



# General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General  
18 June 2020

Original: English

**General Assembly  
Seventy-fourth session**

Agenda items 31 (a), 63 and 70 (c)

**Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict**

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories  
of Ukraine**

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights  
situations and reports of special rapporteurs  
and representatives**

**Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year**

## **Letter dated 16 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Russian occupation administration in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, (hereinafter “Crimea”) continues its artificial campaign of forcible passportization, which is an element of the repressive policy of the aggressor State towards the citizens of Ukraine, who are forced to live under occupation.

The Law of Ukraine “On ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and the legal regime in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine” of 15 April 2014 stipulates clearly that the forceful automatic acquisition of Russian citizenship by the citizens of Ukraine residing in the temporarily occupied territory is not recognized by Ukraine and cannot be considered as a ground for the loss of citizenship of Ukraine. Under article 45 of the Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land of 1907, it is forbidden to compel the inhabitants of an occupied territory to swear allegiance to the hostile Power, thus forbidding a forcible change of citizenship.

The coercion of citizens into obtaining Russian citizenship is also a premeditated and cynically executed element of systematic oppression of Ukrainian citizens by the Russian occupation administration. Ukrainian citizens who are living in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are in fact denied any right of choice. Opportunities to renounce Russian citizenship were from the start severely limited through the scarcity of institutions processing this type of application and extremely tight deadlines for submitting the applications.

Besides, if residents of Crimea refused to obtain Russian passports, they were artificially limited in their rights to employment, medical care, social and pension benefits. The absence of a Russian passport often became the grounds for a forced



deportation and ban on entering the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Coercion into Russian citizenship has also been an integral part of the persecution of pro-Ukrainian activists and journalists by the occupying Power. The history of the occupation has showed that the inhabitants of Crimea had every reason to fear that the occupation authorities would then make an “inventory” of opponents and targets for repression out of the lists of people who were filing applications for the renunciation of Russian citizenship.

Ukrainian citizens were also forced to obtain Russian passports in order to keep their homes and property on the occupied peninsula. In this regard, a decree depriving Ukrainian citizens of the right to own land in the temporarily occupied Crimea, recently signed by President Vladimir Putin, became yet another step towards forcing the inhabitants of Crimea into Russian citizenship and a gross violation of international law.

Ukraine remains determined to protect the rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens living under occupation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We hope that the consistent attention to these violations of the Russian Federation and their negative consequences for the realization of the rights of residents of the temporarily occupied peninsula will be reflected together with relevant recommendations in your thematic reports on Crimea, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31 (a), 63 and 70 (c), and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Sergiy Kyslytsya**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

---