



MYTHES ABOUT CRIMEA

1. **The Crimean residents have expressed their right to join Russia by vote on referendum on the 16th of March, 2014.** The question of the integrity or dissolution of any Ukrainian region can only be decided by the all-Ukrainian referendum. The procedure of such a referendum were violated (it was held only in Crimea, not approved observers cannot enter Crimean peninsula, the military forces were present) so we can state, that the action of the 16th of March cannot be named a referendum thus we state that the Crimean Autonomous Republic is occupied by Russian troops.
2. **The rights of Russian minority are violated.** 7% of pupils in Crimea are schooling in Ukrainian (the general level over Ukraine is 82%), 3% are schooling in Crimean Tatar language and 90% are schooling in Russian. All the expenses for books, teachers’ salaries etc are provided by Ukrainian government. Students can choose the language of the tests to pass. The same situation is with the book publishing, TV and radio broadcasting with the major domination of Russian.
3. **Russia defends Russian citizens.** To hold a double citizenship is against Ukrainian legislation. As well if you want to acquire Russian citizenship you need to renounce your previous one. There are over 1.9 mln of Ukrainian citizens in Crimes; and the estimated quantity of Russians legally residing in Crimea is 30 thousand, including the Russian military forces based in Crimea. But recently Russia has started to issue Russian passports with the speeding procedure, with the violations of both Russian and Ukrainian legislation.
4. **The overwhelming majority in Crimea is willing to join Russia.** According to the survey of the Democratic Initiative Foundation, 41% of the respondents in Crimea were pro unification with RF. That is the highest number over Ukraine. However, 24% of residents of the peninsula are Ukrainians and 13% are Crimean Tatar majority of whom is satisfied being a part of Ukraine. The fact that 58% of Crimean residents are of Russian ethnicity doesn’t mean automatically that they are in favour of joining Russian Federation.
5. **Crimea before Russian occupation was controlled by the local self-defense.** “The little unidentified green men” were wearing the Russian uniform without signs, consuming Russian food-rations, using Russian weapons and military vehicles. In addition, there are numerous proofs that the Russian military presence was from the beginning: identification of the commander, interviews to journalists etc.
6. **There is a legitimate power in Crimea.** Sergey Aksenov, the leader of the party “Russian Unity”, was elected as a prime-minister of Crimea and the new government was formatted with the violation of the procedure: presence of military in the parliamentary building, absence of approval by the country government, absence of the independent monitors and absence of quorum. “Russian Unity” never was among the influential parties in Crimea; it got 3% at the Crimean parliamentary elections of 2010, and less than 2% at the Ukrainian parliamentary elections of 2012. The activities of Crimean government and the parliament were certified as illegitimate and the parliament was dissolved by the Ukrainian government. However, with the help of the Russian military forces the illegitimate Crimean government continues to function. There were numerous violations of the human rights such as enforced disappearances, ill-treatments, tortures, murders and frightening of the local population. International observers from OSCE were not let on the grounds of peninsula with the use of arms and the deputy of the UN general secretary was abducted and deported.

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