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

Security Council  
Seventy-sixth year

## **Letter dated 17 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

Further to my previous letters I have the honour to express my profound gratitude for your tireless work on ensuring monitoring of the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine. It is encouraging that the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine also maintains its important activities in this regard, and we hope that the mission will be granted unimpeded access to Crimea by the occupying power in accordance with international humanitarian law.

In view of the provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/192](#), I would like to draw your attention to the critical situation regarding the continued practice of searches and raids perpetrated by the Russian Federation as the occupying power in the temporarily occupied Crimea, Ukraine, contrary to that resolution.

The Russian Federation perpetrates gross violations of its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law. Even in times of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and contrary to Security Council resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#), the occupying power seeks to destroy the identity of Ukrainians and the indigenous people of the Peninsula – the Crimean Tatars – as well as of other ethnic and religious groups.

Beyond any doubt, it was intentionally provocative that more Ukrainian citizens were arbitrarily arrested by the Russian occupation authorities on 17 February, the day of the consideration by the Security Council of the complex issue of COVID-19, and on the eve of the debate in the General Assembly on agenda item 65, scheduled for 23 February 2021.

Such actions by the Russian Federation are a continuation of repressive practices against Ukrainian citizens of the occupied Crimea, who seek to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms in full. The fate of those Ukrainian citizens detained and deprived of their rights and freedoms by the Russian Federation is a cause of deep concern to Ukraine and the international community.



I reiterate the call for the Russian Federation to abide by its international obligations and to implement all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including the most recent ones, resolutions [75/192](#) and [75/29](#).

I sincerely rely on your good offices to persuade the Russian Federation to uphold its international obligations. I also hope that these illegal practices of the Russian occupation authorities will be duly addressed in your upcoming reports to be submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/192](#).

In this regard, I would like to transmit herewith for your kind attention the comment by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on a new wave of searches and detentions in the temporarily occupied Crimea, dated 17 February 2021 (see annex).

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

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

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**Annex to the letter dated 17 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**Comment by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the new wave of searches and detentions of activists in the Crimea**

17 February 2021

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly protests against a new wave of illegal politically motivated searches and detentions in the temporarily occupied Crimea, carried out by the Russian occupation authorities.

According to the available information, on the night of February 17, searches were conducted in the houses of Abdulbori Mahamadinov, Azamat Eyupov, Timur Yalkabov, Ibragimov Ernest, Oleg Fedorov, Lenur Seidametov, and Yashar Shikhametov. Among the mentioned persons were activists of the Crimean Solidarity and the Crimean Childhood (the project supporting children of political prisoners) thus clearly indicating the politically motivated character of the actions of the occupation authorities.

“These actions once again reveal Moscow’s full disregard for fundamental norms of international humanitarian law, its obligations as an occupying power, its readiness to use illegal strong-arm methods to suppress political and religious dissent and to block human rights activities in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territory,” said First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Emine Dzhaparova.

The Foreign Ministry once again reminds the Russian Federation of the UN General Assembly resolution [68/262](#) of March 27, 2014 “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine” along with resolutions “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine” of 2016-2020, as well as the order of the International Court of Justice on provisional measures in Ukraine’s case against the Russian Federation regarding the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. These documents and decisions indicate that the international community categorically rejects the practice of political persecution in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea. They also spell out that the Russian Federation is responsible for upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms in the peninsula.

The Russian Federation has to fulfill its international legal obligations as an occupying power and to put an end to political repressions against the population of the temporarily occupied territories.

The information about Russia’s illegal activities in the temporarily occupied territories, including the mentioned cases of illegal searches and detentions, will be presented by Ukraine on February 23, 2021, for the consideration of the UN General Assembly during the debate on the agenda item “The Situation in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine”.

We call on international partners to give a proper assessment of the Russian Federation’s illegal actions in the temporarily occupied Crimea.