



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna Austria, 24 - 25 April 2023

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 24 April

Time: 12:30-13:30
Venue: 533
Title: Torture in places of detention in Ukraine under the Russian occupation in official and unofficial places of detention
Convenor: Ukraine without Torture; DIGNITY - Danish Institute against Torture; European Prison Litigation Network (EPLN), Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG), Protection of Prisoners of Ukraine (PPU)
Working language: English, Russian, Ukraine

Summary: The event is devoted to the presentation of the report “NINE CIRCLES OF HELL. PLACES OF DETENTION IN UKRAINE UNDER THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION”. In the year since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, a constant flow of images and accounts has painted a horrifying picture of the human rights violations and international crimes that appear to be strategies of Russia’s war. At the same time, relatively little information has emerged from those areas of Ukraine in which Russia has situated itself as an occupying power. This report fills this gap by presenting the findings of the monitoring and documentation of human rights and other violations of international law committed in places of detention in the non-government-controlled areas of Ukraine (the NGCA1)

between March and December 2022. The report covers a wide range of places of detention, notably penitentiary institutions (correctional colonies and pre-trial detention centers), police establishments and social and healthcare institutions. In addition, it covers unofficial places of detention such as makeshift torture chambers. Within these places of detention, the report documents numerous violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, wilful killings and military strikes. Building on 725 documented episodes, the report outlines key patterns and trends. This report is based on information and evidence of violations of international law gathered from 121 interviews with victims and witnesses who experienced Russian custody (conducted by us (64) and third parties (57)) as well as open-source intelligence. The collected data had been subject to verification and corroboration, so as to ensure its veracity. Only findings that meet the ‘reasonable grounds to believe’ standard have been included in the present report. The findings presented in this report have been produced collaboratively by DIGNITY: Danish Institute against Torture (DIGNITY), European Prison Litigation Network (EPLN), Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPPG), Ukraine without Torture (UwT), and Protection of Prisoners of Ukraine (PPU).

Panelists:

Vadym Chovgan, Legal Advisor, DIGNITY – Danish Institute against Torture

Hanna Skrypka, Protection for Prisoners of Ukraine

Kostiantyn Avtukhov, Executive Director, Ukraine without Torture

Dmitry Gurin, Senior Legal Advisor, European Prison Litigation Network

Veronika Cherkez, Project Manager, Ukraine without Torture (via Zoom)

Hanna Ovdienko, Legal Advisor, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (via Zoom)

Valery Gretz, torture survivor (via Zoom)

Yaroslav Sydorov, torture survivor (via Zoom)

Moderator:

Therese Maria Rytter Head of Legal Department, DIGNITY - Danish Institute against Torture

Time: **12:30-13:30**

Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**

Title: Forced transfer and deportation of the civilian population of Ukraine, in particular children, by the Russian Federation

Convenor: Joint side-event with the Yale School of Public Health, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, and the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group. Hosted by the delegations to the OSCE of Ukraine, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Norway

Working language: English

Summary: Thousands of Ukraine’s civilians, including children, have been forcibly transferred within parts of Ukraine’s territory temporarily controlled or occupied by Russia and/or deported from Ukraine to the Russian Federation. These Ukrainian children, being particularly vulnerable, have been exposed to harm and abuse. Cases of purposefully separating children from parents or guardians, adoption, violence, and suspected forced assimilation to erase a child’s Ukrainian identity are deeply concerning. The coerced relocation of Ukrainian children and subsequent adoption by Russian citizens grossly violates Ukrainian legislation and international law. It is important for the international community to better understand the fate of all those forcibly transferred and deported by Russia, especially Ukraine’s children, in breach of international humanitarian law. This will help build awareness of the importance of the immediate and safe return to Ukraine of these children, as well as ensuring accountability of those responsible for these acts. This event looks to further explore this vital issue.

Panelists:

Caitlin Howarth, Director of Operations, Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health
Jack Bahn, Open Source Analyst, Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale School of Public Health
Vladyslav Dolzhko, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group
Margarita Tarasova, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

Time: **17:30-18:30**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Turkmenistan: 20 years of systematic government repression and enforced disappearances – time to increase international pressure.
Convenor: Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights; “Prove They Are Alive!” Campaign; International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: A campaign of state-organised repression began in Turkmenistan after the alleged assassination attempt on then President Saparmurat Niyazov in 2002. As part of this campaign, dozens of people were detained, tortured, convicted in grossly unfair show trials, and subsequently forcibly disappeared in prison. The fate of many of those who disappeared remains unknown to date. In the spring of 2003, OSCE participating states launched the Moscow Mechanism with respect to Turkmenistan in response to this massive wave of repression. The report documented total lawlessness in the country and gross violations of OSCE commitments. The practice of enforced disappearances is an ongoing and a well-documented criminal practice in Turkmenistan: out of a total of 162 documented cases almost a hundred are continuing disappearances. Turkmenistan’s government refuses to disclose information about the vast majority of the disappeared, ignores decisions by inter-governmental bodies, and simulates an ineffective “dialogue”. The side event will focus on the 20 years anniversary of the release of the Moscow Mechanism report on Turkmenistan and discuss the need for the renewal of strong international action in response to the ongoing patterns of systematic repression in Turkmenistan, including politically motivated imprisonment, torture, and enforced disappearances of individuals who have criticised and fallen out of favour with those in power. The event will in particular discuss the need to relaunch the Moscow Mechanism over the situation in Turkmenistan. All OSCE participating States have a responsibility to take stronger action after the adoption in 2020 of the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 7/20 on Prevention and Eradication of Torture, which includes a commitment to fight against enforced disappearances. The event is co-organised by Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights (TIHR), the Prove They Are Alive! campaign and International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR). It will highlight the most recent findings of the Prove They Are Alive!’s documentation work on enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan and discuss strategies for ensuring accountability and obtaining justice for victims of repression, looking at the case of TIHR’s chair Farid Tuhbatullin, who was imprisoned after the 2002 alleged assassination attempt but later released and able to flee the country following an international support campaign.

Panelists:

Farid Tuhbatullin, Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights
Yuri Dzhibladse, "Prove They Are Alive!"
Olga Zakharova, "Prove They Are Alive!"
Vitaly Ponomarev, Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre
Nurmuhamet Hanamov, former Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Turkey
Moderator:
Brigitte Dufour, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

Time: 17:30-18:30
Venue: 533
Title: Tortures in the Occupied Territories of Ukraine as Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes: Analysis and Survivors' Testimonies
Convenor: Human Rights Centre ZMINA, Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), Human Rights House Foundation
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russian troops systemically use torture and ill-treatment against civilians and prisoners of war to obtain information, punish for disloyalty or for service in the Ukrainian army, and force cooperation.

On the basis of around 100 in-depth interviews according to the Istanbul Protocol conducted in six regions of Ukraine, we concluded that the goal of Russian officials is to coerce the local population into obedience and maintain control over it by identifying disloyal civilians and attacking them.

Based on numerous interviews with released prisoners of war and monitoring open sources, we concluded that nearly every Ukrainian POW is subjected to torture and inhumane treatment in Russian captivity. Systematic violations of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions in treating POWs can be considered as war crimes.

Moreover, the patterns of documented cases indicate that these crimes may amount to crimes against humanity as they are interconnected and carried out as part of a common plan, coordinated by senior military leaders and aimed at achieving a common political goal.

At the event human rights defenders and victims of tortures will discuss:

- Torture and ill-treatment of civilians: stories, patterns and profiles
- Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of war: stories, patterns and profiles
- Current challenges in the process of documentation
- Legal qualification and ways of bringing perpetrators to accountability
- Recommendations to the OSCE

Panelists:

Yelyzaveta Sokurenko, Human Rights Centre ZMINA
Stanislav Miroschnyenko, Media Initiative for Human Rights
Eugenia Andreyuk, World Organisation Against Torture
Oksana Zayaryna, survivor from Berdyansk, Zaporizhzhia region
Serhii Pohorielov, survivor from Kyiv region
Maksym Kolesnikov, survivor from Kyiv, former prisoner of war

Moderator:

Matthew Jones, Human Rights House Foundation

Time: 17:30-18:30
Venue: Ratsaal
Title: Broad-Scale Practice of Tortures and Ill-Treatment in Conditions of Russian Occupation: Crimean Examples
Convenor: Crimean Tatar Resource Center
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: As it is well-known, since 24th of February 2022 Russia committed full-scale and open military aggression against Ukraine. During last year Russia occupied some territories of Donetsk,

Kherson, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya and other regions and strong fights are going near cities with total population more than 2 millions people near the frontline.

Russia-controlled troops and mercenaries committed in Ukraine, during this invasion, gross violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights' law already, tortures and degrading treatment and punishment.

But the situation in Crimea must not be forgotten as Russia-occupied peninsula since 2022 become a field of new wave of repressions, including Russia's mercenaries and terroristic units, as against local population, so against Ukrainian prisoners of war, civil hostages and deported population from Ukraine's mainland, including children.

CTRC and its partner organizations, such as ARC and others, have broad set of information regarding tortures and ill-treatment against indigenous Crimean Tatars, children and Crimean activists including sportsmen, we co-operated on this issue with UN, ICC and CoE institutions and want to present our achievements.

Topic to be covered:

- Tortures and ill-treatment in Russia-occupied Crimea since 2014 as a form of racial discrimination.
- Tortures and ill-treatment in Russia-occupied Ukrainian southern mainland since 2022 as a tool of Russian aggression and state terrorism.
- Tortures and ill-treatment against Crimean sportsmen and relevant "Olympic" provocations of Russia.
- Ill-treatment against Ukrainian children, deported to the occupied Crimea

Panelists:

Eskender Bariiev, Head of the Board of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, Chairman of the Department for Legal and Foreign Affairs of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (via Zoom)

Borys Babin, Lawyer, professor expert of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center (via Zoom)

Liudmyla Korotkykh, Lawyer, analytic of Center of Political Analysis and Forecasting "Crimea"

Tetiana Podvorniak, Communication Manager of the Crimean Tatar Youth Center

Olesia Tsybulko, Expert of Association of Reintegration of Crimea

Tuesday, 25 April

Time: **09:00-10:00**

Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**

Title: Torture and other grave violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine legal avenues, challenges and opportunities for accountability

Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights

Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russia's genocidal war on Ukraine threatens international peace and security and represents a vital test for the international justice system. This side event brings together Ukrainian civil society leaders to discuss torture and other grave violations of IHL, which are taking place in Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion on 24th February 2024, the effectiveness of the available justice mechanisms, the role of victims, and - most importantly - what can be done to accelerate the justice process given the recent ICC arrest warrants and existing progress in universal jurisdiction cases.

Panelists:

Maryna Slobodyaniuk, Truth Hounds

Sabina Ilias, Crimea SOS

Iryna Datsenko, Crimea SOS

Kateryna Bakai, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

Moderator:

Svitlana Valko, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

Time: **09:00-10:00**

Venue: **533**

Title: Violation of IHL regarding Ukrainians imprisoned by power structures of the Russian Federation as a result of aggressive war

Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties, "Tribunal for Putin" initiative and the campaign #PrisonersVoice

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Since 2014, the practice of torture and ill-treatment of civilian prisoners, as well as prisoners of war, by Russian forces has spread to all occupied territories of Ukraine. The large-scale invasion of Russia on February 24, 2022 increased the number of victims of such violations of International Humanitarian Law hundreds of times, currently thousands of Ukrainians are suffering in prisons and illegal places of detention from the actions of the Russian army and paramilitary groups. The target groups for abduction, arbitrary detention and deportation among civilians were, firstly, journalists, activists, representatives of local authorities, volunteers and ordinary civilians who tried to evacuate on their own or by force from places of active hostilities. The #PrisonersVoice campaign has been keeping records of civilian victims of arbitrary imprisonment in the Russian Federation for more than 8 years, and has the testimony of both relatives of such prisoners and released civilians about the terrible conditions of their detention and treatment. At the same time, human rights organizations that are part of the "Tribunal for Putin" initiative, as well as the state Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, recorded numerous violations of the norms of Geneva Law on the part of the Russian side, regarding the standards of keeping prisoners of war, both combatants and non-combatants.

Panelists:

Vladyslav Dolzhko, Legal Advisor, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG)

Topic: Severe deprivation of liberty and torture of Ukrainians deported to Russia

Victoria Andrusha - civilian Ukrainian, a teacher detained and abducted by Russians

Witness testimony: Proof of arbitrary detention forced deportation and illegal detention of civilians, torture and ill-treatment conducted by the Russians.

Andriy Kryvtsov, Chairman, Military Medics of Ukraine

Topic: Conditions of detention of military medics and seriously wounded prisoners of war by the Russian Federation.

Victoria Tsymbalyuk, Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War

Topic: Cruel treatment and torture of the POWs by the Russian Federation

Marharyta Tarasova, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union project coordinator, Deputy Head of the USAID Human Rights in Action Program, Expert on places of deprivation of liberty

Moderator:

Oleksandra Romantsova, Executive Director, Center for Civil Liberties, 8 years of experience in documenting war crimes on the territory of Ukraine

Time: **09:00-10:00**
Venue: **Ratsaal**
Title: The Right to a Fair Trial in War Crimes Cases: Standards, Challenges and Good Practices
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: The objective of the side event will be to highlight and to facilitate a discussion of international and regional standards, challenges and good practices related to realization of the right to a fair trial in war crimes cases, including with respect to procedural guarantees applicable to defendants and victims. The side event will focus, in particular, on evidentiary issues, including the accumulation and examination of evidence, respect for the rights to effective defence, the presumption of innocence and equality of arms, and measures to protect the rights and safety of victims and witnesses in the context of war crimes cases. Speakers will reflect on the responses of judiciaries and other national institutions as well as of civil society in this context.

Panelists:

Dmytro Hudyma, Judge of the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court (Ukraine)
Taras Tsymbrivskyy, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Mirjana Lazarova-Trajkovska, Council of Europe expert and Judge of Supreme Court of North Macedonia
Moderator:
Carolyn Hammer, Rule of Law Adviser, ODIHR

Time: **13:15-14:15**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: From the Volhynian Crime and Eastern Lesser Poland to Bucza and other crime scenes against civilians in Ukraine. Historical and international legal aspects of committing crimes against civilians.
Convenor: Pantarey Foundation
Working language: English

Summary: At the side-event, we will want to present the topic of the Volhynian Massacre and in Eastern Lesser Poland, the forms of crimes committed by Ukrainians against Poles, Jews and Ruthenians as an important basis, apart from the Holocaust, for the introduction of humanitarian law of armed conflicts and human rights protecting civilians in armed conflicts. Crimes against the civilian population committed 80 years ago in the territory of present-day Ukraine will be presented by Włodzimierz Osadczy, Professor of Humanities, a Polish historian of Ukrainian origin. During the seminar, Mr. Wiesław Goździewicz, Lieutenant Commander, Legal Counsel at the NATO Joint Force Training Center in Bydgoszcz, will present a presentation on changes in the international humanitarian law of armed conflicts. Commentary on the event will be given by the director of the Association of Viennese Academics, Mr. Christian Zeitz. The discussion will be moderated by Michał Specjalski, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Founders of the Pantarey Foundation.

Time: **13:15-14:15**
Venue: **533**
Title: Presenting Trauma Informed Interviewing: the key to effective human rights monitoring
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Gathering testimonies soon after a violation has occurred is an essential part of any human rights investigation. However, interviewing a person who has been, or is still, suffering from trauma may have an impact on both the interviewee and the interviewer. In these circumstances, trauma-informed techniques can be used to help create an environment that allows the interviewee to share their account, and avoid the risk of re-traumatization and vicarious trauma. Adopting a trauma-informed approach involves understanding trauma and being aware of the impact it can have on one's memory. It involves viewing trauma through a cultural lens and recognizing that context plays a significant role in how individuals perceive and process traumatic events. ODIHR supports human rights defenders in conducting safe human rights monitoring and recently launched an e-course dedicated to the trauma informed interviewing methodology. Although tailored for HRDs, the course has a far wider application, including for journalists, legal practitioners, investigators, and service providers. The course aims to train human rights monitors and other professionals to communicate with survivors of human rights violations in a trauma-informed manner, to not only improve the interviewing practices and raise efficiency of their monitoring activities, but ensure the well-being of the interviewee and interviewer alike. The course is now available on the platform FreedomLab in English, Russian and Ukrainian. This side event will bring together civil society activists engaged in human rights monitoring work and experts in trauma-informed interviewing to discuss the challenges and opportunities arising from the application of the trauma informed interviewing methodology. The panel will focus on the following key areas:

- 1- discussing what trauma informed interviewing means and why it matters
- 2- Sharing experiences and insights from civil society activists engaged in human rights monitoring work and shedding light on the challenges of implementing a trauma-informed approach in the field
- 3- Discussing opportunities for Participating States and OSCE ODIHR to support monitors in conducting their important work, and apply the trauma informed methodology.

Panelists:

Rebecca Dempster, Clinical Forensic Psychologist

James Lin, Istanbul Protocol Program Coordinator, Senior Legal Advisor International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Lela Tsiskarishvili, Executive Director, Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims - GCRT

Natalia Yashchuk, Project Management Coordinator, Center for Civil Liberties, the head of #PrisonersVoice campaign, member of the "Tribunal for Putin" initiative

Moderator:

Andrew Gardner, Deputy Head, ODIHR Human Rights Department

Time: **13:15-14:15**
Venue: **Ratsaal**
Title: Torture and other crimes during the conflict in Ukraine. The role of the Media in normalizing ultraviolence
Convenor: Information Group on Crimes against the Person
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The long-standing political and military crisis around Ukraine has led to an increase in violence both in the conflict zone and in adjacent territories. Since February 2014, dozens of cases of illegal detentions, torture and killings of both prisoners of war and civilians have been recorded.

Despite the facts of these crimes at the disposal of international human rights organizations, most of the perpetrators escaped punishment. Those who, under pressure from the international community, were nevertheless convicted, after February 2022, were released under an amnesty.

After the transition of the conflict into a hot phase since February 2022, the situation worsened. The number of recorded crimes has increased significantly, while the persons involved in fixing them have also become victims of illegal arrests and accusations of aiding the enemy.

An important factor in the growth of violence was the ignorance by the European media and public opinion of the facts of crimes committed by representatives of the armed formations and law enforcement agencies of Ukraine.

Thus, the combination of de facto martial law, legal impunity and the silence of European public opinion lead to the normalization of ultra-violence if committed by representatives of Ukraine.

During the round table, journalists and social activists will present the facts of torture and other crimes committed during the conflict in Ukraine, discuss the ignorance of these crimes in the European media, as well as ways out of this situation, which threatens the basic principles of freedom and law in the region OSCE.

Panelists:

Mikhail Chernov - Interregional movement "For Democracy and Human Rights"

Ivan Kopyl – journalist (via Zoom)

Lucas Leiroz, journalist (via Zoom)

Sonja van den Ende, journalist (via Zoom)

Moderator:

Maxim Vilkov - IGSP