

Jon Hellevig, intervention at OSCE Warsaw 2014, session Rule-of-law II

A call to investigate the crimes committed 14 and 15 March 2014 on Rumarskaya Street in Kharkov.

I call on the OSCE and the participants of this conference to pay attention to the dire human rights situation in Ukraine and the reluctance of the Ukrainian regime to investigate crimes against humanity and human rights abuses. In particular, I draw your attention to the violent hate crimes committed 14 and 15 March 2014 on Rumarskaya Street in Kharkov. The case is about militant armed members of the neo-Nazi organization Patriots of Ukraine, which belongs to the Right Sector ultranationalist movement, opening fire and killing two people, wounding several and taking hostages. In blatant connivance from the side of the EU, EU countries and the Western media, the Ukrainian regime has not investigated these crimes to bring the perpetrators to justice. On the contrary the Ukrainian regime has awarded the leader of the criminal band Mr. Andrei Bilitzkii, who was personally leading the actions of the Patriots of Ukraine at the site of the crime, with high positions in the Ukraine power structures. Mr. Bilitzkii has been appointed a colonel of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine and in September 2014 been appointed to sit in the military council of the Popular Front, chaired by Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Mr. Turchinov. He has also been placed in charge of the two military battalions Azov.

It is intolerable that in Europe in the year of 2014 there is state sponsored impunity for such hideous crimes. OSCE must put pressure on the Ukrainian regime to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. According to the information gathered by IGCP – Information Group on Crimes Against the Person (igcp.eu) the Azov battalion has committed, among other crimes, violent acts in the result of which tens of people disappeared. These crimes are not either investigated by the Ukrainian authorities.

батальон азов замешан в десятках насильственных исчезновений людей, часть из которых была убита. Эти преступления также не расследуются