatar people. But we can't in fully benefit out of the adopted legislation , since Ukraine does not exercise the effective control over the Crimean peninsula.

At the same time the de facto authorities, do not consult with the representative body of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people when make any decisions. Moreover, they banned the activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people in 2016, calling it an extremist organization and also do not complying the order ¹of 19 April 2017 issued by UN ICJ to cancel this decision.

My people have been living in conditions of interstate conflict for the ninth year. Today I am forced to say that my homeland - Crimea - has become a springboard for a new military escalation and a full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into my country - Ukraine, in February of this year.

The reason of this conflict is the non-observance and disregard the rights of indigenous peoples, primarily the right to self-determination in accordance with Art. 3 UN DRIP.

In the result, of 8 years of occupation 177 Crimean Tatars became the victim of the political persecution, thousands of representatives of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people were illegally drafted into the Russian army, which is prohibited not only the UN DRIP, but also the international humanitarian law.

Today, this practice poses a new threat to my people. Just some days ago the fake, occupation authority issue a decree on holding the mobilization. Crimean Tatars are sent and hundreds more can be sent to fight against their own people and against their country.

We were send our submission to EMRIP where in details describe which measurers and approaches was used in the way of restoration of the rights of the indigenous Crimean Tatar People. And I ask to include this information into the Study. Because we see, that non-recognition and unsecured at the constitutional level the rights of indigenous people is the threat not only for indigenous people it`s treat to peace and security of whole world.

¹ Order of 19 April 2017 issued by UN ICJ