

16 July 2019

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People

Item 5

1. Dear Brothers and Sisters, distinguished participants of the 12th Session of the EMRIP
2. These days we are discussing the study on indigenous peoples' rights in the context of borders, migration and displacement.
3. Each study of this kind may serve its purpose as the advising source only if it is objective, applicable, and relevant, which, in turn, requires the analysis of real cases.
4. Speaking about real cases, there are many around the globe.
5. We'd like to focus on our native land Crimea to show you that the reality we face for the last five years has nexus to the subject of the EMRIP study as well as crucial importance for its objectivity due to the scale and impact of the developments.
6. As you may know, in 2014 Crimea was occupied and annexed by Russia.
7. In 2014, immediately after occupation, Russia launched its repressive policies against indigenous Crimean Tatar people.
8. As a result, around 20 000 Crimean Tatars displaced to non-occupied part of Ukraine.
9. Tortures, killings, abductions and other human rights violations came to our lives.
10. If you asked me to list all violations committed by Russia in occupied Crimea, I would need 3 days instead of 3 minutes.
11. The majority of them are documented by OHCHR and reflected in quarter and thematic reports prepared by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.
12. OCHA and UNHCR regularly provide accurate data with regard to internal displacement in Ukraine, which was fuelled by the Russian aggression.
13. Our highest representative body - Mejlis was banned in 2016. Russia did not reverse this decision despite the relevant Order of ICJ.
14. The temporary occupation is illegal due to the violation of territorial integrity of Ukraine and respective principles of international law.
15. In 2014, the Parliament of Ukraine recognized Crimean Tatar People as indigenous as well as their highest representative bodies and right to the self determination within the sovereign and indivisible Ukrainian State.
16. Here, I would like to stress, that the occupation has also violated the right of indigenous Crimean Tatar people to self-determination.
17. In May 2019, the Parliament of Ukraine addressed the UN, PACE, NATO, OSCE and Parliaments condemning violation of the rights of indigenous peoples by Russia.
18. ICC qualified the occupation as international armed conflict. Therefore, we ask the EMRIP to
 - to include to the study mentioned information that is related to Ukraine and its temporarily occupied territories.
 - provide HRC as well as indigenous peoples with advice on application of the Declaration in situations of international armed conflicts (*and its correlation with IHL*);
 - to prepare and disseminate information on indigenous peoples living in territories, where there is a situation of international armed conflict, like in Crimea.