

**Forum on Minority Issues - 9-th session**

**“Minorities in situations of humanitarian crises”**

**Agenda item 4. Protecting minority rights during humanitarian crises**

**Statement presented by Eskender Bariiev,  
the member of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Had of Board of the Crimean Tatar  
Resource Center**

**Dear President! Ladies and Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Dear President! Ladies and Gentlemen! As a representative of the Crimean Tatar people, I want to express my gratitude to all the member countries that supported the resolution on the Crimea at the 3rd UN Committee. The Crimean Tatar people became a minority in their homeland, as a result of a purposeful policy of genocide after the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 1783, unfortunately, this policy continues after the beginning of the occupation of Crimea by Russia in 2014.

In violation of the IV Geneva Convention of 1949, a policy of population substitution is carried out. According to our data, more than 120 thousand people from the RF have been brought to the Crimea, while about 27 thousand people left the Crimea, who officially registered with the competent bodies of Ukraine as IDPs. The last case is the deportation of Nedima Khalilov, an activist of the Crimean Tatar people, who was detained and taken from the Crimea on November 7, 2016, and is in a temporary detention facility in the Krasnodar Territory, only because he refused to accept Russian citizenship. He is currently on hunger strike.

April 26, the so-called. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea banned the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, the representative body of the Crimean Tatars, violating Articles 5, 18 and 19 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the collective right of the Crimean Tatars to manage their representative institutions. Armed people make attacks on mosques during prayers, in cafes, in markets, detain mass Crimean Tatars, forcibly drive them to buses and take them to the so-called. Committee to Combat Extremism, people collect personal data, take saliva for analysis, fingerprints. This is a direct violation of Article 12 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

On May 25, Ervin Ibragimov, a member of the Council of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, was kidnapped in Bakhchisaray. It is not found until now. The case with Ervin Ibrahimov is one of twenty-six cases of abducted Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians, 12

people were found dead with brutal tortures, de facto authorities have still not opened cases on all cases and have not been disclosed since 2014.

The cumulative effect of human rights violations against the Crimean Tatars led to the creation of fear among the indigenous people. In order to avoid further escalation of tensions between Crimean Tatars and de facto authorities, we call on the international community to send a note to the Russian Federation, stressing its commitment to ensure the rights of the Crimean Tatars as the indigenous people of the Crimea. To do this, you need: Cancel the decision of the Court to ban the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and allow it to work as a legitimate representative body of the Crimean Tatars in the territory of the Crimea;

Cancel all criminal cases instituted for political reasons in the Crimea; To investigate the violent disappearances of Ervin Ibragimov and ten other Crimean Tatars who have disappeared, with the aim of returning them home and bringing to justice the perpetrators of these crimes. To release the detainee Nedim Khalilov and to allow him to live in his own house; To abolish the appeal to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation for youth in the territory of the Crimea;

For Ukraine we consider it necessary: The Government of Ukraine shall ensure the preservation and development of the Crimean Tatar identity, among the displaced persons, by protecting and promoting the cultural rights of the Crimean Tatar people. Parliament of Ukraine to adopt a law on indigenous peoples of Ukraine and to ratify ILO Convention No. 169. The UN institutions need to develop a Humanitarian Response Plan for the Crimean Tatar people. Thank you for attention.