

May 14, 2004.
Remzi Il'yasov



25. 11. 2004
item 3
30
The Statement by R. Il'yasov
at the UN Permanent Forum
on the Indigenous Peoples

Mandatory area:
Indigenous Women

Dear Mr. Chairman, dear members of the Permanent Forum, dear members of the Governments and the representatives of indigenous peoples of the world, guests and visitors.

My name is Remzi Il'yasov I am the Crimean Tatar, I am the Vice-Chairman of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, the single supreme plenipotentiary representative body of the Crimean Tatar people elected every 5 years by Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar people – the National Congress of the Crimean Tatars.

For many years the Crimean Tatar people struggles for its national rights, where the woman has the special role. The destiny of the Crimean Tatar women – this is the destiny of the whole Crimean Tatar people. This is Crimean Tatar women who suffered the hardships of deportation to the full extent – the commandant's regime, household problems of the return, resettlement. However, despite of all these adversities the Crimean Tatar woman – as usual, shows an example of patience, vital strength, wisdom and of course beauty.

The process of return and resettlement of the Crimean Tatars on their historical Native land – the Crimea has coincided with the collapse of the USSR and the forming of the new independent state – Ukraine, which proclaimed the construction of the legal democratic society. The Crimean Tatar people in the difficult for Ukraine period from the very first days takes the most active part in the formation of the independence of Ukraine and tries to implement the fundamental political and social reforms.

The return of the Crimean Tatar people is a phenomenon, the separate aspects of which require the close studying. Cultural - historical traditions of the Crimean Tatars which were formed under the influence of the traditions of many peoples, who lived on the Crimean peninsula, caused the equal status of women and men in the society. Among the Crimean Tatars, representing Muslim culture in the Crimea, despite of the existing stereotypes there is no practice of minor position of women who are dependent of men. On the contrary our women not only take the active live, but also socially – political position. Though, the indisputable fact is that the representation of women on the management posts is less than of men, however, it is compensated by the number of women keeping the strict political views and taking an active part in the social-political life of Ukraine and the Crimea.

In spite of the fact that from the very beginning of mass return of the Crimean Tatar people passed 15 years, and there is a number of negative tendencies in the various spheres, aggravating the situation of the Crimean Tatar women. Among the problems which, undoubtedly, complicate the thorough participation of the Crimean Tatar women, are as follows:

Social - economic - despite of the high educational level (84 % of women have the high and secondary-technical education, more than 60 % of able-bodied women are unemployed, this cause their social segregation. Unemployment and poverty makes the majority of the Crimean Tatar women to work at the personal plots, to conduct a subsistence economy, to sell fruit and vegetables in the markets. The economic dependence on seasonal earnings, in fact, excludes the further professional growth, that naturally affects the opportunity of employment in the conditions of competition on the labor market. Thus, we have the situation in

which the Crimean Tatar women have no opportunity and conditions to develop their professional skills and to the full extent integrate into the Ukrainian society;

- **Social-cultural** - in spite of the fact that many Crimean Tatars were brought up in frameworks of "the Soviet system", the upbringing of the Crimean Tatars is distinguished by its traditional character, which is not always complies with the modern trends which are popular among the youth today. In this respect, alongside with the problem of financial maintenance of the family which women share alongside with men, they had to deal with the problems of housekeeping and education of their children;
- **Health care** – the revolutionary rates of social - political transformations in Ukraine reflected on the economic situation of all citizens of Ukraine, but the Crimean Tatar found themselves in the worst situation. The special negative influence causes the bad household conditions of the Crimean Tatars, the absence of appropriate living conditions. Today more than 23 thousand Crimean Tatar families live in the uncompleted individual houses, about 8 thousand families stand in the queue to obtain the housing. Among 300 of Crimean Tatar settlements have electricity - 90 %, water - 70 %, roads - 25 %, gas - about 7 %. All this provokes the high level of disease, including women (cancer, tuberculosis, female illnesses). Accordingly this reflects on the health of the young generation of the Crimean Tatars;
 - **Social - political activity** - the high level of political culture and political activity of the Crimean Tatars promotes to the civil activity of the Crimean Tatar women, as a result, the number of the public and governmental organizations are established and operate in the Crimea. One of the most influential among these organizations is the League of the Crimean Tatar women, dealing both with humanitarian, and social issues.

The basic goals of the all Crimean organization – the League of the Crimean Tatar women are:

- **Protection of the rights of women, interests of family and the childhood;**
- **Promotion to the revival of the Crimean Tatar national culture, education, family customs, traditions and crafts;**
- **Interaction with the international and Ukrainian democratic and female organizations;**
- **Advisory and humanitarian assistance;**
- **Participation in the realization of the program of improvement of children health;**
- **Carrying out of educational activities among the women;**
- **Participation in the work of the International and all Ukrainian conferences and seminars on the problems of women, human rights, education and culture.**

The further situation with the Crimean Tatar women in many respects will be dependent on the presence and the efficiency of the state programs in the field of employment of women and their employment in the state service, in the executive bodies of power and local self-management.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Vice-Chairman of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people

Remzi Il'yasov.