



CRIMEA

inform

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Easier Entrance to Ukrainian Universities for Crimea's Graduates This Year

Educational centers "Crimea-Ukraine", through which applicants who live in the occupied Crimea can enter Ukrainian universities, have started their work. The admission procedure has been significantly simplified this year. This year, the graduates need neither a Ukrainian passport, nor a certificate of secondary education or a certificate of external independent evaluation. It is enough for graduates to choose one of the educational centers "Crimea-Ukraine", personally fill out the educational declaration and pass two exams — the Ukrainian language and the history of Ukraine. The third exam is determined by the chosen educational institution.

Higher educational institutions of Kherson are ready to enroll 1000 students from the occupied Crimea this year

Ukraine is Working on a Lawsuit Regarding the Blocking of the Kerch Strait

The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine intends to appeal to the International Maritime Organization with a complaint about the illegal construction of the Kerch Bridge by the Russian occupation authorities and the closure of the Kerch Strait. According to the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Yuriy Lavrenyuk, Russia did not coordinate the construction of the bridge with Ukraine, therefore such actions are a direct violation of existing international norms, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Lavrenyuk noted that the closure of the Kerch Strait, which is planned for August–September, could affect shipping and is unacceptable from the point of view of the national security.

Radio Liberty in Crimea is Under Pressure from the Occupation Authorities

Representatives of the Russian agitprop openly accuse the media outlet of extremism and anti-Russian activities. So, according to the statement of Igor Korotchenko, Chairman of the Public Council at the Ministry of Defense of Russia, the US Radio Liberty works in Crimea in violation of the laws. He also believes that the radio station's editorial office is "a semi-underground network that collects information and passes it on to a virtually foreign organization formally registered as a media".

CONSIDERATION OF THE "UKRAINE V. RUSSIAN FEDERATION" SUIT TAKES PLACE IN THE HAGUE

In early 2017, Ukraine has filed a claim to the UN International Court of Justice on bringing the Russian Federation to account for the support of terrorism in the east of Ukraine and the discrimination of ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in the occupied Crimea. In spring, hearings on the application of the preventive measure in connection with the relevant request of Ukraine have begun in The Hague. Now, the trial proceedings are ongoing. Recently, a meeting of the parties' delegations has taken place in The Hague and resulted in a clear timetable for further procedures. In particular, Ukraine must present its written Memorandum before June 12, 2018; the Counter-Memorandum of the Russian Federation must be received no later than July 12, 2019.

"No" to Ethnic Discrimination

In its request, Ukraine asked the Court to oblige the Russian Federation not to violate the norms of the international law. In particular, our country petitioned that the Court obliges the Russian Federation to ensure effective control over its borders, stop the supply of weapons to Ukraine and support of illegal armed groups that harm the civilian population of Ukraine, and also refrain from any acts of ethnic discrimination in the occupied Crimea.

On April 19, the UN International Court of Justice made an interim decision in the case "Ukraine v. Russian Federation" recognizing that this trial is in its jurisdiction. In addition, the Court in The Hague obliged Russia to resume the work of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, stop discrimination of ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars and ensure unhindered access to education in the Ukrainian language in the occupied Crimea.

"At the moment, the Court has come to the conclusion that the Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians remain vulnerable in Crimea," said Ronnie Abraham, the Chairman of the International Court of Justice, commenting on the Court decision. "In this re-

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spect, the Court takes into account the report on the situation with respect for human rights in Ukraine.”

Russia will Dodge the Responsibility

The Court has also imposed the obligation on both sides (*Ukraine and Russia — Ed.*) not to violate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination until the final decision is taken. The fact that Ukraine will implement the Court decision is not in doubt, but there are justifiable concerns about Russia.



Mustafa Dzhemilev, the leader of the Crimean Tatar People, noted that the Court decision with respect to the Mejlis is a significant moral support for the Crimean Tatars, but he doubts in Russia’s desire to observe it.

“No, of course, it will not observe (*the Court decision — Ed.*). Nevertheless, such Court decision is of great importance. This is unequivocally a moral support for all those Crimean Tatars, who are persecuted,” Mustafa Dzhemilev believes.

“ This Court decision is an important moral support for those Crimean Tatars, who are persecuted, ”
Mustafa Dzhemilev



Oleh Okhredko, an Analyst of Almenda Center for Civic Education, who has monitored the situation with the Ukrainian-language education in the occupied Crimea for more than three years, also tends to believe that Russia will not comply with the Court decision on ethnic Ukrainians. In his statement, he produces sad statistics.

“At the time of the invasion by the Russian army and the annexation of the peninsula, 12.6 thousand children (about 7.5%) studied in Ukrainian in the Crimean schools. By September 2015, the situation changed significantly. Only 949 schoolchildren were educated in Ukrainian, which was 0.5% of the total number of pupils. In addition, it should be noted that, according to the legislation of the occupying country, training in grades 10–11 is provided exclusively in Russian,” the expert states.


“ The Ukrainian language in the annexed peninsula is the language of resistance to occupation, the language of protest, the language of freedom. Therefore, the occupants have tried to supersede and eliminate any use of the Ukrainian language all these years. ”
Oleh Okhredko



In turn, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine urged the international community to monitor the observance of the decision of the UN International Court of Justice by the Russian Federation. “We urge the entire international community to monitor the observance of this Court decision by Russia and hold it accountable for every fact of its violation,” Olena Zerkal, Deputy Foreign Minister for European Integration, representing the Ukrainian government at the hearing in The Hague, said.

12 600 children studied in Ukrainian in the Crimean schools in early 2014

949 Crimean schoolchildren had access to Ukrainian-language education by September 2015

A portrait of Jamala, a young woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, jacket over a dark top. She is holding a pair of dark sunglasses in her hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, likely a street or public square, with some greenery and a person in a blue uniform visible in the distance.

**Jamala,
“THE SONG
1944 REMINDED
THE WORLD OF
THE TRAGEDY
OF THE CRIMEAN
TATARS”**

Last year's Eurovision winner told us about the history of the song 1944, the tragedy of the Crimean Tatar people and music as an instrument to present Ukraine in the world.

Thanks to your victory in 2016, the Eurovision Song Contest came to Kyiv this year, and foreign tourists could get to know Ukraine better. Do you think this experience was successful?

— Eurovision was held in Ukraine at the right time. That was a good reason to talk about our country not only in connection with the annexation of Crimea or the war in Donbass. Visitors from all over Europe came to us and saw with their own eyes all the beautiful things Ukraine has. We have an amazing country and very hospitable people. Millions of tourists should come to us, as we have a lot to show.

— Tell us about the song 1944, with which you won the Eurovision Song Contest. Did you have to explain in Europe what kind of song it was? How was it taken abroad? Why did you find it necessary to tell your personal story to such a large audience?

— Composing it, I was inspired by my great-grandma Nazyl-khan's story about the tragedy of our family and all Crimean Tartars in 1944. I mean the forced deportation. One of my great-grandma's

daughters then passed away. Actually, this topic is close to many people in various countries of the world. Many nations experienced their awful tragedies, such as repressions, deportations and genocides. Unfortunately, people haven't learned how to live in peace and tolerance. For me the song is really personal, and I would like its message to be heard by as many people as possible both in my country and in the world. Too much suffering has befallen our people in recent years! I was sure we would win contest, even though the critics claimed, "Europeans will not understand this song."

— How was your victory taken in Crimea? What does it mean for the Crimean Tatar people?

— Many people came to my parents, thanked, gave flowers, brought food. Among them there were those who, like my relatives, survived deportation. People say that when I was singing they were kneeling and praying to God that He would hear my song. Even before the finals, many Crimean Tatars noted that my performance in Stockholm was already a victory for them. But I understood: that was not enough. I would not have been satisfied even with the second place. Thanks to 1944, the topic of deportation of Crimean Tatars was covered by all the world's leading publications and news agencies. It began long before the victory, just after I had passed the national selection in Ukraine. I gave a huge amount of interviews, in

which, by the example of my family, I told about the tragedy of all our people. I always stressed that if I had not written the song 1944, I would not have participated in the Eurovision Song Contest 2016 at all. I would like to think that the topic raised in it touched the hearts of the European public. People learned about Crimean Tatars and their stories. However, a song, unfortunately, can not defend anyone. I wish music could help. But arrests of Crimean Tatars, searches, groundless charges and eradication of any dissidence continue to take place in Crimea. This is a new tragic page in the history of Ukraine and the Crimean Tatar people.

— You once confessed that you didn't dare to go to Crimea after its occupation. Have your feelings changed lately? How do you keep in touch with relatives who stayed in Crimea?

— Unfortunately, I haven't been to Crimea. It's all very hard.

— Which countries of Europe have you visited after Eurovision?

— For some period of time I almost did not leave the plane. We traveled all over Ukraine, were the headliners of the jazz festival Alfa Jazz Fest in Lviv, which was specially extended for one day, performed at the Cathedral Square in Vilnius, in the most prestigious hall of Istanbul, and gave concerts in Poland, Germany, Sweden and the UK. And all that had to be combined with interviews, filming, meetings and writing new music.

The Day the Future Disappeared

Early in the morning on May 18, 1944, a special operation, unprecedented in its cruelty, was launched. The Crimean Tatars, whom the Soviet authorities had accused of cooperating with the fascist occupation regime, were evicted from their homes. NKVD officers bursting into houses forcibly drove half-dressed, frightened people out onto the street, not allowing them to take even the most necessary things. For disobedience, people were shot on the spot. Then, the exiles were transported to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Urals in overcrowded freight cars in inhuman conditions. Almost 200 thousand Crimean Tatars were deported in a few days.

According to different sources, between 15% to 40% of deported people died of disease and hunger only in the first years of the exile. For those, who were lucky enough to survive, staying in a foreign land turned into a daily hell.

And only in 1989, the USSR called the deportation illegal and criminal, which allowed the exiles and their descendants to finally return to their historical homeland.

On November 2, 2015, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine recognized the events of 1944 as genocide and declared May 18 the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Crimean Tatar People's Genocide.



In 2013, the feature film *Haytarma*, which highlights the deportation of Crimean Tatars, came out. Its author and performer of the main role was Akhtem Seitablayev, a Ukrainian director of the Crimean Tatar origin.





CITIZENSHIP OR LIFE

How Russia Forces Crimea's Residents to Abandon Ukraine through Medical Blackmail

Over the past few years, Russian propaganda aimed at Ukraine, together with the Russian weapons, has developed all sorts of tools to influence the consciousness of people. So, the residents of Crimea are told that their salary is much higher than even in Europe, and they themselves have an opportunity to find employment in any country of the world with a fake diploma or go abroad with the Russian passport issued in the occupied territory.

A child with an acute toothache was not given treatment in a dentist department, demanding that his parents show "normal" passports.

One of such examples of pro-Russian propaganda was a brief article under the trivial title "Life after the referendum in Crimea: the view of a Ukrainian" that appeared on one of web sites. In his material, the nameless author, inter alia, tells about the numerous advantages of the Russian health care in Crimea.

"Despite the fact that not all the problems have been solved there, there is an irresistible gap between Russian and Ukrainian health care. And it's not just that the Russian doctors are equipped with a better technology, but that they really treat citizens much more humanely. And this is especially evident in the examples of "foreigners," an unknown publicist writes. "Once I had to call an ambulance. At that time, I was in the territory of the Russian Federation as a foreigner and did not have a medical insurance (although anyone who enters the territory of Russia, even for 90 days, has the right to it). Nevertheless, I was given an absolutely free care."

We will not dwell in detail on the technical equipment of Crimean doctors, in particular of the ambulance units, who after the occupation had to

switch from Ford, Renault and Mercedes cars to products of the Russian car industry as part of the import substitution. More important is the aspect of receiving medical services by those Crimea's residents who, after the annexation of the peninsula, either refused to automatically take Russian citizenship and received occupation residence permits in their native land, or simply did not begin to register Russian passports in protest, having only Ukrainian ones with the registration in Crimea.

"They cannot deport him, but, at the same time, they make his life intolerable"

In March 2017, journalists of the Belarusian Euro-radio, visiting Crimea on the third anniversary of its occupation by Russia, interviewed a resident of Simferopol Mikhail, who had only a Ukrainian passport.

"In the spring of 2014, residents of Crimea wrote applications for Russian passports right at their workplaces. Mikhail worked as a manager in a small local company. This company moved to Kyiv, but Mikhail stayed in Crimea and wrote a statement refusing to take the Russian citizenship, due to which he got into a strange situation: they cannot deport him from Simferopol, but, at the same time, they make his life intolerable. He has no way back.

Now it is much more difficult for him to get a Russian passport — he needs to write an application and wait for five years,” the correspondents noted.

“I do not have a single Russian document: no passport, no residence permit, no medical insurance policy. I have to earn a living by freelancing — I can not engage in any economic activity or start a business, I cannot go and just get a job, because then I’ll have to get a special Russian permit. And for me it’s important. What permit? I’m at home,” the man says. “When I get sick, I have to use the services of private doctors or to invent something. I could buy medical insurance from a private company, but it’s expensive. Therefore, I try not to get sick.”

Refusals of Treatment – At Every Turn

Unfortunately, the reports that a woman in labor, who did not have a Russian passport, was refused to give birth in a Crimean maternity home, or a child with an acute toothache was not given treatment in a dentist department, demanding that his parents show “normal” passports, are already taken as a given. In August 2016, doctors of one of the hospitals in Simferopol refused to take donor blood from acquaintances of the person, who got into the intensive care unit, because they had “foreign” passports with a Ukrainian trident. In September of the same year in Yevpatoria, another man was denied treatment of a serious eye disease due to the absence of a Russian medical insurance. The latter case was mentioned in one of the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Observers noted that such refusals to provide medical care, not unique in Crimea, are considered discriminatory and are recorded as violations of human rights in accordance with international standards.

Human Tragedies

At the end of 2015, Yevhen Zakharov, the Head of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, told about the death of a Crimean woman, who had kept her Ukrainian passport, because she was denied medical care, “She was seriously ill. The ambulance refused to take her to the hospital, saying that she was a citizen of another state and that she could be helped only for a lot of money.” That incident was recorded by the OHCHR in a report on the human rights situation in Ukraine for November 16, 2015 – February 15, 2016, “A woman who had been living in Alushta, Crimea, for the last 10 years, but was registered in Kharkiv, died in December after the public hospital (*in Crimea – Auth.*) refused to treat her because she did not have any health insurance. She was eventually evacuated with the help of relatives to mainland Ukraine, where she died in hospital after a few days.”

The next OHCHR report, for February 16 – May 15, 2016, referred to another similar case, “On April 3, a Crimean woman died as a result of delays in getting medical treatment. The woman sought to be admitted to a public hospital in Simferopol but was initially denied access because she did not have a medical insurance. The woman refused to obtain a passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation in 2014. After her condition worsened due to high blood pressure, she was admitted to the hospital but died of a heart attack in the reception room.” The woman was only 25 years old, and her death shocked the Ukrainian public of the peninsula, “Everyone, without saying a word, came to the funeral wearing vyshyvankas. The girl was also buried in vyshyvanka shirt, and next to her, on the pillow, there was the flag of Ukraine. People, who came to the funeral, laid blue and yellow wreaths and flowers on the grave...”

So the real essence of Russian operettas about the protection of all Crimea’s residents without exception becomes obvious once you look behind the scenes. The invaders will never be able to reimburse the cost of human fates and lives paid for the scenery.

Unfortunately, all these stories are just the tip of the iceberg. In fact, it is even difficult to imagine how many Crimea’s residents are deprived of their rights and opportunities in all spheres of life without exception: medicine, education, social security and so on, and are forced to daily withstand the insane pressure of the occupation authorities only because they have the courage to remain citizens of their country.

A woman in labor, who did not have a Russian passport, was refused medical care in a Crimean maternity home.

Ukrainian to Death

Last year, thanks to human rights activists and journalists, the story of Yevhen Sikanov, a participant of the Revolution of Dignity, who had died of cancer in Yalta on May 9, 2016, and who did not live nearly two months to his 60th birthday, was made public.



During the clashes of law enforcement officers and protesters in Kyiv in early 2014, he was always in the thick of things. Yevhen is remembered as an honest man who could not tolerate injustice and dishonesty and fought against them. In April 2014, Sikanov returned to the already occupied Crimea, where he settled after having retired. Despite the pressure and repression, he did not remove his publications and photos of the Maidan period from social networks, and even posted new ones that had not yet been made public. In the streets of Yalta, he could be seen wearing a vyshyvanka.

Until the last days of his life, the patriotic Crimean remained Ukrainian and de jure. His family was forced to organize a registration of the Russian citizenship for him at the last stage of his illness. The powerful painkillers he needed would not have been allowed from mainland Ukraine through the “state border”, artificially created by the Russian security forces in Perekop, and to obtain them from Russia, a Russian insurance policy was required.



Gyunduz Mamedov, Prosecutor of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, "WE WORK EVERY DAY TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE OF THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF THE OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES IN CRIMEA."

Due to the occupation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation, in June 2014, the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea was relocated to the city of Kyiv by order of the Acting General Prosecutor of Ukraine. Currently, its prosecutors investigate crimes against the fundamentals of Ukraine's national security, war crimes, violations in the environmental sphere and the facts of illegal crossing of the aerial and maritime border between mainland Ukraine and its temporarily occupied territory. We have talked to Gyunduz Mamedov, the Head of this Department, about the formation of the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, issues faced by its employees and ways to overcome them, and about positive results.

— **W**hat are the peculiarities of the work of the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea under the peninsula's occupation?

— I shall be honest with you, for a long time, the Prosecutor's Office was actually nominal. Its staff consisted of 25 prosecutors and investigators. And the working conditions left much to be desired.

In September last year, at my request, the structure of the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomy was re-organized, and its staff was doubled. In addition to the main office of the Prosecutor's Office of the Au-

onomous Republic of Crimea, located in the capital, its separate structural units were formed in Kherson. That was due to the creation of the Office of the Security Service of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the Kherson region. The Main Directorate of the National Police in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is located in Odessa. Their coordination and interaction have already been established.

As for the issues related to the performance of their functions by law enforcement agencies, there is a problem with collecting evidence in the conditions of the temporary occupation of the peninsula, and the time when it was necessary to act in hot pursuit has been irretrievably lost. Nevertheless, we actively work on finding other sources of information that can be used to collect evidence in criminal proceedings.

Given our specifics, namely the inability to conduct investigative actions directly in the territory of Crimea, I consider it a positive development that we have established cooperation with almost all leading public and human rights organizations dealing with these issues. Nowadays, we already have irrefutable evidence of the commission of crimes by some individuals in the peninsula, and we take further procedural steps to collect new evidence on unlawful acts and those involved in their commission.

— **The term in custody for a pro-Ukrainian activist Volodymyr Balukh, has been prolonged. I shall remind our readers that this is a Crimean farmer who was not afraid to publicly speak out against the occupation of Crimea. Volodymyr's position was the reason for his persecution and imprisonment on trumped-up charges. On December 12 last year, human rights and civic activists sent appeals to the relevant state authorities, including the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, to protect the Ukrainian citizen Volodymyr Balukh. What was the response of the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea? Were criminal proceedings launched?**

— Volodymyr Balukh never concealed his civic position regarding Crimea's belonging to Ukraine, due to which he was constantly persecuted by the occupation regime. He deserves attention and support not only of Ukrainians, but also of the international community, like Mykola Semena, Oleh Sentsov, Hennadiy Afanasyev and the Hero of Ukraine Reshat Ametov, who was murdered.

I should note that we had started criminal proceedings on this case on February 3, 2016, i. e. long before the appeal of the civic activists. It was initiated based on the facts of Volodymyr Balukh's illegal detention, the use of physical violence against him, numerous searches in his house and illegal arrest. The investigation is still ongoing.

— **The lion's share of the officials of the de-facto authorities in Crimea are your former colleagues who swore allegiance to the Russian Federa-**

tion. How many criminal proceedings have been launched against them, how many of them have been brought to trial? Do you have any problems with these cases?

— Investigators conduct pre-trial investigations into the incidents of high treason, crimes committed on the peninsula by former law enforcement officers and those related to encroachment on Ukraine's territorial integrity and inviolability, and other unlawful acts.

It is clear that the issue of real criminal prosecution of those guilty of crimes committed in the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula is acute. In addition to taking advantage of the special pre-trial investigation for this purpose, it is necessary to take all possible steps, including those in the framework of international cooperation, to declare these persons internationally wanted and to assess their actions at the international level.

We overcome problems arising in the investigation of criminal cases, but there are difficulties in obtaining evidence. The overwhelming majority of witnesses and necessary documents are in the temporarily occupied Crimea, which complicates our work. However, we still manage to get important information for the investigation.

— **Recently, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union presented the report of the international expert group on the case of February 26, 2014. That was the day when a peaceful action was held under the Crimean Parliament, at which pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian protesters clashed. To date, we have 9 people, representatives of the pro-Ukrainian rally, who have already been punished or are awaiting the verdicts of the de facto Crimean courts. In their recommendations, experts advised Ukraine, that is, its relevant authorities, to be more effective in studying this case...**

— Yes, the report of the experts of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union on the events of February 26, 2014 by the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea was useful for us. We cooperate with them quite fruitfully, and I should note that this interaction will undoubtedly yield positive results.

I will tell you about the results of the investigation within the criminal proceedings during my office as Prosecutor of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

In autumn of 2016, a special interdepartmental working group consisting of officers from the Prosecutor's Office, officers of the Security Service of Ukraine and the National Police in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, was formed. A number of operational and investigative measures and investigative actions, aimed at a genuine clarification of the events of that day, as well as those that preceded them and occurred afterwards, was identified.

Almost every day we interrogate witnesses, study publications in the media and video materials. We also requested information from mobile operators and took a number of other investigative steps.

To date, prosecutors have identified 16 former law

Our goal is to conclude this year's criminal proceedings against all former deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Sevastopol City Council, which betrayed their own state.

See p. 10 for more

enforcement officers, who on that day provided public order and attended the rally.

Seventy-eight former members of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea were officially charged, 41 indictments on high treason were sent to court. Investigators of the Prosecutor's Office received irrefutable evidence that in March 2014 these deputies contributed to the occupation of Crimea. In particular, they illegally adopted a number of resolutions, which resulted in creation of an illegitimate entity, namely the Republic of Crimea.

In addition, we received evidence that the so-called "Crimean Self-Defense" organizers and participants were involved in obstructing the peaceful rally.

Our goal is to conclude this year criminal proceedings against all former deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Sevastopol City Council, which betrayed their own state.

— **In late January, the Prosecutor's Office of Crimea announced that it had initiated an investigation into forced displacement of the civilian population from the territory of the peninsula annexed by Russia and changing the demographic situation in Crimea. How is the investigation going, are there any results already? What sources do you use? Can you prove these facts without access to the territory? How are you going to determine that this process is taking place?**

— The criminal investigation into the changing demographic situation of the Crimean Peninsula was launched at the request of Mustafa Dzhemilev, a People's Deputy of Ukraine.

In accordance with article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Violation of the Laws and Customs of War), a number of crimes committed by the occupation authorities against our citizens are investigated. We divided these crimes into 10 cases, depending on the specific group of unlawful acts.

Within the pre-trial investigation, investigators and prosecutors conduct daily work to obtain evidence of criminal activity committed by the occupation authorities, in particular interrogate witnesses, and request statistical and other data necessary for the investigation from relevant institutions and organizations.

We also created a working group, which includes prosecutors, experts in the field of international criminal law and representatives of civic organizations.

We received very important information from internally displaced persons from Crimea during traveling receptions in Dnipro, Lviv, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, Mykolaiv, Odessa and the Kherson region.

The work is primarily aimed at restoring justice and bringing to justice all those persons who contributed to the illegal occupation of the peninsula, as well as those who continue to violate rights of our citizens in Crimea.

— **Do you cooperate with the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court, so that all**

those involved in the war crime that started from Crimea were brought to justice?

— Cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court takes place through the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine. Thus, according to the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of 2015 "On Recognizing the Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court regarding the Commission of Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes, including in the territory of the Crimean Peninsula", the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine were instructed to collect relevant materials and proper evidentiary basis for the appeal to the International Criminal Court in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Statute.

Within the criminal proceedings under Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Violation of the Laws and Customs of War), an appropriate evidentiary basis is collected with a view to its subsequent transfer to the International Criminal Court. First of all, we are talking about the unlawful acts committed by the occupation authorities against our citizens in Crimea, provided for by the Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva Convention IV, 1949). In particular, such acts concern: persecution by the occupation authorities for political or religious views, on ethnic, national or linguistic grounds, in connection with the conduct of professional journalistic or human rights activities; facts of physical and psychological violence, including illegal searches and detentions; violations of housing, labor and other constitutional rights of Crimeans; creation of conditions for the forced displacement of people from the peninsula to the mainland of Ukraine; compulsion to accept Russian citizenship and other unlawful acts in accordance with the Geneva Convention IV.

— **Do you cooperate with the Ministry of Justice in the preparation of claims to the European Court of Human Rights? Preparation of which claims were you engaged in?**

— Of course, we can not be indifferent to and stay aloof from the processes that promote protection of Ukraine's interests in the international arena. For example, on the initiative of the Crimean Prosecutor's Office, a number of documents have been attached to interstate appeals "Ukraine v. Russian Federation" and "Ukraine v. Russian Federation (II)", establishing the amount of damage caused to Ukraine as a result of the temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation, as well as documenting violations of rights of the Ukrainian citizens by the aggressor state, etc. These data are based, inter alia, on the results of the representative activity of the Autonomy's Prosecutor's Office, carried out after its relocation to Kyiv. I should note that our Prosecutor's Office is open for further cooperation with all state authorities in order to protect the interests of Ukraine.

Within the criminal proceedings under Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Violation of the Laws and Customs of War), an appropriate evidentiary basis is collected with a view to its subsequent transfer to the International Criminal Court. First of all, we are talking about the unlawful acts committed by the occupation authorities against our citizens in Crimea, provided for by the Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

THE FIRST BLOOD OF THE WAR: Who Killed Serhiy Kokurin?

On March 18, 2014 in Simferopol, Serhiy Kokurin, an ensign of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, perished defending his military unit. His name — the first on the list of Ukrainian soldiers killed by the Russian aggressors — is permanently imprinted in the history of this war.

Attack on the Military Unit

Captain Valentyn Fedun, a colleague of Serhiy Kokurin, was also on duty that day. “After dinner, I noticed that people began to gather in the area of the checkpoint. There were gunshots and shouts heard. Other observers reported by radio that we were being attacked and many people with weapons were seen,” he later recalled.

From the roof Valentyn Fedun could see that machine gunners and submachine gunners had settled on the firing positions around the military unit. Then, according to him, Russian Special Forces infiltrated the territory of the unit. They moved in short dashes hiding from prying eyes.

“I immediately reported this to the duty officer and continued to monitor, from time to time clarifying the information,” the soldier said. “Suddenly I felt a strong blow and fell. In the building, I realized that I was shot twice.”

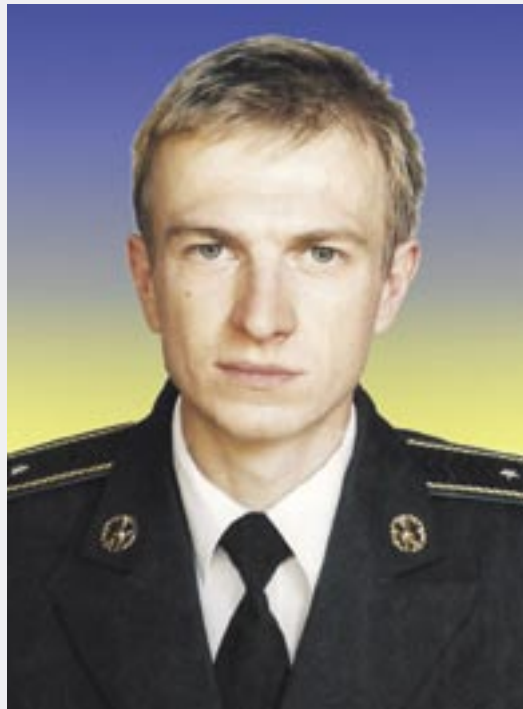
After Fedun’s wound and the death of Kokurin, the soldiers of the topographic unit surrendered to the attackers; after a while, the “militiamen” released them.

Mythical Sniper

In order to hide the traces of what had been done, after all, Crimea was still in the jurisdiction of Ukraine, and three days were left before the “referendum”, criminals from the illegal Crimean authorities, in particular “prosecutor” Natalia Poklonskaya, made a claim about a sniper from Lviv, who allegedly shot dead the ensign Kokurin. Such confidence would have been appropriate if the sniper had been arrested and interrogated. However, they could not show the “caught” shooter, so soon this mythical figure was forgotten.

In that battle, one of the “green men” — Ruslan Kazakov — was also shot dead. He was by no means “a native inhabitant of Crimea” eager for a referendum on the accession of the “native” peninsula to Russia.

Unlike the inhabitant of Simferopol Kokurin, Kazakov had nothing to do with Crimea. Kazakov, the



Serhiy Kokurin, Russian by ethnic origin, was born in Simferopol. He served in the 13th Photogrammetric Center of the Central Directorate of Military Topography and Navigation of the Main Directorate of Operational Support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. For personal courage and heroism shown in defense of the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, he was posthumously awarded the Order “For Courage” of the third degree.

senior lieutenant of the special subdivision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, arrived on the peninsula from the Volgograd region. Obviously, participation in both Chechen wars was not enough for him, if he, officially not being in military service, came to Simferopol, where he found his death spoiling the lie about the peaceful and voluntary Crimea’s joining to Russia.

Investigation of the Crime

Until now, it is not known for certain what happened with the ensign Kokurin at the post. The only thing that has already been proved: Serhiy Kokurin was killed by two bullets of 5.45 mm caliber. And sniper rifles use cartridges with bullets of 7.62 mm or larger caliber. Therefore, the sniper version is automatically refuted. The officers of the cartographic center, including Kokurin, were armed with PM pistols, the caliber of which is 9 mm, and the shape of a bullet can not be confused with any other.

Up to now, the invaders have never tried to investigate that tragic case. Full-fledged investigation by the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies after the events of March 2014 is so far impossible. However, clarifying the circumstances of the death of Serhiy Kokurin, who gave his life for the defense of the Motherland, is a matter of honor for Ukraine.

THE WORLD ABOUT CRIMEA



Rudolph GIULIANI, US state and political figure, representative of the Republican Party

— The annexation of Crimea is a violation of the basic international law. This is an illegal invasion of a sovereign state, which, unfortunately, occurred because the United States and Western Europe did not react to Russia's actions properly. That was a demonstration of our weakness. If we had acted directly and very quickly, and immediately imposed harsh sanctions, perhaps we could have changed the situation, and it would not have turned into what Putin did in the east of Ukraine.

If necessary, the sanctions will be strengthened. Our ultimate goal is the reunification of Ukraine in the same state as it had been before Russia seized Crimea. Of course, there are different ways to achieve this goal, but there can be no compromise.



Johannes HAHN, European Union Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement

— The position of the European Union on the non-recognition of Crimea's annexation by Russia remains unchanged, and the sanctions regime against the Russian Federation will continue until the final fulfillment of Minsk agreements. I want to note that the EU, as a reliable partner of Ukraine, will continue to provide it with the necessary support both in countering aggression and in implementing domestic reforms.



Federica MOGHERINI, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs

— Three years on from the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the European Union remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The European Union reiterates that it does not recognize and continues to condemn the annexation, which violates international law and remains a direct challenge to international security.

Over the past year, the ongoing militarization of the peninsula has continued and the human rights situation in the Crimean peninsula has deteriorated further. The rights of the Crimean Tatars have been violated through the shutting down of Crimean Tatar media outlets, the banning of the activities of the Mejlis, and the persecution of its leaders. Lawyers such as Emil Kurbedinov and Mykola Polozov, who defended the rights of the Crimean Tatars and did not agree with the illegal annexation of the peninsula, were presented with groundless charges. We call for the release of the First Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis Akhtem Chygoz and for the charges against Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis Ilmi Umerov to be dropped. Furthermore, the European Union reiterates its call for the immediate release of Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and all those who have been illegally detained and sentenced. All pending cases of human rights violations such as enforced disappearances, torture and killings should be thoroughly investigated. Free and unrestricted access for international human rights actors to the whole territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol, continues to be paramount.

The German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) published a German textbook, where Crimea was depicted as part of Russia. Subsequently, the press service of the Office published a statement, in which it announced the decision to remove this textbook from the list of approved editions.

The Polish Publishing House Galileos published a political map of Europe with Crimea within the Russian Federation, indicating in its electronic version that the peninsula is a disputed territory. After the relevant appeal of the Embassy of Ukraine in Poland, the sales of this map series were suspended, and the image was edited.

PRETTY INCONVENIENT SITUATION

Although the world community unanimously condemned the annexation of Crimea by Russia, sometimes it does happen that on geographical maps the peninsula is depicted as the territory of the Russian Federation. Such cartographic errors, grossly violating the norms of international law, lead to loud international scandals.

At the exhibition "Astana Art Fest" in Kazakhstan, a globe, on which the map of Ukraine was depicted without Crimea, was installed. But the peninsula was on the map of Russia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine sent an official note of protest to Kazakhstan, after which the pictures were corrected for neutral ones.

The well-known British newspaper Daily Mail also made a mistake. In its publication about an explosion of a World War Two bomb in Sevastopol, Crimea was "attached" to the south-west of Russia. After the relevant response of the Embassy of Ukraine in the UK, the publication apologized and removed the word "Russia" from the news.

The respected French Publishing House Larousse published the Atlas of the World 2016 with Crimea as part of Russia. In response to a comment of the Embassy of Ukraine in France, the official representatives of the Publishing House said they did not want to politicize this issue.



GENOESE FORTRESS: Test of Occupation



In 1958–2014, the complex “Genoese Fortress” was part of the National Sanctuary “Sophia of Kyiv”. Scientific work was constantly in full swing on its territory: archaeological excavations, studies and conferences were held. However, after the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, existence of this unique historical monument is under threat.

In 2014, the occupation authorities of Crimea created the so-called State Budgetary Institution of the Republic of Crimea “Sudak Fortress”. The change of name led to the change in its status. Note the difference between the “National Sanctuary” and the provincial “Budgetary Institution”. Due to financial problems, in particular the catastrophic situation in agriculture and resort industry as the main spheres of the economy of Crimea, and the excessive militarization of the peninsula, the ancient fortress is transformed from a historical monument into a typical tourist object. Crowds of tourists and lack of proper care can cause destruction of the majestic citadel. Therefore, the question whether the medieval walls will hold out against the invasion of the barbarians of the 21st century remains open.

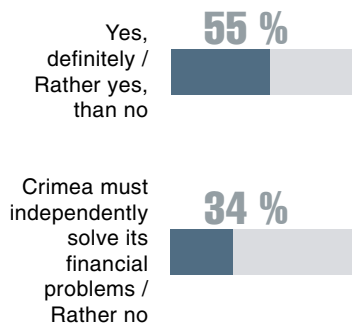
- Genoese Fortress is a fortification complex, located in the Crimean city of Sudak, on the Krepostnaya Gora (Fortress’s Mountain), the height of which is 157 meters. It was built by the Genoese between the 1370s and the 1460s as a stronghold of the colony.
- In a long time of the fortress city existence, a considerable list of kingdoms, principalities, khanates and tribes that sought to conquer it arose. They are no longer in the world: not a single autocrat considering himself the ruler of the Universe, not a single warrior trying to seize these walls. Time has swallowed up them all. But the Fortress is still there...
- In 2007, the Genoese Fortress in Sudak was submitted for consideration of UNESCO as a candidate for inclusion in the list of World Heritage Sites. Unfortunately, the final decision on this issue has not been made so far.



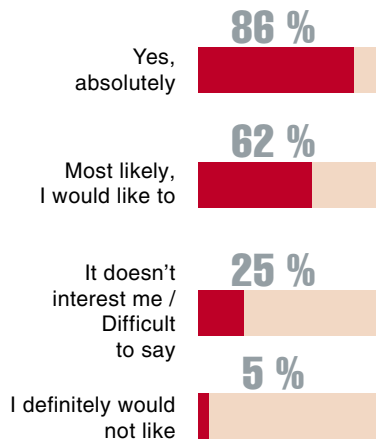
CRIMEA: 6 questions for Ukrainians

The Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine has prepared an analytical report on Crimea based on the data of a public opinion survey of Ukraine's residents. The results of the research have shown that the overwhelming majority of the Ukrainians surveyed consider the peninsula to be occupied and would like to see it as part of Ukraine in the future. Most of the respondents have admitted that they do not support radical actions with regard to the occupied Crimea, such as, for example, trade and energy blockades or the cessation of water supply. At the same time, the majority is in favor of facilitating communication between the Crimeans and mainland Ukraine, in particular of the resumption of transport links and access to medical services.

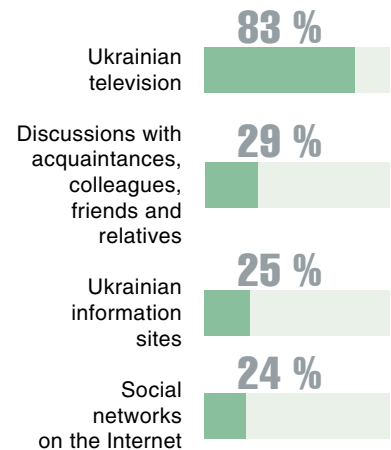
ARE YOU READY TO SUPPORT THE RESUMPTION OF FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES FOR CRIMEA FROM THE STATE BUDGET IN CASE OF ITS RETURN TO UKRAINE?



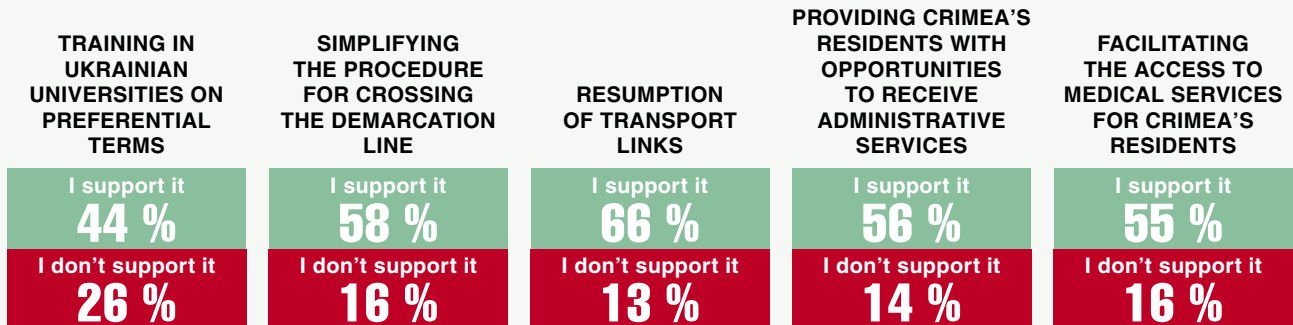
WOULD YOU LIKE CRIMEA TO BECOME PART OF UKRAINE AGAIN?



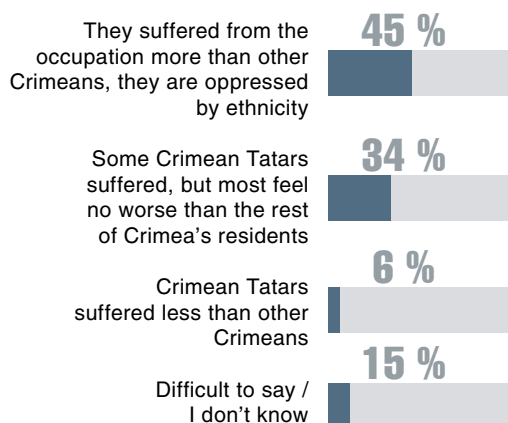
WHERE DO YOU GET INFORMATION ABOUT CRIMEA?



WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING STATE ACTIONS AIMED AT THE REINTEGRATION OF CRIMEA'S RESIDENTS INTO THE UKRAINIAN SPACE?



HOW, IN YOUR OPINION, DID THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA AFFECT THE CRIMEAN TATARS?



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS IN RESPECT OF CRIMEA?

