

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1146th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 May 2017

**In connection with the anniversary of the deportation of the  
Crimean Tatars**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Crimean Tatar people went through a great deal of suffering during the period of repression, having survived deportation from their native territory. Together with the Crimean Tatars, we are mourning the victims.

And only Crimea's reunification with Russia made it possible to rehabilitate the Crimean Tatar people and restore their legal rights and interests, which had previously been ignored or grossly violated by the Ukrainian authorities.

On 21 April 2014, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, signed Decree No. 268 on measures to rehabilitate the Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Crimean Tatar and German peoples and to provide State support for their revival and development. A set of measures was developed to restore historical justice through the political, social and spiritual revival of peoples subjected to illegal political repression on ethnic and other grounds, including administrative expulsions.

In addition, the scope of Law No. 1107-1 of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of 26 April 1991 on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples and Law No. 1761-1 of the Russian Federation of 18 October 1991 on the rehabilitation of the victims of political repression was fully extended to include the Crimean Tatars. As a result, more than 20,000 applications were submitted by citizens for the issuance of certificates of rehabilitation.

Decree No. 268 paved the way for comprehensive measures related to the complete rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatar people – both political and social, economic and cultural. This is achieved, in particular, on the basis of the federal special-purpose programme for the development of Crimea until 2020, adopted on 11 August 2014. The Decree sets out measures for the socio-economic development of several territories that in recent years and even decades had been practically abandoned and not legally regulated.

In 2015, with the purpose of resettling the rehabilitated peoples of Crimea, the State programme “The Republic of Crimea – the territory of inter-ethnic harmony” was developed and approved for the period 2015 to 2017 to strengthen the unity of the Russian nation and the ethnic and cultural development of the peoples of Russia. Large communities are now being developed in Crimea that accommodate citizens from among the repressed peoples. Cultural events are organized for returnees. Literature is published in their native languages and the media, including the Crimean Tatar *Yani Dunya*, *Qirim* and *Yildiz* receive support.

On 15 May 2017, the regional community organization “Qirim Birligi” and the Public Council of the Crimean Tatar People invited all Crimean Tatars and residents of the peninsula to take part in commemorative events dedicated to the anniversary of the deportation of the Crimean Tatars. A memorial site was opened for the victims of the deportation in the village of Siren in the district of Bakhchysarai.

The participation of Crimean Tatars in the representative bodies of power of the Republic of Crimea is ensured. The overwhelming majority of Crimean Tatars – more than 90 per cent – have applied for and received a Russian Federation passport.

The Crimean Tatar language is recognized as a State language of the Republic of Crimea alongside Russian and Ukrainian. The authorities of the Crimean Federal District annually organize a hajj of Crimean Muslims. In April 2017, the construction of the Cathedral Mosque began in Simferopol, which is scheduled to be completed by 2019.

In 2016, the General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation for the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol registered 70 local and 10 regional autonomous ethnic cultural organizations that carry out activities on the territory of the peninsula.

Many other measures are being taken to protect the rights and interests of the Crimean Tatar people. So the claims directed at Russia about the allegedly deteriorating situation of the Crimean Tatars are completely untenable. They serve only the political ambitions of those who cannot reconcile with the lawful return of Crimea to Russia, of which it will forever remain an integral part.

Against the backdrop of attempts by representatives of some countries to spread misinformation on the situation of the Crimean Tatars in Russian Crimea, to put it mildly, we should not forget how neglected a situation we had to deal with in that sphere after more than two decades of the violation of rights and discrimination against the Crimean Tatars when the peninsula was part of Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.