

17th Session of the UNPFII Issues
Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People
Thursday, April 19, 2018
Item#4 Women, Children and Youth

Dear Chairman, dear brothers and sisters,

As a representative of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, at the 17th **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, I would like to bring to your attention on the situation with the rights of children and women in the Crimea, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

International norms and legislation calls to respect the rights of the child and equal rights for women, but now in the Crimea the situation is completely different. Human rights violations occur in all aspects of daily life which include have a detrimental affect on each women, child and their families.

It has been 4 years since the occupation of Crimea the Russian Federation, in violation of existing international acts, regulations and conventions, in particular the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, began the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, a territory that is an integral part of the single, unitary Ukrainian state.

In total it is known that during the occupation of the Crimea 11 people were killed, 19 people were kidnapped and disappeared without a trace. More than 1000 searches have been conducted in the homes of Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian activists. Hundreds of criminal cases have been initiated, any dissent is persecuted and suppressed.

The representative body of the Crimean Tatar people, the Mejlis, was illegally recognized as an extremist organization on the peninsula.

At the moment, approximately 56 people are in prison, and most of them are the Crimean Tatars convicted on trumped-up charges of involvement in extremist organizations. They are sentenced to lengthy terms of 10-15 years in prison.

These are the future generation of the Crimean Tatar people who have young families and children.

Over the last four years of occupation in the Crimea,. These are children whose fathers were illegally called terrorists and extremists and are now being deprived of their liberty. In these cases, arrests are often carried out in front of young children, windows and doors in the houses are destroyed and violent unjustified affects occur infront of their children. Their fathers are abruptly and violently taken in front of their children who will be permanently affected.

In fact, their large families - wives and children – are deprived of breadwinners and livelihood.

Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, Ukrainian and Crimean activists, as well as public organizations help these families, but this is not enough.

Women are also subjected to the same pressure - families of the illegally convicted Crimean Tatar political prisoners are not allowed to see their husbands and their children are deprived from seeing their fathers.

We call on the international community to pay attention to the situation in the Crimea in connection with the oppression of Crimean Tatars and their families, a situation in which children are subjected to pressure, humiliation and lawlessness.