**CD4PEACE – REPORT OF THE 47TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (JULY 9, 2021)**

*ID on HC oral presentation on Ukraine and interim report of SG on human rights in Crimea.*

*All sources used to draft the report can be found* [*here*](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/47session/Pages/default.aspx)*. Report drafted by Serhat Yilmaz on June 9 2021.*

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# Main report

This session follows the oral presentation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights giving an evolution of the human rights situation in Ukraine following [resolution 41/25](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/41/25) and the report of the Secretary-General following resolution 75/192. The report covers the period from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

**The session was opened by oral presentation from Keva Lorraine Bain (Vice-President of the Human Rights Council).**

In her [oral](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/OTH/OTH_1705_75_a73d1711_87f7_4d11_9d94_0e8239b9bcfc.docx) presentation **Keva Lorraine Bain** indicated that 2 thematic reports have been prepared. OHCHR's first report presents the issues of arbitrary detention and torture in the context of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine that began in 2014. The second report is a report by the Secretary General on the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The first report states that around 4,000 people have been detained as a result of the armed conflict since 2014, both in territory controlled by the Ukrainian government and by the armed group. Detentions have tended to decrease. In the territory controlled by the government, many cases of human rights violations are denounced, in particular cases of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, detentions without an arrest warrant, isolation in secret or unofficial places. The territory controlled by the armed group also experiences numerous human rights violations such as detentions without legal procedure, enforced disappearances. The High Commissioner welcomes the introduction of a judicial body; however, allegations of arbitrary detention and torture persist. Confidential access to the High Commission and to international observers was requested with the greatest insistence in places of detention in controlled territories. Account re-editing is completely absent, many people violate human rights but only a dozen have reported. Reparations and compensation for victims are sorely lacking and it is often the NGOs that fill these gaps.

Regarding the second Crimea report, the team could not be on the ground, so the information was collected remotely. Russia continues to ignore these obligations and obstruct justice. There is no guarantee of a fair trial and the conditions of detention are poor. Arrests are arbitrary and often directed against Tatar minorities. Freedom of belief is restricted. OHCHR reports that the human rights situation in Crimea has not improved.

In her statement, **Ukraine** explains that reports show the consequence of Russian aggression. There are cases of torture of Russian prisoners in the Donbaz region. The Russian Federation can no longer hide behind the Moscow intermediaries whose responsibility is assigned. This is a way for Russia to let go of all guilt. Russia continues to distort reality with disinformation campaigns. It legitimizes its intervention and tarnishes the image of Ukraine. The situation of the Tatars is serious and the situation of medical care for the prisoners is worrying. Thousands of displaced people fled Russian aggression in Crimea. Ukraine calls for increased political and economic pressure on Russia to stop this aggression. It is the most appropriate tool to put an end to aggression and human rights violations.

All of the States **(Island, Slovenia, Canada, Germany, Lithuania, European Union, Finland, Czech Republic, Australia, France represented by François Gave, Switzerland, Estonia, Montenegro, Norway represented by Anniken Enersen, Republic of Moldova, USA, Slovakia, Denmark, Romania, Latvia, Austria, Ireland, Belgium, Georgia, UK, Turkey, Croatia, North Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Albania, Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Parliament Human Rights Committee of Ukraine)** support the monitoring of human rights in the country and deplore Russian military activity along the Ukrainian border and in the Crimea. They condemn the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia, the poor condition of the detainees, the arbitrary detentions. Human rights violations must end and Russia must assume its involvement. All of the States support the full sovereignty of Ukraine and urge Russia to respect the ceasefire. The countries made it clear that Russia is an actor and not a mediator in the conflict. Occupied Crimea is not recognized by the states. They are also concerned about the situation of the Tatars. Finally, all parties must respect human rights. Japan wishes to emphasize respect for the Minsk Agreement and encourages dialogue between all parties.

**Russia** has indicated that Ukraine is ignoring the deteriorating human rights situation in its territory. Ukraine interrupted Russia's speech 4 times when referring to General Assembly Order 68/162 concerning Ukraine’s territorial integrity. According to resolution 75/192, Russia is complicit in the occupation and the occupying administration. It is not possible for Ukraine to give the floor to Russia as this would violate the resolutions of the General Assembly, whose council is a subsidiary body. According to Ukraine, Russia is using the tools of the United Nations to discredit Ukraine.

**Belarus** also spoke out saying that the human rights monitoring mission has no effect and that the Ukrainian authority has not improved the human rights situation in any way. The Human Rights Council must step up its activity to remedy this.

Various NGOs (International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Baptist World Alliance, International Catholic Child Bureau, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Human Rights House Foundation, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL), Advocates for Human Rights, United Villages, Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists, Ingenieurs du Monde, United Nations Watch) have indicated several human rights violations such as discriminatory military service, freedom of expression for journalists and repressed populations, no freedom of belief, laws discriminating against certain religious minorities, freedom of conscience and thought. The Donbaz region must be accessible to NGOs in order to monitor the human rights situation. NGOs also highlighted the torture of journalists and the human rights situation in Crimea. The lack of independence of the judiciary is a worrying aspect.

The International Catholic Child Bureau, however, congratulates Ukraine on the adoption of the Child Abuse Law in February 2021. The law aimed to harmonize national legislation on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Advocates for Human Rights highlighted the increase in intra-family violence during the pandemic. The NGO regrets that there have been no effective mechanisms to identify and assist the victims.

International Council of Russian Compatriots believe the UN is arbitrary and not watchful enough about Ukraine's human rights violations in Crimea. The NGO calls for more objectivity.

The session then pursued with short statement of the following States (click on the name to access the written statement) : [Iceland (on behalf of a group of countries),](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37129_47_7243d9fc_1675_4e84_b6c2_aa16aee16b90.docx) [Slovenia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35473_47_29643fd7_9ce9_429b_91fc_dcf2c188880f.docx), [Canada](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35494_47_3141fa26_a555_481f_b721_b3a6bf894b3d.docx), [Germany](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35515_47_5c18edf7_f08c_4b93_a7d9_647786f70615.docx), [Lithuania](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35609_47_9e2b473d_887e_4dc9_ab79_e65391132670.doc), [European Union](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36208_47_fc142364_a49b_48a0_8886_c25abbf127b3.doc), [Finland](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35688_47_2f33fdb9_2c76_4b53_9006_26070f52f102.docx), [Czech Republic](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35737_47_b65843f3_5555_461d_a14e_00e2a97d5ef4.docx), [Australia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35627_47_7d87f007_ffdb_425e_8788_6645743db965.docx), [France](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35847_47_0c31cd24_0dc8_4781_92ae_f565282bee53.docx), [Switzerland](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35915_47_bb484eaf_c819_4b8e_aa65_d7d494d0b139.docx), [Japan](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35930_47_c74f58fb_42e7_43fe_af67_31556b0a3154.doc), [Estonia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35951_47_d21d0b46_918a_4f6c_9883_d8a6546538ee.docx), [Montenegro](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/35965_47_3c190489_1fdd_4e6a_8c39_d027181cb754.docx), [Norway](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36186_47_01c14afe_a612_4c17_9c7d_df378da0cd3e.doc), Republic of Moldova, [United States of America](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36422_47_1c46feb1_2344_4745_8185_79b558a0e413.docx), [Slovakia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36528_47_c5dffce3_a297_4a1d_921e_b15cb2dd102b.docx), [Denmark](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36601_47_657fdc65_a601_42fa_ba62_956413695ef1.docx), [Romania](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36661_47_13d3ddc9_cce1_415b_8fe3_e23ba5e43e05.docx), [Latvia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36668_47_56dfd5e0_a33b_4225_bf09_8b47b9de3cbf.docx), [Austria](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36678_47_5f131a9d_b6b8_41bb_9cda_3e5e67bb9bba.docx), [Ireland](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36752_47_34a519af_c620_46a2_97de_507669487c7f.docx), [Belgium](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36818_47_6c9af768_228f_4c5c_9a8f_b2caa485bcb1.docx), [Georgia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36866_47_ccad8843_ac1f_46c7_b432_96d42cc2f19b.docx), [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36917_47_256e7402_e9a4_4a6d_8fa9_71691b98e083.docx), [Turkey](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36947_47_ae04e3d3_6b1e_411c_b9f1_f901952ca978.docx), [Croatia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36982_47_f7a5c82d_0576_409b_b634_75437dcfc6a1.docx), [North Macedonia](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37011_47_04d05fab_f527_4643_b050_b54e83666768.docx), [Russian Federation,](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37088_47_00299515_4f89_4b7a_88b5_2f89c1c7a108.doc) [Hungary](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37124_47_cfc62471_e0e2_4708_a81c_98728fc5bb25.docx), [Poland](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37222_47_ff9208f6_4bc6_42bd_b74c_db0764e1ebf1.docx), [Bulgaria](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37372_47_bc44966e_d127_47c4_a22e_7fd843096577.docx), [Albania](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37560_47_cbcf7e8b_06c5_4e91_8668_f0a5c57eeb4a.docx), [Belarus](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37865_47_06cab01c_f74f_4116_bc73_b42224bbd43c.doc), [Netherlands](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/37871_47_eaccbc5f_a402_4b3d_9bb8_9a0fb451824b.docx), [European Union (on behalf of a group of countries)](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/SP/36208_47_fc142364_a49b_48a0_8886_c25abbf127b3.doc), Azerbaijan

And National Human Rights Institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations:

[International Fellowship of Reconciliation,](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/NGO/39407_75_d485ad9d_c9ed_4eab_92f3_61154d972802.docx) [Baptist World Alliance](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/NGO/39513_75_2d960457_3c67_448d_923c_d0e27403338e.docx), [International Catholic Child Bureau](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/NGO/40900_75_b1d957c9_caf0_4ddf_8303_abb28054f4a9.docx), Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, [Human Rights House Foundation](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/NGO/39550_75_398de84b_a86b_4eee_9ef6_328ddcd1eb03.docx), International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL), [Advocates for Human Rights](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/NGO/40444_75_fa2985c3_0cd1_4b37_b5b0_2632cbf39daf.docx), Villages Unis (United Villages), Amnesty International, [International Commission of Jurists](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/43/NGO/40194_75_24db3570_4b01_4185_8a3d_d0a9db99a4e8.docx), Ingenieurs du Monde, United Nations Watch