



General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 March 2023
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 68 (c)

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

Letter dated 16 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Council of Crimean Tatars under the Head of the Republic of Crimea (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68 (c).

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 16 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Council of Crimean Tatars under the Head of the Republic of Crimea

The Republic of Crimea has been part of the vast and united Russian family since 2014. Many promising opportunities have opened up for us. In the Republic of Crimea, as in the whole of our multi-ethnic country, there are no forms of discrimination; the rights and freedoms of all our citizens, regardless of their racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic background, are ensured; and the preservation and development of cultural and linguistic diversity is enshrined in the Constitution and in law.

The adoption by the President of the Russian Federation of Decree No. 268 of 21 April 2014 on the rehabilitation of the Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Crimean Tatar and German populations and State support for their revitalization and development marked an important development in the Republic: the honour of the peoples of Crimea that had been deported was restored, and their deportation was recognized as a criminal act.

The reunification of Crimea and Russia brought many benefits. Crimean Tatars were given the opportunity, on an equal basis with all Crimeans, to revive, preserve and develop their language, history and culture and to promote the ethnic and cultural identity of the Crimean Tatar people. The Crimean Tatar language is recognized as a State language of the Republic of Crimea. Socially important literature is published in the Crimean Tatar language, and the Crimean Tatar media are active.

Every year, the major Muslim holidays Oaza Bayram and Qurban Bayram are declared public holidays by decrees of the Head of the Republic of Crimea, and the following traditional Crimean Tatar holidays are freely and widely celebrated in the Republic: the spring holidays Navrez and Khydyrlez, Crimean Tatar Flag Day, the Day of Crimean Tatar Writing and Culture and the autumn holiday Derviza.

Crimean Tatars are full citizens of the Russian Federation. Under the State national policy of the Russian Federation, systematic work on infrastructure projects is being carried out with the aim of developing settlements for the rehabilitated populations. Kindergartens, schools, cultural centres, roads and networks for gas supply, water supply and disposal, and electricity supply are being built. Citizens belonging to the rehabilitated populations of Crimea are provided with housing and land plots, and are eligible to receive compensation for joining gas, water and electricity networks.

Under the patronage of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and with the support of the Head of the Republic of Crimea, Sergei Aksenov, the main cathedral mosque of Crimea is being built in Simferopol. The cathedral mosque will be the largest Muslim place of worship on the peninsula.

The Council of Crimean Tatars under the Head of the Republic of Crimea was established by Decree No. 93-U of the Head of the Republic of Crimea of 29 March 2018. The members of the Council were elected from among honoured and respected scientists, teachers, cultural figures, religious leaders, sports personalities and figures from other spheres of society at an extraordinary extended meeting of the Qurultay of the Muslims of Crimea.

One of the main focus areas of the Council is the effective implementation in the Republic of Crimea of Decree No. 268 of the President of the Russian Federation of 21 April 2014 on the rehabilitation of the Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Crimean Tatar and German populations and State support for their revitalization and development, in particular the restoration of historical justice and the political, social and spiritual revitalization of Crimean Tatars who were subjected to illegal deportation and political repression on grounds of ethnicity.

Representatives of State authorities, local government bodies and public organizations, experts and lawyers, specialists in various fields and others are involved in the Council, making its work as a whole more effective and fruitful.

The Council currently serves as an authoritative and effective collegial, advisory and consultative body of Crimean Tatars under the Head of the Republic of Crimea, whose main tasks are to monitor problems facing the Crimean Tatar people in the Republic of Crimea and contribute to their solution, and to develop and implement a range of measures to restore historical justice and support the political, social and spiritual revitalization of the Crimean Tatar nation.

Crimean Tatars participate actively in the social and political life of the Republic of Crimea and are developing civil society institutions, which are an integral part of the political, socioeconomic and cultural life of the Republic of Crimea and the Russian Federation.

We, the members of the Council of Crimean Tatars under the Head of the Republic of Crimea, do not support the members of the “Mejlis”,¹ an organization banned in the Russian Federation, or its provocative activities, and call upon Crimeans not to trust the statements of its pseudo-leaders, who are exploiting the Crimean Tatar issue to destabilize the social and political situation.

The Council categorically rejects the attempts of certain fugitives from Crimea, who call themselves “leaders” and “chairs” of various foreign public-private entities, to position themselves as representatives of the Crimean Tatar people living in their homeland. Former members of the “Mejlis”, which is banned in the Russian Federation, R. Chubarov, M. Dzhemilev, L. Islyamov and E. Bariev and other betrayers of the interests of Crimean Tatars who are currently located in Ukraine, Türkiye and a number of European countries are acting in the interests and at the behest of Kiev and are actively spreading false information regarding the situation of the Crimean Tatars in Crimea.

These individuals do not live in Crimea and do not represent the interests of the Crimean Tatars; their one-sided statements, accounts and comments regarding the situation in Crimea cannot therefore be considered to be reliable or to reflect the real situation of the Crimean Tatar people living in Crimea.

These functionaries are misleading the international community with their untruthful comments regarding the realization of the rights and interests of Crimean Tatars and the condition of Crimean Tatar cultural and historical heritage in Crimea. They are not authorized to make any statements or to appear at international forums or organizations on behalf of the Crimean Tatar people.

Blatantly illegal actions in the form of energy, food and water blockades organized with the active support of the aforementioned individuals have caused problems for the entire population of Crimea, including Crimean Tatars. Despite the fact that these provocations were aimed at inciting inter-ethnic hatred and

¹ An extremist organization that is banned in Russia.

confrontation between the populations of Crimea, they were not successful and brought Crimeans even closer together.

These individuals are trying to continue their extremist activities in Crimea: they threaten members of the Crimean Tatar community with physical violence and are seeking to create an atmosphere of hostility and inter-ethnic hatred between the Crimean Tatar people and representatives of other ethnicities.

The Council considers the statements and allegations made by Ukraine and former members of the “Mejlis”, which is banned in the Russian Federation, R. Chubarov, M. Dzhemilev, L. Islyamov and E. Bariev regarding discrimination against Crimean Tatars to be false, and notes that all issues related to the realization of the rights and interests of Crimean Tatars are resolved in cooperation with the authorities of the Republic of Crimea and the many ethnic communities of the peninsula.
