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Remzi Il'yasov

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The statement of Remzi Il'yasov
at the Permanent Forum
of the United Nations
On the indigenous peoples
Mandatory area:
"Education"

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

My name is Remzi Il'yasov. I'm the Crimean Tatar, I am the vice-Chairman of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people - a single supreme plenipotentiary representative body of the Crimean Tatar people, elected every 5 years by the Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar people - the national congress of the Crimean Tatars. At this honorable assembly I express the joint will of one of the indigenous peoples of the Crimea - the Crimean Tatar people.

Today about 265 thousand Crimean Tatars returned to the Crimea, (about 13 % of the total population of the Crimea), among them - children at the age from 1 to 14 comprise more than 75 thousand people, youth from 15 to 28 - about 85 thousand people.

Following the return of the Crimean Tatar people from deportation on their historical Native land - the Crimea the cultural life of people underwent some positive changes, including in the sphere of education.

According to the will of the parents the primary schools in the Crimean Tatar language of training were opened in the Crimea. In order to provide the staff for these schools with education in the Crimean Tatar language, the Program of training and retraining of the national staff for social-cultural sphere of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea was adopted in 1995 and is functioning since then.

Since 1992 the Republic of Turkey allocates quotas for training of youth in the state High Educational Institutions on the program of «From Good Neighborhood to Cooperation Between Turkey and Ukraine» according to which more than 400 teachers was trained.

The procedure of the recognition of the foreign educational qualifications, with the purpose of realization of the strategic trend of Ukraine on the integration of the national education into the international educational sphere, on the basis of ratification of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications of the Higher Education in the European region (Lisbon, April 11, 1997) allows the citizens of Ukraine who graduated from the foreign High Educational Institutions to apply for the nostrificational examination. But, the practice showed that without the solving of the question of the recognition of the interstate diplomas, it is practically impossible.

Taking into account the numerous problems of the Crimean Tatar students, it is possible to ascertain that the existing legislation and political-legal base of Ukraine of the implementation of the constitutional rights of the Crimean Tatar people in the sphere of education in the native language and employment of the young experts, is obviously insufficient.

At the same time, we think that the attention paid to the question of development of schools in the Crimean Tatar language of training and the creation of the conditions to the students for studying in the native language, is insufficient. The existing social-economic situation should not prevent the solution of this problems. The education is, in fact, the only

institute, capable to promote to the revival of the Crimean Tatar language and to the solution of the social-cultural problems, providing the further development of the Crimean Tatar people.

The regional authorities do not pay this question due attention. Here we can recall the Recommendation 1455 (2000) «The Repatriation and Integration of the Crimean Tatars», adopted by the Parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe on March, 5, 2000, the paragraph 9 is said: To invite the Government of Ukraine and local authorities of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea to study the experience of other multiethnic countries of the Council of Europe with the purpose of revival and promotion of the rights of the Crimean Tatars to education in the Crimean Tatar language, and also the usage of their languages in all spheres of private and public life.»

Only due to the efforts of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and to its meaningful dialog with the central bodies of the Government of Ukraine and the President of Ukraine for these 14 years after the return it was possible to open 15 schools in the Crimean Tatar language of training. It allowed to cover only 10 % of Crimean Tatar pupils. It is worth to note that only 2 schools function in the adequate buildings, the rest of the school are located in the buildings of children's establishments, where the children study after the reconstruction and restoration of these buildings, i.e. in the adapted rooms. The material-technical provision of the schools is in very bad condition. The situation with the necessary textbooks and manuals is even worse, representing 8-10 % of the actual needs. The international organizations, foundations and the governments of some countries (Turkey, Iran and others) provide some assistance in this question.

For comparison we could return 60 years ago to the period prior to the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people when in the Crimea there were 371 school in the Crimean Tatar language of training, including 279 primary schools, 68 - complete secondary and 21 - secondary schools. Besides, in the Crimea there were 53 schools with two and more languages of training, where the Crimean Tatar pupils had the opportunity to study in the native language.

All mentioned above allows us to ascertain, that the situation with the establishment of the national Crimean Tatar schools is *unsatisfactory*.

The future, the civil world and the interethnic consent in the Crimea depends on the policy, carried out by the authorities concerned, of granting of the constitutional rights to the Crimean Tatar people, in particular, in the field of the national education. It would promote to the conscious integration of the Crimean Tatars. In other words, the language education is the integration and protective means of the Crimean Tatars of normal, painless integration to the Ukrainian society.

In order to promote as much as possible to the establishment of the civil society and further social-cultural development in Ukraine, I suggest the Forum to suggest UNESCO to provide the account of methods, opinions and psychology of the indigenous peoples in the field of education in their plans of action, and also to influence on the Government of Ukraine, through their representatives in the field of education and culture, to promote to the access to education and improvement of the quality of education for the Crimean Tatar children and youth, providing financial grants, giving the opportunities for study and the corresponding curriculums. To pay more attention to education in the Crimean Tatar language.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Vice-Chairman of Mejlis of the
Crimean Tatar people

Remzi Il'yasov.