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Promotion and protection of human rights

**Letter dated 28 December 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to forward a letter from the Crimean Tatar civil movement "Kyrym" (see annex) concerning a blockade and crimes committed by some Ukrainian radical activists towards people living on the Crimean peninsula.

I would be grateful, if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 72.

(Signed) Petr Iliichev
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 28 December 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Crimean Tatar civil movement Kyrym

Appeal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

I am appealing to you out of deep concern at the unlawful blockade of the Republic of Crimea being implemented at the Ukrainian State border at three checkpoints — Kalanchak, Chaplinka and Chongar — and the threat of increasing crime in the neighbouring areas that is closely linked to terrorism, such as explosions that have damaged power transmission towers and disrupted the supply of electricity to the Republic of Crimea.

The blockade of the Republic of Crimea by radical groups, which has been under way for the past two months and has been noted in the daily reports of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, is a glaring example of the blatant blackmail and pressure being exerted against the residents of the Republic of Crimea.

The policy of blockading the Republic of Crimea is a gross violation of the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and an expression of the Ukrainian authorities' disregard for such human rights as the right to health, the right to education, the right to work, the right of access to cultural goods, and other economic, social and cultural rights.

It is obvious that the purpose of this inhumane and futile campaign is to destabilize the situation in the Republic of Crimea, which can bring the residents of the peninsula nothing but suffering and misery, and cannot be justified by any political or other objectives.

Crimean Tatars both in Crimea and in Kherson province have condemned the blockade with a sense of indignation. It must be recognized that, contrary to the position of the Crimean Tatar community, the Ukrainian authorities who instigated and implemented the blockade have deliberately lent it ethnic overtones. Among other things, they are using Crimean Tatar provocateurs, in a pre-planned trumped-up scenario, to present their actions in the State-controlled media as an expression of the general views of the Crimean Tatar people, giving rise to all sorts of speculation.

The Crimean people are particularly concerned at the aggressive actions of certain groups led by two deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov, who in seeking to regain lost ground are pursuing far-reaching and ignoble ends, including incitement to civil war in Crimea. The most alarming part for the Crimean Tatars is that these separatists, speaking on behalf of the people with the connivance of the Ukrainian authorities, have actually made the area of the blockade an arena in which to commit acts of extremism and foment ethnic hatred.

Proof of that is the series of unprecedented terrorist acts — such as blowing up transmission towers in order to implement an energy blockade — that pose a

challenge to the very foundations of human civilization and the entire world community engaged in countering terrorism.

Undoubtedly one major factor that led to these crimes is the fact that none of the organizers or facilitators of the civil war in Ukraine has been held accountable for the tens of thousands of innocent victims. Was it not a sense of impunity that prompted the instigators of that bloody conflict to commit this terrorist act?

The Crimean Tatar civil movement Kyrym states unequivocally that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is unacceptable, regardless of motivation, and insists on the need for effective measures to be taken in compliance with international law, including the conduct of an independent international investigation for the purpose, inter alia, of punishing those who commit violence, support extremism, resort to terrorism, cause tensions and violate international security.

Mr. Secretary-General, the circumstances mentioned above are evidence of large-scale human rights violations in the Republic of Crimea whereby the Ukrainian State is flouting the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, including:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948;

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, signed in Rome on 4 November 1950, and the amendments set out in the Protocols thereto;

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted on 16 December 1966 by resolution 2200 (XXI);

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 at the second World Conference on Human Rights;

Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted on 9 December 1994 by resolution 49/60;

United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/210 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, adopted on 17 December 1996;

United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1377 (2001) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts;

Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, signed in Warsaw on 16 May 2005;

Other international legal instruments on countering terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Considering that the United Nations plays a central role in attaining the overall goal of creating a common security space and that adherence to the principles of international law, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and the commitments made by all States is essential to achieving the goals of the United Nations, I ask:

That you consider as soon as possible the critical situation that has arisen and take appropriate action;

That you call upon the Ukrainian authorities to strictly adhere to their commitments to counter terrorism and disarm illegal groups.

I should like to thank you in advance for informing me of the measures taken, and for your careful and principled consideration of this appeal.

R. Ilyasov
Leader of the interregional
Crimean Tatar civil movement
Kyrym
