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**ГРОМАДСЬКЕ ОБ'ЄДНАННЯ  
«ПОРАДА»**

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## **Violations of Human Rights of Crimean Residents by the Russian Punitive Bodies during 2018**

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Statement for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018:

Working session 5. Rule of law II, Rule of law II, including prevention of arbitrary arrest, detention or exile, and prevention of torture, exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment, protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism, 12 September 2018

### **Dear representatives of OSCE participating states,**

On behalf of the Ukrainian NGO «Porada» I want to pay Your attention on violations of human rights by the occupied authority, arbitrary arrest, detention and torture.

During the occupation in the Crimea, serious violations of human rights were recorded, such as arbitrary arrests and detentions, enforced disappearances, cruel treatment and torture, and non-judicial execution. Since 2014, after the annexation of the Crimea, 44 Ukrainians have disappeared on the peninsula, and the occupation authorities have been implicated in the violent disappearance of 38 of them.

Among the abducted were Maidan activists, journalists, Crimean Tatars, former and current Ukrainian military. They were held without contact with the outside world, subjected to physical and psychological violence by armed men. Most of the victims were released after several hours or several days of illegal detention, during which they had no contact with relatives and lawyers.

After the occupation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation, disappearances and kidnappings became regular practice. In total 16 people are considered missing during the occupation, about which there is no information, Valery Vashchuk, Ivan Bondarets, Vasily Chernysh, Timur Shaymardanov, Seyran Zinedinov, Islame Jepparov, Cevdet Islyamov, Eskender Apselamov, Fedor Kostenko, Mukhtar Arislanov, Arlen Terekhov, Ruslan Ganiev, Marcel Alyautdinov, Arsen Aliyev, Ervin Ibragimov and Rizvan Abduramanov.

For the first quarter of 2018 in the temporarily occupied Crimea recorded 170 cases of violation of the rights to a fair trial, 150 of which - in relation to the Crimean Tatars. In addition, 19 searches were conducted in the homes of Crimeans, 12 of which were in the homes of Crimean Tatars.

In January, nine searches were conducted in the homes of Crimean Tatars. These searches are mainly related to the spread of "extremist materials" in social networks. Russian occupation authorities without warning in a very rude manner, violating both Russian and international law, broke into houses and carried out repressive actions.

In many cases, no formal charges were brought against the victims and they were not brought to trial, but were detained by the police, the FSB or self-defense groups through extrajudicial punishment or harassment. The detention in such cases lasted from several hours to several days, exceeding the maximum period of temporary detention established by law and violating procedural requirements, such as the execution of a detention protocol.

Experts recorded 28 cases of illegal detention in the Crimea. In the first quarter of 2018, the occupation authorities detained 14 Crimean Tatars. The cases of detention on the administrative border with the temporarily occupied Crimea were recorded. A number of detentions were accompanied by the use of physical force. Crimean Tatars are objects of mass searches in the Crimea, they are taken to the police center for fighting extremism (Center E), photographed, fingerprinted and forced to take samples of DNA, and then released, without charge.

The occupation authorities for the first quarter of 2018 wrote 14 fines for a total of more than 339 thousand rubles. Crimean Tatars received fines in 9 cases. In 2 cases, violation of the right to peaceful assembly was also recorded.

These violations concern Crimean Tatar activists. On January 27 in Sudak, the Russian occupation authority was interrupted a meeting of the "Crimean Solidarity". Parents, relatives and wives of political prisoners have united in this social movement. They meet periodically to discuss how to help, how to find an opportunity to help children who were left without breadwinners because of the repressive actions of the Russian Federation. On that day, police officers referred to reports of the possibility of detecting weapons. They forcibly rewrote the passport data of all those present.

Among other violations that are recorded in the temporarily occupied Crimea are 26 cases of illegal visits to the Crimea and expulsion from the peninsula, 9 cases of illegal military exercises on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, illegal presidential elections in Russia and illegal restoration of the Khan Palace.

We condemn the arrests, detentions and abductions of people who are used in the Crimea as a way of pressure and intimidation of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people and pro-Ukrainian activists.

Now it is extremely necessary to increase the attention of the international community to such facts of human rights violations in the Crimea and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

We call on you to support Ukraine and take under personal control the situation with violation of the right to a fair trial in the Crimea, and Russia - to adhere to its international obligations, including the provisions of the Geneva Convention, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights rights and fundamental freedoms. We also call on Russia to stop the massive political and cultural persecution of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in the Crimea.