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

**Security Council
Seventy-fifth year**

Letter dated 15 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the ongoing conscription of citizens of Ukraine living in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Under international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the occupying Power is prohibited from compelling service in its armed or auxiliary forces and from exerting pressure or propaganda which aims at securing voluntary enlistment in the army.

On 30 September 2020, the President of the Russian Federation signed Decree No. 581 on the beginning of the autumn conscription into the armed forces of the Russian Federation, which also applies to residents of the temporarily occupied Crimea, including citizens of Ukraine who have acquired Russian citizenship automatically and compulsorily.

This is already the twelfth illegal conscription campaign. As part of the previous 11 campaigns, about 25,000 citizens of Ukraine were illegally drafted into the Russian armed forces. This year, the Russian Federation plans to enlist 2,000 residents of Crimea.

The Russian Federation violates the norms of international law by recruiting the protected population to the armed forces of the Russian Federation and prosecuting those who refuse such service, as well as conducting massive military propaganda activities involving people of all ages, including minors, amidst the rapid spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Russia must stop such offences and strictly adhere to the obligations of the occupying Power.

Ukraine calls on the States Members of the United Nations, as well as relevant United Nations organs and agencies, to condemn the illegal actions of the Russian Federation and respond appropriately to these violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.



I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

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