

## **Recommendations to the Human Rights Council**

Annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation has created a desperate human rights situation particularly regarding indigenous people of Crimea – Crimean Tatars. Yes, we are victims and hostages of the situation. Yes, nowadays, neither Ukraine nor West does have any leverages concerning the situation in Crimea due to Russia's "access-denial policy". Russia exercises systematic persecution against Crimean Tatars. The reprisal toolkit is quite diverse, involving abduction, tortures, restriction of freedom of expression and association; politically motivated killings. Thus, Crimean Tatars were put in conditions of isolation and deprivation of their rights as indigenous people being in their own homeland.

Although international attention to Crimea is still at its highest alert, it is already not at the stage as it was a year ago, and it is relevant to ask a question in the light of this logic, whether the United Nations are ready to introduce more concrete steps towards tackling the Crimean Question, rather than having declarative character of resolutions. It should be mentioned that Crimean Tatars are living at the edge of their very existence. The United Nations shall introduce tangible instruments and mechanisms for regular monitoring and facilitation of the destiny of the Crimean Tatars.

Mister Chairperson, drawing your attention to the fact that the creation of the international platform for the institutionalisation of Crimea and Crimean Tatars issues, is an utmost crucial element for the future survival of Crimean Tatars as the nation. It is noteworthy, that almost for every international land, which is disputable in Europe, there were created international mechanisms, except Crimea. For instance, for Donbass has been created Minsk Agreements. What about Crimea? Some politicians indicated that it is possible to create a platform on the basis of the Budapest Memorandum, but this idea may already be stillborn. Furthermore, all attempts within OSCE were blocked by the Russian Federation.

Without creating or enforcing the international position regarding Crimea and Crimean Tatars, in upcoming years Crimea would become almost the first example of international dispute in Europe which is sadly left without any negotiation desk.

What we can do inside the UN System. Here I would like to outline the following possibilities:

1. Special Rapporteur on Crimean Tatars - within the System of HRC.

2. Establishment of the unique Platform which has never been established inside the System before. At least, opening the discussion and engaging experts for elaboration of more concrete UN policy regarding Crimea and Crimean Tatars;
3. Grant by the visit of Crimea by the Higher Commissioner of Human Right or at least making an attempt to enter Crimea through Ukraine;
4. The Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine until now has had a Crimean desk, but the number of people working and dealing with Crimea is dramatically limited. This department is located in Kiev. What we can ask in case of this Mission: to increase the number of people who will work in stronger engagement on Crimean and Crimean Tatars; to open the door for the representatives of Crimean Tatars in the Department; to expect for opening of the affiliation of the Mission in Kherson Region and to monitor the situation as close to Crimea as it is possible and not to do their job from remote.
5. Human Rights Council must make a decision for Annual Hearings in the HRC (on the permanent basis) and annual reports. The idea that in September, 2017 Crimean Report will be under the consideration.
6. Additionally, we are requesting for consideration of the annual meeting of the *Consultative Working Group* which would be consisting of: Higher Commissioner on Human Rights, Head of the Mejlis of Crimean Tatars People, Special Rapporteur on Indigenous People; Head of Ukrainian Desk; Representative of the Ukrainian Mission to the UN.
7. It is essential to elaborate the specific mechanism of immediate reaction of the UN for defending the indigenous people at the first stages of the development conflict which could harm rights of the indigenous people.

I would like to reiterate and ask you, dear Chairperson.

What the United Nations could do as a facilitator in this highly politicised issue where the only victim being the Crimean Tatars?

Thank you!