

**10-th Session of expert Mechanism on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Agenda item 6**

Statement presented by Eskender Bariiev,

**the Had of the board of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, the member of Mejlis of the Crimean
Tatar People**

Dear Chairman! Brothers and Sisters!

On behalf of the leader of the Crimean Tatar people Mustafa Dzhemilev and the Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people Refat Chubarov, I want to greet you and thank you for your interest to the problem of the Crimean Tatar people and active support at the international level.

I want to express my gratitude to all member states that supported the resolution "The Situation with Human Rights in Crimea", adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The Crimean Tatar people became a minority in their homeland, as a result of a purposeful policy of xenophobia and genocide after the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 1783. Since the beginning of the occupation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, repressions are being carried out against the indigenous people of Crimea. Criminal cases have been opened, detentions, searches and arrests became systematic.

In September, 2016, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation banned the representative body of the Crimean Tatars, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, violating Articles 5, 18 and 19 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the collective right of the Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people to manage their representative institutions. By these actions, the Russian Federation rudely ignored the 22 paragraph of Recommendations of the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people is the representative body of indigenous Crimean Tatars, which was elected during the democratic elections in 2013. International organizations recognized the elections as legitimate.

The Russia banned the Mejlis due to the fact that Crimean Tatars ignored the illegal referendum, which was also not recognized by the UN General Assembly.

Armed people make systematic raids on mosques during Friday prayers, cafes, markets, detain Crimean Tatars, who are forcibly pushed into buses and taken to the so-called centers to counteraction extremism. People are collected personal data, taken saliva for DNA analysis, are fingerprinted. This is a direct violation of Article 12 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP).

The active substitution of the Crimean population continues. According to our monitoring, more than 120,000 people were imported from Russia to Crimea, and about 50,000 people were forced to flee Crimea - this is a direct violation of the 4th Geneva Convention;

Also, in violation of the 4th Geneva Convention, a mass spring conscription is being made to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, and if people refuse, then criminal cases are opened against them. One criminal case is currently open, and 200 more conscripts are forced to hide from serving in the Armed Forces of Russia;

In violation of the "Final Remarks on the 7th Periodic Report of the Russian Federation" of the UN Committee on Human Rights, Russian passports are imposed, and those people who refuse are deported from Crimea, an example is the situation with Nedim Khalilov, who stays in the center for temporary detention of foreign nationals of the Krasnodar territory of Russia for 6 months. In protest, he went on a hunger strike and he lost about 30 kg of weight.

Occupying authorities began repressions already in relation to lawyers and advocates who deal with the protection of political prisoners. Occupants try to deprive citizens of the protection in politically motivated criminal cases.

Thanks to the active support of the international human rights organizations, they released the lawyer Emil Kurtbedinov 10 days after the detention.

In May, 2016 Ervin Ibragimov, Board Member of the Council of the World Congress of the Crimean Tatar people, was abducted in Bakhchisaray. He is not found until now. The case with Ervin Ibrahimov is one of twenty-six cases of missing or abducted Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians, 12 people were found dead with brutal tortures. None of these cases was investigated by de facto authorities of Crimea.

We call on the international community to send a note of protest to Russia so that they ensure the rights of the Crimean Tatars as the indigenous people of Crimea.

Namely:

To cancel the decision on prohibition of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and allow it to work as a legitimate representative body of the Crimean Tatars in the territory of Crimea in execution of the intermediate decision of the United Nations international court ;

To cancel all criminal cases opened against political prisoners, release Ruslan Zeytullayev, who has already been on a hunger strike for 20 days against his unlawful arrest.

To investigate disappearances of Ervin Ibragimov and ten other Crimean Tatars and bring guilty people to justice.

To release the detained Nedim Khalilov and allow him to live in his own house in Crimea;

To cancel the conscription to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Crimea;

To the authorities of Ukraine:

Call on Parliament of Ukraine to adopt the law on indigenous peoples of Ukraine and ratify ILO Convention 169.

To develop a National Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples and a Humanitarian Response Plan for Crimea;

The Crimean Tatar people needs the support of the international community and human rights organizations. As the timely reaction of the international community to the violation of human rights in the occupied Crimea can save people from torture, save their lives and freedom.

Families and children of political prisoners and missing persons need not only material but also moral support, and any reaction you show gives hope for the release and return of their fathers.

Thanks to the active position of the international human rights organizations and civil society in 2016 important resolutions on Crimea were adopted by the European Parliament and the UN General Assembly.

We need your support!

We are ready for active and systematic cooperation!

We are sure that only with the active joint counteraction to gross violation of human rights in Crimea, we will be able to protect not only the indigenous people of Crimea - the Crimean Tatars, but the whole world.

Thank you for your attention!