

## ORAL STATEMENT

Working session 16: rights of migrants, including refugees and displaced persons.

(2 October 2014, 15.00-18.00)

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In the context of the Russian military invasion to the Eastern part of Ukraine and Russian illegal occupation of the Crimea tens of thousands civilians including children had to leave their homes. Most of them become IDPs on the safe territory of Ukraine but a great number was forced by russia-supported terrorists to move to Russia due to the prohibition of the terrorists to move to the safe part of Ukraine just because russian propaganda machine needs appropriate pictures to hide its military invasion. A number of times pro-russian terrorists organized abduction of Ukrainian children to Russia to be used on the russian territory for propaganda purposes. Tens of thousands ukrainian citizens were forced by russian occupation authorities in Crimea to leave there homes, their Motherland.

For the time being there are about three hundred thousands of IDPs in Ukraine according to the UNCHR, which as we heard earlier this day, also closely cooperate with the Russian Federation. The root of the problem of IDPs - is Russian Federation military invasion to Ukraine: in Crimea and later in the east.

Our Office register a dramatic growth of the facts of unhidden discrimination and illegal actions of the Russian Federation towards Crimean tatars after the occupation of Crimea, which lead to the growth of forced IDPs.

The obvious pressure and violence towards indigenous people of Crimea, reported by the monitoring mission of the UN, started with illegal prohibition by the Russian Federation for the Leader of Crimean tatars Mustafa Dzhemilev to enter his Motherland. This provoked massive protests participation in which caused prosecution of those who decided to stand for their rights.

Russian law enforcement authorities conducted mass searches of private houses of the Medzhlis members as well as Medresse, schools, mosques and cultural centers.

We receive a flow of complaints concerning open and consistent prosecution of indigenous people. Tens of them – the most prominent defenders of human rights - just disappear and occupation regime in Crimea dose nothing to investigate those flagrant cases. Reshat Ahmetov was killed, 18 crimean tatars disappeared during the time of military occupation. The fundamental right – the right for the life – was trampled.

Another factor which makes ukrainians to flee from Crimea is forced adoption of the Russian citizenship. More than 400 of Ukrainian citizens being in Simpheropol pre-detention center were automatically turned into Russian citizenship without any real possibility to refuse. Those who risked to refuse to adopt Russian citizenship were tortured.

Outrageous violations of human rights on the territory of Crimea is the main cause of forced migration to the safe part of Ukraine.

Similar situation happens in the east of Ukraine. In this context I would like to clarify some points mentioned before by the Representative of the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Astakhov.

Childcare institutions, orphanages, hospitals for children are used by pro-russian armed groups as the place for organizing their headquarters and children are forced to serve as a living shield.

Numerous efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to evacuate and save children were blocked by the Order of pro-russian terrorists on that territory which prohibited the administration of the institutions to evacuate children anywhere outside except to Russia.

Being supported by Russia those groups organized a number of attempts of abduction of children. Children, accompanied by armed men were forced to leave their institutions and illegally without any documents were put to the busses and trafficked to the Russian Federation.

Just imagine those frightened children, many of them disabled 1-3 years old being trafficked for many hours in the not appropriately equipped busses without any medical care. Just because Russian authorities need those children to be brutally used for informational war and propaganda against Ukraine. It's not just international kidnapping, by the way confirmed by the Russian minister of foreign affairs – it's violence against children and tortures.

In June this year armed pro-russian groups trafficked 16 Ukrainian children. In July - 61 orphans. In August - 8 disabled children aged from 8 month to 2 years were kidnapped from the hospital and trafficked without any medical assistance to Russia. That trip really jeopardized their lives as they could die any moment.

Thanks to cooperation of Russian and Ukrainian Ombudspersons those children returned back and were evacuated to the safe regions of Ukraine for rehabilitation.

The risk of the life of children was the price for a ten minutes anti-Ukrainian propaganda story on Russian TV.

Concluding, I would like to emphasise - the only real mechanism to reduce the flow of IDPs and make it possible for them to return back to their homes is to make Russian Federation to withdraw its military forces from Ukraine and to stop supporting terrorism.