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The psychotherapeutic work with trauma means, among other interventions, the reconstruction of a personal story. But eight of ten stories of our tortured clients, contain evidence of the cumulative effect, accumulated by their families and communities during the years of the First and Second World Wars, the Holocaust, the Holodomor, ethnic cleansing, expropriations, forced migrations, and Soviet repressions. All of these took lives and crippled the fate of tens of millions of Ukrainians.

As a result of repeated traumas and prolonged traumatization, mental immunity is generated in relation to torture and humiliation; ideas about healthy and adaptive behaviors are lost; the infantile dependence expressed in terms of identity with the aggressor appears, the society is forming its trauma-centered culture.

Also, the answer to the traumatic experience may be the formation of constructive and highly adaptive behavioral models - what is commonly called as the post-traumatic growth.

All the variety of these reactions can be observed in terms of events taking place in Ukraine.

Now is time to voice a fundamental problem: the restoration of dignity as well as mental, physical and social well-being of people who have been tortured is extremely difficult or unobtainable in the context of declarative reparations and ineffective justice. Articles 11, 12, 13, 14 of the Convention against Torture are implemented by Ukrainian authorities just formally or aren't implemented at all. The criminal liability for use of torture by officials is not regulated in the national legislation. Non-governmental organizations provide access to justice and comprehensive rehabilitation.

The representatives of civil society have a lot of work to do, and we intend to consolidate efforts as within our state as by attracting international partners.

However, can we reach our goal - to eradicate torture in Ukraine? In fact we ignore the tragedy taking place within sight of the whole world: Nearly 6 million Ukrainians live in Crimea annexed by Russian Federation as well as in the occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions without access to justice, adequate medical, social assistance. They are now in information and cultural isolation, subjected to daily attacks by continuous massive toxic propaganda against the permanent background of the prospects of physical annihilation. More than 300 Ukrainian citizens are still held hostage on the territory of the Russian Federation and territories uncontrolled by Ukraine, now they are living evidence of impunity for the evil-doers.

The current situation forces us to be courageous and urges us not to succumb to the temptation of traumatic avoidant behavior. We are in the midst of events and have the resistance sufficient to call a spade a spade.