



HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMEA MILITARIZATION CONTEXT



CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP

Situation with Human Rights in the Autonomous
Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City
Adverse Impact of Russian Militarization
Information and Analytical Report

(April 2014 – May 2017)

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HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMEA MILITARIZATION CONTEXT: Situation with Human Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City. Adverse Impact of Russian Militarization. Information and Analytical Report (April 2014–May 2017) / under the general editorship of O.Skrypnyk and I.Sedova. — Kyiv, 2017. — 44 p.

Authors:

Irina Sedova (Ms)
Vissarion Aseyev (Mr)
Aleksandr Sedov (Mr)
Olga Skrypnyk (Ms)

Proof-reading::

Marina Budzar (Ms)

Photo documents used in the publication are from open sources including information resources of the authorities of Ukraine and the Russian Federation as well as Crimean authorities de facto, the information of the Crimean Human Right Group and web-based media, court case files.

The publication presents outcomes of documenting and classifying the facts of violating the international humanitarian law and human rights as a result of occupying the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City by the Russian Federation as well as effects of the Crimea militarization for the civilians from April 2014 to May 2017. The publication is intended for representatives of human rights, non-governmental and expert organizations, diplomatic missions, state authorities, educational and research institutions.

Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG) is an organization of Crimean human rights defenders and journalists aimed at supporting respect and defense of human rights in Crimea through documenting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law on the territory of the Crimean Peninsula as well as attracting a wide attention to these issues and searching and elaborating instruments to defend human rights in Crimea.

The **CHRG** activities are regulated, first of all, by fundamental human rights documents, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Helsinki Final Act, Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, etc.

The **CHRG** follows principles of fairness, accuracy and timeliness in preparing and distributing the information. The **CHRG** team is composed of experts, human rights defenders and journalists from various countries who have been participating in monitoring and documenting the violations of human rights in Crimea since February 2014. The **CHRG** pays a major attention to the human rights violations due to the unlawful actions of the Russian Federation in Crimea.

The findings of the **CHRG** monitoring and documenting the human rights violations are presented in monthly monitoring reviews on the human rights situation in Crimea (published at: <http://crimeahrg.org/category/monitor>), as well as in the issue related CHRG reports and articles (published at: <http://crimeahrg.org/category/analytic>).

The photo on the 1st page of the cover from the sites: "The Government of the Republic of Crimea", "People's self-defense of the Republic of Crimea", "Combat Brotherhood".



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Kyiv**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABT	Airborne Troops
AFU	Armed Forces of Ukraine
APC	Armored Personnel Carrier
ARC	Autonomous Republic of Crimea
CC	Criminal Code
CF	Charity Fund
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CPRF	Communist Party of Russian Federation
DOSA AF	Voluntary Association for Assistance to Army, Air Force and Navy (from Russian)
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights (formally the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)
EU	European Union
FSB	Federal Security Agency (from Russian)
FZ	Federal Law (from Russian)
GPOU	General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine
GRU	Main Intelligence Directorate (from Russian)
GTO	Ready for Labor and Defense (from Russian)
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MM	Mass Media
MP	Moscow Patriarchate
MTP	Military Traffic Police
NA	News Agency
NF	Naval Forces
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNO	Non-governmental Non-commercial Organization
OJSC	Open Joint Stock Company
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PC	Private Company
PoARC	Parliament of Autonomous Republic of Crimea
PoU	Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada)
RF	Russian Federation
RMHS	Russian Military History Society
ROC	Russian Orthodox Church
SCRC	State Council of Republic of Crimea
STV&RBC	State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company
UN	United Nations Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UOC KP	Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchate)



SECTION 1. ACTIONS OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION MILITARY FORCES AND SUBORDINATE PARAMILITARY UNITS

STRENGTHENING OF RF MILITARY FORCE CONTINGENT IN CRIMEA

Since the moment of occupation, the number of Russian troops in Crimea has been constantly increasing, with new military units and detachments established. In addition, the RF military have started upgrading and repairing the infrastructure of Ukrainian military units seized by them. The production facilities used to be the Ukrainian property have launched the manufacturing of RF military equipment. Various military machines are transported to Crimea from the Russian territory. The situation occurred is proved by the following facts.

First of all, substantial funds are allocated from the RF federal budget for repairing the Crimea military bases and garrison towns.

For instance, on April 23 2015, the RF public procurement website published a call for tender offers to provide sanitary maintenance services for barracks and quarters of the Ministry of Defense of Russia garrison towns as well as stocks used in the interests of the Ministry of Defense of Russia for the needs of the Ministry of Defense in 2015 – 2016 (Republic of Crimea, Black Sea Navy). The procurement price is RUR 1,148,987,415.00¹. The annex to the tender documentation lists 165 addresses of the RF Ministry of Defense barracks and quarters locations in various Crimea settlements.

On May 18 2015, the RF public procurement website published a call for tender offers for works (current repairs of the infrastructure development facilities of military base No 59882, Saki District, Crimea) for needs of the RF Ministry of Defense. The procurement price is RUR12,613,942.00².

On June 30 2015, the same website published an invitation notice for works on current repairs of non-floating aids to navigation (Crimea) for the needs of the RF Ministry of Defense in 2015 for an amount of RUR4,208,387.00. These funds are allocated for the works at military base No 49385 located at: 35 Lunacharskogo Street, Sevastopol (Beacons: Yevpatoriysky, Tarkhankutsky, Khersonessky).³

On October 2016 the RF Ministry of Defense informed that the construction of the infrastructure base for the 126th independent coast guard brigade of the Black Sea Navy in the settlement of Perevalnoye, Crimea, had been completed.⁴ The investigation of Reuters journalists confirms the information on expanding the military base in Perevalnoye.⁵

The RF Ministry of Defense raised an area defense unit out of reservists in Sevastopol as Captain Viacheslav Trukhachiov, head of Black Sea Navy information support unit, reported in September 2016. According to his information, over 600 reservists were called up for training to the base of Black Sea independent marine brigade.⁶

A part of military equipment was brought to Crimea within its occupation from February 26 to March 18, 2014, and the other part was delivered later. Within the monitoring period, numerous photo and

¹ Tender Notice published at the RF Public Procurement website, 23 April 2015. — URL: <http://www.zakupki.gov.ru/epz/order/notice/ea44/view/documents.html?regNumber=0173100004515000643>

² Tender Notice published at the RF Public Procurement website, 18 May 2015. — URL: <http://www.zakupki.gov.ru/epz/order/notice/ea44/view/documents.html?regNumber=0173100004515000951>

³ Tender Notice published at the RF Public Procurement website, 30 June 2015. — URL: <http://www.zakupki.gov.ru/epz/order/notice/ea44/view/documents.html?regNumber=0872100000215000455>

⁴ RF Ministry of Defense Notice on the works in Perevalnoye — URL: http://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12100458@egNews

⁵ Publication: «In Crimea, Russia signals military resolve with new and revamped bases». — URL: http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/russia-crimea/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=Social

⁶ Publication: Reservists Ready for Battle — URL: http://sc.mil.ru/files/morf/military/archive/FR_2016-09-12.pdf



video evidence of RF military machine presence on the territory of Crimea were published in the open information sources:

- *BASTION and BAL anti-ship missile systems*
- *TRIUMF S300 and S400 air defense missile system launchers*
- *PANTSIR S1 antiaircraft missile and gun systems*
- *SU27SM, SU302, SU30SM fighter aircraft*
- *SU25 strike aircraft*
- *SU-24M frontline bombers*
- *MI8, MI24, MI28N, MI-35M, KA52 helicopters.*
- *IL76 transport aircraft*
- *Tanks, including T72BZ*
- *APCs and IFVs of various types and versions*
- *TIGR GAZ 2330 combat vehicles*
- *GRAD, URAGAN MLRS*
- *Artillery pieces and self-propelled artillery weapons of various types*
- *11356 Project fregate*
- *BUYAN M 21631 Project fast attack craft*
- *636.3 Project submarines.*

For instance, the latest types of weapons, including heavy ones as GRAD multi launch rocket systems, BASTION P300P coastal missile systems, were presented at the military equipment exhibition in Sevastopol on February 23 2016. The exhibition dedicated to the Day of Fatherland's Defenders was held in the center of the city.⁷

The military equipment is delivered from the RF to the peninsula by Kerch Ferry Line⁸, by sea (RF Navy watercraft) as well as by air (military transport aviation).



GRAD multi launch rocket system at Military Equipment Exhibition in Sevastopol 23 February 2016.
©URL: <http://nevskii-bastion.ru/>

The growth of the Russian contingent in Crimea has been also officially confirmed by the RF Ministry of Defense. For instance, on October 7 2016, the RF Ministry of Defense website published an information that the Southern Military Area Troops received over 350 units of new military equipment that year including TRIUMF S400 forward anti-aircraft missile system and PANTSIR S anti-aircraft missile and gun system.⁹

Transporting the military equipment to Crimea is also recorded by journalists and local residents who publish regularly photo and video files on military vehicle convoys

⁷ Publication: Combat Equipment and New Military Uniform Presented — URL: <http://sevastopol.press/2016/02/23/pokazali-boevuju-tehniku-i-novuju-voennuju-formu/>

⁸ Video 'Units Involved into the Surprise Operability Test Crossing to Crimea Training Areas' Caucasus 2016 War Game — URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJXbdr_fkys

⁹ Notice of RF Ministry of Defense — URL: http://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12098618@egNews



TIRUMF S400 anti-aircraft missile system launcher at the Military Equipment Exhibition at Kerch City Embankment. 19 November 2016.
©URL: <http://www.kerch.com.ru/>



moving through residential areas of the peninsula, on YOUTUBE and other social networks. Flights of RF military aviation are regularly noticed over the beaches and residential areas of Crimea.

In addition, since March 2014 various war games and gunnery drills, with military men and various types of equipment involved, have been repeatedly carried out in Crimea, with RF troops groups being moved to the peninsula for this purpose.

Manufacturing of new weapon types and navy ships has been launched on the peninsula production facilities. In particular, the KAFA Newspaper informed that the official keel laying ceremony of new generation small size missile ship, 22800 Design of Russian Navy, took place on May 10 2016 at the MORE Shipyard in Feodosiya.¹⁰

From April 2014 to March 2017 at least 14 war games, with involvement of various RF armed forces units, were recorded on the territory of peninsula.

According to the opinion of some Crimean environmental experts, such actions of the military affect adversely the development of tourist and recreation potential of peninsula as well as compromise the Crimea environment condition.¹¹

DAMAGE CAUSED BY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CIVILIANS

The military equipment moving through residential areas of settlements and along inter-city roads endangers severely the life and health of people.

The Crimean Human Right Group recorded two cases when the peninsula residents suffered in the accidents with the military men involvement, with two fatalities at the spot.

For instance, on April 3 2014 TIGR RF military vehicle rammed into the trolleybus with passengers. According to the Crimean mass media information, three trolleybus passengers sitting on the rear seats were injured in the accident.¹²

On July 23 2016 two car passengers were killed in the collision of FORD FOCUS car and RF Armed Forces APC. The traffic accident happened not far from Tabachnoye Village, Bakhchisarai District, Crimea. As the local traffic police and Russian military men stated, it was a Ford car driver who caused the accident.¹³

¹⁰ Publication: SHTORM Small Size Missile Ship Has Been Keel Laid at MORE Plant in Feodosiya on 10 May. — URL: http://kafanews.com/novosti/117822/v-feodosii-na-zavode-more-10-maya-zaloshili-mally-raketnyy-korabl-shtorm_2016-05-10

¹¹ Publication: Russia Transforms Kerch Peninsula in Anthropogenic Catastrophe Area — Environmental Experts — URL: <https://hromadskeradio.org/news/2016/10/12/rosiya-peretvoryuye-kerchenskiy-pivostriv-na-zonu-tehnogennogo-lyha-ekology>

¹² Publication Man Being Cutting Off Trolleybus Russian Armored Vehicle Rammed Into — URL: <http://crimea.comments.ua/news/2014/04/04/112800.html>

¹³ Publication RTA at Nikolayevka. 23 July: Car Ran Under APC — URL: <http://crimeapress.info/dtp-pod-nikolaevkoy-23-iyulya-legkovushka-vehala-pod-btr/#hcq=c9qcNcq>



TRA with RF Armed Forces APC in Crimea that caused the death of two peaceful residents, 23 July 2016.
©URL: <http://crimeapress.info/>

Captain Viacheslav Trukhachiov, head of Black Sea Navy information support unit, stated in the mass media that the military convoy was directing to the training area. According to his information, the civil car driver lost control and crossed into the oncoming lane where collided with APC80.

As a social network user called herself the car driver's sister informed, two passengers died at the accident place, while the driver and her little child, severely injured, were transported to the hospital.

The road traffic accidents occur in Crimea, with involvement of the RF military machines and civil private transport. In the course of monitoring period, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded five such RTAs. In addition, traffic on the Crimean cities and towns streets were blocked sometimes for military convoy movements.

The actions of the military cause other challenges for civilians, too. For instance, RF checkpoints at the administrative border with Crimea stopped checking vehicles and passengers early in the morning on August 7, 2016. The State Border Service of Ukraine informed that due to this reason passing from the mainland Ukraine to the territory of Crimea via KALANCHAK, CHAPLYNKA and CHONGAR checkpoints was stopped, too. The witnesses reported that the Russian military men took the RF checkpoints from the Crimean side under the control and made customs staff leave the checkpoint territory. The traffic was restarted at about 11.30am, but only via CHONGAR Checkpoint. At about 2.30pm the traffic was restarted at the Russian checkpoints via Kalanchak and Chaplynka, too, but only for passengers and vehicles going to Crimea.

The passage via Russian checkpoints was restarted in full on August 9, after noon. People passed with a rigorous inspection of all private belongings, luggage and hand luggage. Apart from this, on August 7 Kerch residents informed about a great number of military machines arrived by ferry line and directed to the Crimean hinterland. The military equipment ferrying caused a temporary restriction of the passage of other transport and passengers.¹⁴

MURDERS OF UKRAINIAN MILITARY MEN

On March 18 2014 when Photogrammetric Center No 13 of the Ukrainian Armed Forces was being attacked in Simferopol, subofficer Sergey Kokurin, a Ukrainian military man, was killed¹⁵ and senior lieutenant Vitaliy Fedun was wounded. According to the information of the event witness, Vladislav Selesnev, head of Crimean Regional Media Centre of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, pro-Russian paramilitary units controlled by the RF security services, encircled the military base and did not allow

¹⁴ Information of the CHRG review for August 2016 — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Crimean-Human-Rights-Group_August_2016_RU.pdf

¹⁵ Information of murder of S.Kokurin in PENINSULA OF FEAR publication, pp. 61-62 http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PeninsulaFear_Book_v13_Preview.pdf



the ambulance that arrived to the incident place, to get inside. Mr Selesnev stated that when the armed people appeared on the territory of the base they started firing disorderly, though subofficer Kokurin and senior lieutenant Fedun were aimed fired from an automatic gun¹⁶.

On April 6 2014 Stanislav Karachevsky, Ukrainian Navy major, was killed with two AK47 shots. The murder took place in the corridor of family hostel No 3, Marchenko Street, Novofedorovka Settlement, Saki District.¹⁷

The human rights experts consider the murder investigation to have been ineffective, and the trial to have been prejudiced.

Major Stanislav Karachevsky was killed in the hostel where the Ukrainian military staff of Saki Base stayed before departure to the mainland Ukraine. Evgeniy Zaytsev, Russian Armed Forces junior sergeant, was accused of killing, and on March 12 2015, the Crimean Garrison Military Court chaired by Mr R.A.Zubairov, convicted Yevgeniy Zaytsev for murder in excess of measures for detaining the person who had committed a crime (RF CC, Article 108.2), with a two-year's imprisonment sentence to be served in the penal settlement.

According to the defense opinion, witness statements were selectively presented in the records to show that Major Karachevsky was 'a criminal who attacked the RF Armed Forces checkpoint', while Sergeant Zaytsev acted to detain him. The court disregarded the fact that this happened in the context of conflict between the Ukrainian and Russian military men. The armed Russian military men were chasing the Ukrainian military men who had no weapon and tried to shelter in their residence place. Moreover, the case files presented in the sentence, as the defense states, indicate that the chasers intended not just to detain 'infringers' but — on the contrary — to inflict maximum physical harm to unarmed Ukrainian military men. In particular, witness testimony of Mr Khanmirzayev and expert's opinion of 19 May 2014 state that Stanislav Karachevsky did not die on the spot. He was dying for several minutes but none of the chasers tried to offer him medical aid.

Other Russian military men who had participated in chasing were named witnesses in the case. Their role and responsibility level were not defined either by investigation or by court. The court qualified actions of sergeant Zaytsev by RF CC Article 108.2, 'murder in excess of measures for detaining the person who had committed a crime' and considered arguments and evidence that this had been the murder performed by a group of people or due to hatred or enmity, insufficient. In the defense's view, such qualification helped give a minimal sentence to sergeant Zaytsev, while other Russian military men escaped responsibility. The victim was presented as public order infringer. A detailed information about this case can be found in the CFM review for April 2015¹⁸.

ILLEGAL EXPROPRIATION OF DWELLING FROM THE UKRAINIAN MILITARY MEN

In November 2014 representatives of the Crimean authorities de facto and the RF Ministry of Defense occupied illegally rent-free apartments of Ukrainian Navy officers who had to leave Crimea in March 2014, two in Simferopol and two in Sevastopol. The apartment locks were broken and the entrance doors were opened. Then, violating severely the property rights, the Russian officers moved into these apartments. The RF Ministry of Defense representatives informed the Ukrainian officers — through the neighbors — that they had to take all their stuff from the apartments before December 1 2014. They justified their actions and decisions by the decision of the RF Ministry of Defense to

¹⁶ Interview of CHRG experts with Mr V.Seleznev <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9juwLSSkUrY&t=148s>

¹⁷ Information of CFM for November 2014 — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Crimea_Field_Mission_Report_November_2014_RU.pdf

¹⁸ Information from the CFM Review for April 2015. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Crimea_Field_Mission_Review_April_2015_RU.pdf



accommodate the Russian military men in the apartments owned by the Ukrainian officers. In addition to these cases, the demand on moving out from the owned apartments was received by some other Ukrainian military men. Such actions of RF authorities constitute a violation of ban on unjustified and arbitrary interference with somebody's house that commits the authorities not only to respect for the home, but also to take actions on defending these rights.¹⁹

PARTICIPATION OF THE RF AF IN MILITARIZING THE PUBLIC LIFE AND ORGANIZING CONSCRIPTION INTO THE ARMY

Article 51, Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, 'Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War' states that the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. No pressure or propaganda which aims at securing voluntary enlistment is permitted.²⁰

Disrespecting the international commitments, Russia calls up into the mandatory military services in the RF Armed Forces on the territory of peninsula. On March 30 2015 Mr Vladimir Putin, RF President, signed Federal Law of Russian Federation 'On peculiarities of regulating legally relations associated with exercising the national service obligations by certain categories of Russian Federation citizens due to accepting the Republic of Crimea into the Russian Federation and establishing new subjects — Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol Federal Significance City in the composition of Russian Federation and amending Federal Law 'On national service obligations and military service' that was adopted by State Council (GOSDUMA) on March 20 and agreed by Council of Federation on March 25.²¹ Pursuant to this law, a mandatory call into the RF army is held in Crimea on annual basis, in spring and in autumn.

In autumn of 2015 over 1000 persons were sent from Crimea and Sevastopol to do the military services upon the conscription to the RF Armed Forces.²²

Upon the statement of Mr Igor Mikhaylichenko, deputy Chairman of 'Council of Ministers' of Crimea, since the occupation start till January 2017 four conscriptions were held, with over 4,000 Crimeans drafted into the Southern Military Area troops and the Russian Guard.²³

The Crimeans called into the RF AF in 2015 – 2016 have been serving in the RF Armed Forces on the territory of Crimea. But since spring of 2017 they have started doing the military



Sending Crimean draftees to the RF territory to serve beyond the Crimea borders. Sevastopol, 25 May 2017.

©URL: <http://sevastopol.su/>

¹⁹ Information from the CFM Review for January 2015. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Crimea_field_mission_report_January_2015_RU.pdf

²⁰ Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949. — URL: http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/geneva_civilian_33.shtml

²¹ Federal Law on calling the Crimeans to the RF Army — URL: <http://pravo.gov.ru/proxy/ips/?docbody=&firstDoc=1&lastDoc=1&nd=102369770>

²² Publication: Thousand Persons from Crimea Called into the Russian Army — URL: <http://www.mk.ru/politics/2016/01/03/v-armiyu-rossii-prizvali-tysyachu-chelovek-iz-kryma.html>

²³ Publication Crimean Draftees To Serve All Over the Country — URL: <http://tass.ru/armiya-i-opk/3932605>



Mobile Station for Contracting to the RF AF
in Sevastopol, 19 July 2015.
©URL: <http://strajj.livejournal.com/>



services on the RF territory. Mr Anatoliy Maloletko, 'Military Commissar' of Crimea, said that a criminal case had been opened against one of the Crimeans due to evading the draft to the Russian Army.²⁴

According to RIA KRYM information, over 4,000 Crimeans were contracted to the RF Armed Forces for the Crimea occupation period²⁵.

Within the drafting campaign of April 1 — July 15 2015, 2,400 residents of the peninsula are planned to be called into the RF AF, with 28 among them to be sent to the RF territory to do military service²⁶. The service in the RF army including the contract one, is widely advertised on the territory of peninsula. For this propaganda purpose, the RF Ministry of Defense holds military equipment exhibitions in Crimea.

For instance, on July 17 2015 two events were held in Kerch to promote the service in the army. The military equipment was exhibited on the square in front of Shipbuilders' Palace to attract to the contracted service in the Southern Military area²⁷, while in the City Palace of Culture the military delivered a special concert to advertise the services in the RF Armed Forces.²⁸ The same action was held on July 19 of the same year in the center of Sevastopol.²⁹

In addition, representatives of military commissariats deliver dedicated classes for the children aimed at preparing to the military service. For instance, on February 15 2016 the Yalta Town Military Commissariat participated in the military patriotic classes in the Livadia educational orphanage as reported at the Crimean 'Government' website. The service in the RF army was promoted on such lessons. The same day the senior pupils met with the military patriotic organizations of the town including STANITSA DONSKAYA Regional Kazak Association, local branch of Russian DOSAAF, Yalta Federation of Army Hand to Hand Fighting (AHF) as well as branch of 'Military Commissariat' of Republic of Crimea for Yalta Town'.³⁰

In addition, the RF military men participate in various children's events promoting the service in the Russian army. For instance, a festival dedicated to the Day of Fatherland's Defender was held

²⁴ Information from the CHRG review for October 2016. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Crimean-Human-Rights-Group_October_2016_RU.pdf

²⁵ Publication About 4 Thousand People Contracted for Military Service in Crimea — URL: <http://crimea.ria.ru/society/20170214/1109123060.html>

²⁶ Publication 'Spring Conscription of 2017: Only 28 Crimeans and Sevastopolers To Be Sent for Service to the Mainland — URL: <https://www.crimea.kp.ru/daily/26664.5/3686025/?see-also.number=153#see-also>

²⁷ Photo Report. Exhibition of Military Equipment in Kerch. — URL: <http://kerch.biz/obschestvo/20877-vystavka-voennoy-tehniki-v-kerchi-foto.html>

²⁸ Publication Military Men Advertising the Contracted Service Refused Telling the Newsperson About It — URL: <http://kerch.fm/2015/07/18/voennye-reklamiruyuschie-sluzhbu-po-kontraktu-otkazalis-rasskazat-o-ney-korrespondentu.html>

²⁹ Publication 'Exhibition of Black Sea Navy Armament in Sevastopol. — URL: <http://sevastopol-24.ru/novosti/novosti-sevastopolja-vystavka-vooruzhenija-chernomorskogo-flota-v-sevastopole.html>

³⁰ Information: Military Patriotic Lessons in Livadia Educational Orphanage — URL: <http://yalta.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/329417.htm>



RF military men at the matinee in the Nursery School No 28 in Kerch, February 2017.
©URL: <http://kerch.fm/>

in ORLIONOK Nursery School No 28 on February 23, 2017. Soldiers of Military Unit No 98546 of RF Armed Forces were invited to the celebrations to the nursery school.³¹

The ZVEZDA, RF Armed Forces TV Channel funded out of the RF budget, regularly televises videos of war games, parades and military equipment exhibitions shot in Crimea, including various heavy equipment and the latest anti-aircraft missile systems. Other mass media also communicate constantly such events to the Crimean residents that helps the RF authorities to advertise more efficiently the service in the RF Armed Forces and to incline the residents of the occupied territory of Ukraine to do this.

ACTIONS OF PARAMILITARY UNITS

The paramilitary units of Crimea that participated in the occupation have kept on their activities after the illegitimate establishment of the RF power in Crimea. The authorities de facto position them as assistants to the law enforcement agencies in the peninsula. However, a lot of their actions including the weapon possession, feature elements of criminal and military offences.

The danger of such paramilitary units is not only because they are endowed with the powers of law enforcement bodies and are regularly involved in the military actions that often cause gross human rights violations but also because the Crimean authorities provide them with comfortable conditions of existence: creation of culture of impunity, promotion of their activities, development of positive image, funding of such organizations. The mass media and information received from the local people (complaints and messages of the Crimean residents) describe the paramilitary unit members now and then as organizers or actors of abducting and persecuting the activists, attacking the journalists and churches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate, obstructing the peaceful assemblies, searching the mosques, madrasas, houses of Crimean Tatar leaders, seizing commercial private and collective assets. Despite the reports on the crimes performed by the Crimean paramilitary units, their members have not been brought to justice yet.

TYPES OF PARAMILITARY (MILITIA) UNITS IN CRIMEA

The term 'paramilitary unit' used in the report means 'a public association of military or semi-military nature that is not officially a part of the national armed forces'. Since the occupation of Crimea several types of such units have been active on the territory of peninsula, with most numerous being 'Volunteer Corps of Crimea' and 'Kazak Societies' (the Kazaks).

³¹ Publication Soldiers Invited to Nursery School Matinee in Kerch — URL: <http://kerch.fm/2017/02/23/v-kerchi-na-utrennik-v-detskiy-sad-priglasili-soldat.html>



1st company of the 'People's Volunteer Army of Crimea' at Awarding Ceremony for Contribution to Occupation, Simferopol, 13 April 2014.
©URL: <http://www.kianews.com.ua/>



PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE OF CRIMEA

'People's self-defense of Crimea' as organized institution was established in February 2014. The RF army used 'people's self-defense members' to assist in occupying Crimea. The unit members called themselves 'militia men', 'Crimean volunteer corps', 'people's volunteer army', 'Crimean self-defense', 'People's self-defense of Crimea'. Since the occupation start, this unit has got a structure similar to the military one, well institutionalized commandment and subordination. The unit 'soldiers' are regularly awarded by the local authorities for the contribution into the occupation.

For instance, on April 13 2014 the military personnel of the 'Combined Volunteer Corps Regiment' was awarded in Simferopol. According to the KIA information, Sergey Aksenov, 'Head of RC Council of Ministers' and Vladimir Konstantinov, 'Chairman of RC State Council', gave 'For Defense of Crimea — 2014' medal to 1,375 volunteer corps soldiers.³²

During this event the 'People's Volunteer Army of Crimea' elected Mr Sergey Aksenov their honorable chairman and presented him with the badge 'For Participation in Heroic Defense of Crimea in February — March 2014'.

On June 11 2014 law 'On People's Volunteer Army — Militia of Republic of Crimea'³³ was adopted at the session of the 'State Council of Republic of Crimea' that made 'the Crimean Self-defense' subordinate to Mr S.Aksenov, Head of Crimea, and the Council of Ministers of Crimea. The members of the paramilitary unit were assigned the militiamen status. The head of headquarters, as the law states, shall be appointed by the Head of Republic of Crimea. The law established the 'Crimean Head Quarters of People's Volunteer Army — Militia of Republic of Crimea' which composition was defined by the Council of Ministers and which, in fact, became a part of enforcement structure. The HQ were assigned the status of legal entity (state governmental agency) to be funded from the budget. However, such direct dependence of the volunteer corps on the Crimean authorities (Mr S.Aksenov and Council of Ministers) contradicted RF laws, namely, FZ no 82 of 19 May 1995 'On non-governmental associations' and FZ no 44 of 2 April 2014 'On involvement of citizens into the public order enforcement'.

Therefore, on 26 November 2014 the Crimean authorities amended Law 'On People's Volunteer Army — Militia of Republic of Crimea' so that now commanders elected by the militia members should control the volunteer corps instead of the Council of Ministers. Nevertheless, the election of commanders shall be subject to 'no-objection' of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Crimea and a

³² Publication 'Self-Defense Soldiers Awarded with Medals in Simferopol — URL: <http://www.kianews.com.ua/news/v-simferopole-medalyami-nagradili-boycov-samooborony>

³³ law 'On People's Volunteer Army — Militia of Republic of Crimea' <https://rg.ru/2014/07/09/krim-zakon22-reg-dok.html>



territorial body of the federal executive body for internal affairs. The volunteer corps structure when amendments have been enacted shall be established by the Volunteer Corps Charter instead of the Council of Ministers.

In reality the 'Crimean Self Defense' presented now as the 'Volunteer Corps' is still subordinate to Mr Aksenov. When speaking directly, the self-defense personnel constantly points out that they execute instructions or orders of the Head of Crimea. These amendments provided formally the volunteer corps with the status of non-governmental association. Nevertheless, the volunteer corps information department declared that the 'Crimean Republican Volunteer Corps — Militia of Republic of Crimea Head Quarters' represented by Mr S.A.Turchanenko preserved a status of governmental agency that was verified by Instructive Order of Mr G.S.Bakharev, head of Simferopol administration, of December 15 2014³⁴

On October 2 2014 the Crimean authorities made an attempt to grant amnesty to "Crimean Self-Defense' members. The RF GOSDUMA registered Bill No 613379-6 'On amending the Federal Constitution Law of 21 March 2014 No 6-FKZ 'On accepting the Republic of Crimea into the Russian Federation and establishing new subjects within the Russian Federation — Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City' (on regulative documents of the governmental bodies of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City)' initiated by Mr S.Aksenov. The bill suggested to give an absolute discharge to the 'Crimean Self-Defense' members for crimes performed from 27 February 2014 to 1 January 2015. The bill showed an intention of the authorities de facto to free the 'Crimean Self-Defense' members from the criminal responsibility not only for the crimes performed but even for those that might be performed by 1 January 2015. Though the bill was not adopted by the RF GOSDUMA this demonstrated a support of illegitimate actions of the 'Crimean Self-Defense' by the Crimean authorities.

Approving the 'Crimean Self-Defense' actions that became a budget funded institution — 'Crimean Republican Volunteer Corps — Militia of Republic of Crimea Head Quarters' — is confirmed by certificates of acknowledgement granted constantly to this institution 'fighters' by Mr S.Aksenov, Head of Crimea.³⁵

On October 19 2016 the 'State Council of Republic of Crimea' adopted law 'On certain issues of engaging citizens in the public order protection in the Republic of Crimea'.³⁶ The law excluded exercising the state functions in terms of actions on protection of property and public order, counteractions against terrorism and extremism, crime fighting from the functions of the Crimean Republican Volunteer Corps — Militia of Republic of Crimea Head Quarters.

Nevertheless, the Armiansk Volunteer Corps Branch included its participation in the INTERCEPTION Plan implemented together with State Road Traffic Police department on December 4 2016, in its report for 2016.³⁷

The official, financial, information, logistics support provided by the Crimean authorities to the paramilitary unit — 'Volunteer Corps — Militia' ('Crimean Self-Defense) and actual decriminalization of all its members for the crimes performed has resulted into an establishment of the armed group that violates regularly the human rights in Crimea.

³⁴ Instructive Order of Mr G.Bakharev, Head of Simferopol Administration 'On organizing a pedestrian area in the Simferopol City' of 15 December 2014— URL: http://simadm.ru/media/acts/2015/02/05/5-%D1%80-%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%88%D0%B5%D1%85_%D0%B7%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf

³⁵ Information from the CFM review for December 2014. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Crimea_Field_Mission_Review_December_2014_RU.pdf

³⁶ Law of 'Crimean authorities' on amending the volunteer corps activities — URL: <http://www.crimea.gov.ru/textdoc/ru/7/act/22z.pdf>

³⁷ Report on activities of the Armiansk Volunteer Corps Branch for 2016. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/otchet-37.html>



The ‘Crimean Self-Defense’ members have been involved into the most gross violations of human rights including abduction and murder of Reshat Ametov, abduction and torturing of more than 20 Ukrainian activists (including Andrey Schekun, Anatoliy Koval’sky, Vasiliy Chernysh, Timur Shaymardanov, Seyran Zinedinov, Isliam Dzhapparov, Dzhevdet Isliamov, et al.), attacks on the journalists, seizure of the assets. However, none of them was taken to court.

KAZAKS

A lot of organizations and associations called themselves ‘KAZAKs’ (Russian for the Cossacks) are active in Crimea. All these associations have a structure close to the military one, wear ‘Kazak’ uniform similar to the military one, have their military grades, awards, symbols. Some Kazaks always appear with side arms — ‘sabers’.

Some Kazak units were active in Crimea before the occupation, with many organizations and associations being explicitly pro-Russian. The Kazak organizations and associations of Crimea did not have one common leader and common control. The pro-military structure was observed by the organizations only internally. They were independent in choosing their uniforms and approving their grades and awards.

In February – March of 2014 these organizations supported the ‘Crimean Self-Defense’ and the RF troops in occupying Crimea. Since April 2014, new Kazak organizations have appeared in Crimea including branches of the Russian Kazak organizations. When the Russian power was established de facto in Crimea, the introduction of RF laws regulating the status of Kazakdom, in particular FZ no 154 of 5 December 2005 ‘On state service of the Russian Kazaks’, started³⁸

Nowadays part of Kazak organizations on the territory of peninsula is registered and acts in line with this law. However, some of these Kazak organizations call themselves ‘free’ Kazaks and act as individual paramilitary units.

On March 23 1915 Ordinance of ‘Head’ of Crimea ‘On approving the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy for Russian Federation Governmental Policy Development regarding Russian Kazaks up to 2020 on the territory of Republic of Crimea’ was adopted.³⁹

On December 21 2015 Resolution on approving the State Program ‘Development of Russian Kazaks in Sevastopol City for 2015 — 2020’ was approved. According to this program, a number of settlements are to be developed as Kazak habitats (stanitsa) where private households will be completely arranged for their dwelling.⁴⁰

On January 25 2016 Sergey Meniaylo, ‘Governor’ of Sevastopol, approved the Charter of the Sevastopol Kazak Area, a local Kazak association.⁴¹ The charter enlists



Crimean Kazaks with sabers during the celebration of the Crimea occupation anniversary. Lenino Settlement, 16 March 2015.
©URL: <http://lenino.rk.gov.ru/>

³⁸ RF Law on state service of the Kazaks. — URL: <https://rg.ru/2005/12/08/kazachestvo.html>

³⁹ Ordinance on implementing the RF Kazak strategy in Crimea — URL: http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_242187.pdf

⁴⁰ State Program for development of Kazaks in Sevastopol. — URL: <https://sevizakon.ru/assets/files/pdf/kazachestvo.pdf>

⁴¹ Decree on approving the Charter of Sevastopol Kazak Area — URL: <https://sevastopol.gov.ru/docs/257/18217/index.php>



major organization activities: 1) to assist with holding events on military patriotic education of draftees, their training to the military service and out-of-army training of Kazak reserved associations; 2) to support timely conscription of Kazaks, participation in the reserved training and mobilization; 3) to organize and hold events on military patriotic education of the young people, to create Kazak cadet classes; to communicate the Kazak ideas. The similar functions are performed by most Kazak organizations and associations on the peninsula.

According to the information published on September 30 2016 at Sevastopol 'government' website, there are 11 Kazak societies in the city including 4 that are enlisted in the RF State Kazak Society Register. The Sevastopol 'government' website states that over 1300 Sevastopol Kazaks were engaged in public order protection together with police officers in 2016.⁴²

As at November 3 2015 5 charters of new Kazak societies were registered only in Yalta that was recorded in the yearly report of Yalta Administration 'head'.⁴³

Since November 10 2015, in the framework of the Agreement of the Department for Education, Yalta town Administration and STANITSA DONSKAYA Local Kazak Society, the territory of the educational establishments of Yalta have been raided to prevent law violations and to protect the public order.

'For instance, on 10 November the Kazaks inspected territories of secondary schools NoNo 9, 10, and 11 as well as the area adjoining directly the territories of these educational establishments, the Crimea 'Government' website reports.⁴⁴

OTHER PARAMILITARY UNITS

A number of military patriotic organizations and associations are acting now in Crimea which members have their own structure, wear military uniform, try to substitute law enforcement agencies and propagandize conscription into the army. These organizations are composed of former participants of various military actions, veterans of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies. Sometimes they unite with the volunteer corps and the Kazaks to 'protect the public order'.

For instance, on April 25 2016 Mr Oleg Daperko, chairman of Bakhchisarai Town Council, addressed the members of the Bakhchisarai District Branch of the BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO Crimean Republican Union (combat brotherhood) with a request to participate in the protection of public order in the town. According to the 'Government of Crimea' website, the Bakhchisarai District Branch of the BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO Union unites, as the agreement signed with Mr Sergey Aksionov, head of Republic of Crimea, states, all veteran organizations which members are participants of military actions of various wars and local conflicts. 'In particular, veterans of the Great Patriotic war, internationalist warriors (participants of the USSR invasion into Afghanistan), paratroopers, border guards, participants of local conflicts on the territory of Russia are united under the umbrella of 'BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO' in Bakhchisarai. The association includes also the Kazaks and the volunteer corps. The BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO only in the Bakhchisarai District numbers 450 people. The youngest military action participant that has just returned from Syria is 21 years old', the information states.⁴⁵

In Simferopol on January 18 2017 a number of non-governmental military patriotic organizations signed an agreement on cooperation and interaction for the public order protection. Apart from the volunteer corps, the united militia included representatives of the Crimean Area Kazak Society, Simferopol

⁴² Publication: 'Government of City Supports Development of Sevastopol Kazak Area. — URL: <https://sevastopol.gov.ru/info/news/32341/>

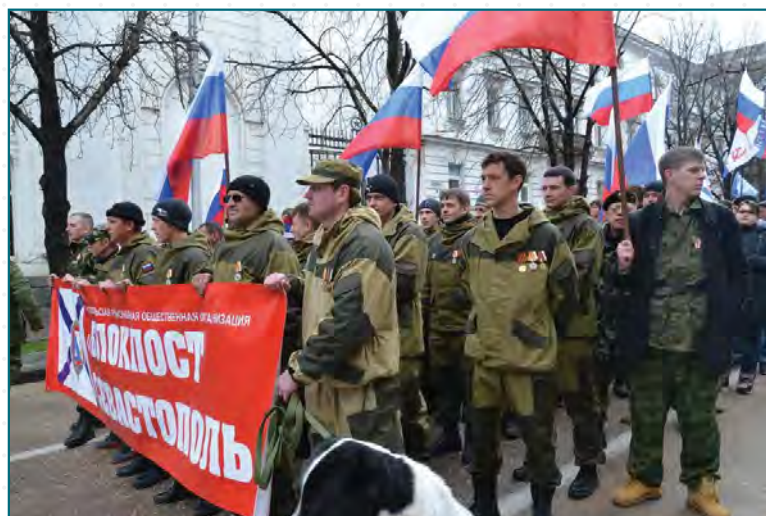
⁴³ Yearly Report of Yalta 'Authorities'. — URL: http://yalta.rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_265929.pdf

⁴⁴ Information on the cooperation of Yalta 'authorities' with the Kazaks/ — URL: <http://yalta.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/320645.htm>

⁴⁵ Information on the cooperation of Bakhchisarai 'authorities' with BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO. — URL: <http://bahchisaray.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/334210.htm>



Representatives of the BLOKPOST SEVASTOPOL Organization at the rally on the anniversary of the occupation of Crimea, 18 March 2015.
©URL: <http://blokpostsevastopol.ru/>



organization of 'Veterans of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Internal Troops of the Russia for RoC', 'United Crimean Union of Veterans of Afghanistan and Other Local Wars — Internationalist Warriors'. The militia staff will patrol the streets wearing their organizations' uniforms as well as having special arm bands and identification documents authorizing to protect the public order. As the document states, the militia may suppress law violations and crimes, detain violators and transport them to the police. Patrolling itself may be performed without the presence of police, since the militia staff will patrol in line with the plan approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and in the permanent contact with the policy unit on duty.⁴⁶

In Sevastopol the commanders who established checkpoints at the entrances to the city during the occupation of Crimea, became founders of the Sevastopol Regional Organization for Promoting Enforcement of the Legal Order and Security — 'BLOKPOST SEVASTOPOL' (Sevastopol checkpoint). The organization was officially registered on September 8 2014. The statutory documents are published on the organization's website⁴⁷. The charter states that one of the major organization's objectives is to contribute to improving the military service prestige.

In addition, the paramilitary association 'Association of Sevastopol Self Defense Organizations' that is involved in the public order protection in the city, acts in Sevastopol.⁴⁸

FUNDING OF PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

In December 2014 the budget funding of the 'People's self-defense' was approved. The labor remuneration system for this corps staff is established by the dedicated resolution of the 'Council of Ministers' of Crimea. According to the information of the 'Government of Crimea' website, RUR258mln were allocated from the local budget for the corps staff salaries in 2015.⁴⁹

On September 25 2014 the local authorities granted the 'People's self-defense' with several premises in Simferopol, Yevpatoria, and Dzhankoy as well as transferred a garrison town free of charge. This decision was taken at the government session.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Publication 'Self-Defense Militia Established in Crimea to Monitor the Order' (Photo). — URL: <https://kianews24.ru/news/v-krimu-sozdayut-narodnie-druzhini-koto/>

⁴⁷ Statutory documents of BLOKPOST SEVASTOPOL Organization. — URL:

⁴⁸ Information of Sevastopol 'authorities' on attracting the self-defense to patrol the city. — URL: <https://sevastopol.gov.ru/info/news/16381/>

⁴⁹ Resolution of 'RoC Council of Ministers' on volunteer corps staff salaries. — URL: http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_236751.pdf

⁵⁰ Publication 'Council of Ministers of Crimea Gave Office in Center of Simferopol and Garrison Town to Volunteer Corps'. — URL: <http://www.c-inform.info/news/id/12721>



In addition, the volunteer corps staff received their own uniform, equipment, buildings, vehicles and military machines.

For instance, on March 31 2015 the ‘Council of Ministers’ of Crimea handed over three armored personal carriers, a lot of trucks, off-roaders and other road vehicles to ‘the volunteer corps’. The ordinance on the vehicles hand-over was published at the Crimean ‘government’ website.⁵¹

On September 7 2015 the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps’ of Crimea invited tender offers for repairs of its headquarters in 26 Kirova Street, Simferopol, for an amount of RUR8,836,141.00.⁵²

A part of tender documents on funding the ‘People’s self-defense of Crimea’ is published at this unit’s website. For instance, the website informs that on September 22 2016 ‘the People’s Volunteer Corps’ put out to tender repairs of roofs on two garrison town buildings, address: 46a Inge Street, Simferopol, to an amount of RUR6,817,390.00. The works funding source was the local budget of Crimea.⁵³ The website published also a call for tender offers for supervision services regarding these facilities to an amount of RUR143,627.00.⁵⁴ A notice that the tender for procurement of winter special clothes for the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps’ to an amount of RUR218,030.00 was announced on December 1 2016, was also published at this website.⁵⁵

The Kazaks in Crimea are also funded out of the Budget. On December 12 2015 the ‘government’ of Sevastopol approved a program for local Kazak development up to 2020, that assigned RUR88mln for the Kazak support.⁵⁶

On December 28 2015 upon the initiative of Mr Aleksey Chalyi, that time’s Chairman of ‘Legislative Assembly, the members of the Assembly excluded a clause on allocating RUR15mln for implementing the State Program ‘Development of Russian Kazaks in Sevastopol for 2015 — 2020’ from the draft Law ‘On Budget of Sevastopol for 2016’.

KRYMINFORM Agency reported that ‘by decision of Government of Sevastopol RUR195thou were allocated from the City Reserve Fund for Kazak communities on September 8 2016. The money was allocated to pay for services on the public order protection during the bike show held at Gasfort Mount on August 12-13’.⁵⁷

On November 23 2016 the Sevastopol ‘authorities’ informed that RUR37mln would be assigned for the development of local Kazaks. This was confirmed by Mr Andrey Perla, director of public communication department, on presenting the State Program for Civic Society Development for 2017 – 2020.⁵⁸

Resolution of Sevastopol ‘government’ No 1130PP of 23 November 2016 ‘On approving the State Program ‘Development of Civic Society and Establishment of Conditions for Public Consent in City of Sevastopol for 2017 — 2020’ indicates the ‘development of Russian Kazaks’ as its subprogram.⁵⁹

⁵¹ Ordinance of ‘RoC CM’ on transferring military and freight machines. — URL: http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_242586.pdf

⁵² Publication: Crimea Self-Defense HQ To Be Repaired for 8.8mln from Republican Budget. — URL: <http://investigator.org.ua/news/163193/>

⁵³ Tender Documents on Garrison Town Roof Repairs. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ob'yavlenie-1.pdf>

⁵⁴ Tender Documents for Facility Supervision. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ob'yavlenie.pdf>

⁵⁵ Tender for Procurement of Clothes for volunteer corps staff. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/file1.pdf>

⁵⁶ Resolution of ‘government’ of Sevastopol on development of Kazaks for 2015 — 2020. — URL: http://sev.gov.ru/files/iblock/47a/1255_pp.pdf

⁵⁷ Publication on allocating RUR195mln for volunteer corps staff. — URL: <http://www.c-inform.info/news/id/42838>

⁵⁸ Publication ‘Sevastopol Authorities To Allocate RUR37mln for Local Kazak Development’. — URL: <http://news.allcrimea.net/news/2016/11/24/sevastopolskie-vlasti-napravyat-37-mln-rublei-na-razvitie-mestnogo-kazachestva-70404/>

⁵⁹ Resolution of Sevastopol ‘authorities’ on approving the civil society development program. — URL: <https://sevastopol.gov.ru/docs/253/29441/index.php>



The 'Development of Russian Kazaks' subprogram passport published at the Sevastopol 'government' website informs that the total amount of this program funding will reach RUR8.5mln in 2017 and the funds will be allocated from the Sevastopol City budget.⁶⁰

The municipal program for implementing the 'Strategy for Russian Federation Governmental Policy Development regarding the Russian Kazaks up to 2020' for 2016 — 2018 in Yalta was approved on June 14 2016. The total funding amount for this program within three years would be RUR23,016,400.00, with RUR10,454,200.00 allocated for 2016.⁶¹ The draft budget of Yalta allocated RUR3,580,000.00 for this program implementation for 2017.⁶²

ILLEGITIMATE ACTIONS OF PARAMILITARY UNIT REPRESENTATIVES

Fighters of Crimean Self-Defense who started called themselves later 'people's volunteer corps' or 'people's militia' are reasonably suspected in enforced disappearances of people, repeated attacks on journalists and activists and seizure of property assets.

Violent deaths related to the paramilitary unit actions are recorded, too. These actions were particularly active in March of 2014, during the RF military invasion into Crimea.

Mr Reshat Ametov was abducted by the 'Crimean Self-Defense' members on March 3 2014 in the center of Simferopol during one-person picket against the occupation of Crimea by Russia, that was video recorded⁶³. After abduction his body, inhumanly tortured, was found in the village of Zemlianichnoye, Belogorsk District, and the penetrating cut and stab wound of eye by sharp subject was recognized the death reason. The Investigation Committee of the Criminal Investigations Office of Russia for Crimea initiated a criminal case, RF CC, Article 105.1 — 'homicide', but then the case for homicide was suspended. The members of 'Crimean Self-Defense' involved into the abduction of Ametov have been identified, but being presented as witnesses they are not sued.

Since April 2014 the criminal actions of the paramilitary unit groups have continued. These facts are recorded in monthly reviews of the Crimean Human Rights Group.⁶⁴ Just a few of them when the Crimean self-defense detachments, volunteer corps, Kazaks participate in various attacks on the local residents, activists and journalists, are mentioned below.

On May 18 2014 the 'Crimean Self-Defense' detained Mr Osman Pashayev, a Crimean Tatar journalist, Mr Dzhengiz Kyzgyn, a Turkish camera man, and other mass media people (3 persons). Several hours they were illegally detained in the Crimean Self-Defense HQ (26 Kirova Ave.), subject to psychological and physical pressure, and then transported to the Tsentralny District Police Office. The detained were released in 10 hours without making detention protocols, but the equipment and other belongings for to a total amount of about UAH70,000.00 were stolen.

On May 18 representatives of the 'Crimean Self-defense' demanded a journalist of DOZHD Russian TV Channel, who was taking video on the central square of Simferopol City, to delete the record. The journalist, though resigned to their demands, was enforcedly transported to the 'Crimean Self-Defense' HQ where he was subject to physical abuse while his recording equipment was damaged. The journalist was released after the illegal detention and unjustified interrogation.⁶⁵

⁶⁰ Information on allocating funds to the Kazaks in the Sevastopol 'government' resolution, (resolution, p.56) — URL: <https://sevastopol.gov.ru/docs/253/29441/index.php>

⁶¹ Resolution on Kazak development in Yalta for 2016 – 2018. — URL: http://yalta.rk.gov.ru/rus/file/strategiya_razvitiya_gosudarstvennoy_politiki_rossiyskoy_federatsii_v_otnoshenii_rossiyskogo_kazachestva_v_munitsipalnom_obrazovanii_yalta_2016_2018.pdf

⁶² Draft budget of Yalta for 2016. — URL: http://yalta.rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_318320.pdf

⁶³ Video of abducting Reshat Ametov on 3 March 2014. — URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gwhzl7dbj0>

⁶⁴ Reviews of the Crimean Human Rights Group for 2014 — 2017. — URL: <http://crimeahrg.org/category/monitor/>

⁶⁵ CFM Review for May 2014. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/crimea_field_mission_report_May_2014_RUS.pdf



On March 14 2015 Ukrainian activists Mr Leonid Kuzmich and Mr Aleksandr Kravchenko were detained by the 'Crimean Self-Defense' representatives at the monument to Taras Shevchenko in Simferopol, when they were interviewed by a Polish journalist. The attack was caused by yellow and blue ribbons that Mr Kravchenko had. The mass media representatives called the police that brought the activists and Mr Tomasz Kulakovsky, the Polish journalist of Polsat News channel, to the Tsentralny District Police Office, but did not take any actions to detain the 'self-defense' representatives. Then Mr Kuzmin and Mr Kravchenko were transferred to the Counter Extremism Center, on March 14.⁶⁶

On December 13 2016 members of 'Crimean Volunteer Corps' in the town of Schelkino decided to detain two men who were under the influence of alcohol, as they said, though the members of such units may detain the people only with police staff presence. The 'volunteers' used violence and hit the man in the faces. The injured applied for forensic examination of the blows received and filed a police report on the crime. However, the victims doubt whether the guilty in beating will be taken to the court since the policemen told them at the place of the crime that they did not see any reasons for initiating the criminal case.⁶⁷

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

The participation of the paramilitary units in attacks on local businesspeople, destruction and seizure of private and public property, robberies and asset-grabbing has been repeatedly recorded.

For instance, on May 21 2014 OSCHADBANK (State Savings Bank of Ukraine) informed that representatives of the 'Crimean Self-Defense' took away UAH32,450,000.00 from the bank depository on the peninsula.⁶⁸

In 2014 the representatives of the 'Crimean Self-Defense' participated on the regular base in so called 'nationalization' of the property of Ukraine and Ukrainians. With the support of paramilitary unit representatives in Crimea, the assets of a number of Ukrainian enterprises and institutions, both public and private, were forcibly seized. The Crimean Human Rights Group, since April 2014, has recorded that such enterprises as KRYMKhLEB, KRYMGAZ, KRYMPOTREBSOYUZ, VEGA Telecom, UKRTELECOM, MASSANDRA, AKVAREL & Co (private company), TRASSA (private company), etc. were taken over by the paramilitary units subordinate to the RF.

There are a lot of facts of take-overs, with the paramilitary units involved, of health and recreation resorts, cultural institutions.⁶⁹ For instance, on September 18 2015 FOROS health resort owned by PRIVAT Group (owner — Ukrainian businessman Igor Kolomoysky) and AEROSVIT KURORT Ltd., was seized. The property take-over was carried out by 'Ministry of property and land relations of Republic of Crimea', together with representatives of the Crimean Republican Volunteer Corps — Militia of Republic of Crimea Head Quarters' that in most cases represented the 'Crimean Self-Defense'. The Crimean authorities called these actions 'inventory taking of the monetary funds that resulted into sealing off the offices and taking out accounting and other documents for the inspection'.

The paramilitary organizations participate not only in expropriating but also in destroying and damaging the private property. For instance, on March 9 2015 at 3.00am unknown people in black uniform,

⁶⁶ CFM Review for March 2015. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Crimea_Field_Mission_Review_March_2015_RU.pdf

⁶⁷ CFM Review for October 2016. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Crimean-Human-Rights-Group_Dec_2016_RU.pdf

⁶⁸ Publication: Self-Defense of Crimea Brought Out UAH 32.45mln from OSCHADBANK Depository. — URL: http://lb.ua/economics/2014/05/21/267240_samooborona_krima_vivezla_3245 mln.html

⁶⁹ Information from the CFM Review for March 2015. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Crimea_Field_Mission_Review_March_2015_RU.pdf



armed with clubs, introduced themselves as ‘Crimean Self-Defense’ and started, without any authorization, disassembling a shopping mall building legally owned by AKVAREL & Co private company since 2002. In the morning, the owners were allowed to take out their private belongings. Then two floors of the building were completely destroyed. The unauthorized demolition of the building took place on March 9, though the court session on considering this building demolition was dated March 11, after the building had been destroyed already. This case is not the unique one. Entrepreneurs of towns Saki, Alushta, other regions of Crimea complain many times on the unauthorized demolition of trading facilities established legally under Ukrainian laws.

The paramilitary units of Crimea participated in the illegal expropriation of the property of Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyiv Patriarchate (KP UOC). On 1 June 2014 the Kazaks vandalized a KP UOC church close to Simferopol. The answer received on the application to the Crimea Prosecutor’s Office regarding the attack on the church members in the village of Perevalnoye in June, stated that ‘according to the findings it was decided to deny starting a criminal case’.⁷⁰

On February 4 2016 unknown armed people in the masks and the Kazaks disrupted the religious service in the Holy Intercession Church of KP UOC in the village of Perevalnoye, Simferopol District, and entered the church against the will of church members and the priest.⁷¹

The Crimean authorities de facto do not investigate effectively such unlawful actions that creates impunity atmosphere for those who perform wrongful acts against the KP UOC. Such actions of the ‘authorities’ make it possible for the radical RF paramilitary units to continue attacks on the Ukrainian Church in Crimea.

PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE EAST OF UKRAINE

Part of the Crimean paramilitary units has participated and still participates in the military conflict in the east of Ukraine at the side of the pro-Russian separatists. Such actions of the pro-Russian fighters are openly supported by the so called ‘government’ of Crimea.⁷²

For instance, on May 2 2014 the Crimean ‘Self-Defense fighters’ recorded a video message to the residents of South-Eastern Ukraine and informed that two battalions of the Crimean volunteer corps were being sent to the Donbass to help the pro-Russian paramilitary units. When speaking, the ‘volunteer corps fighters’ were holding firearms.⁷³

RF FSB Colonel Igor Girkin who, with codename ‘Igor Strelkov’, commanded the seizure of the building of the Supreme Council of Crimea in February of 2014, said that after his participation in the occupation of Crimea he went to fight to the Donbass with 52 volunteers.⁷⁴ In October 2014 Igor ‘Strelkov’ met with the Kazaks in Crimea.⁷⁵

One of the leaders of the pro-Russian armed groups in the Donbass — Arseniy Pavlov (‘Motorola’) was many times photographed in the uniform with ‘Crimea People’s Volunteer Corps’ patches.⁷⁶

On May 19 2016 Sergey Aksenov, ‘Prime Minister’ of Crimea, hold a meeting of representatives of the ‘Crimea Volunteer Corps’ and ‘Union of Donbass Volunteers’, with Mr Vladislav Surkov, President

⁷⁰ Information from the CFM Review for June 2014. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/crimea_field_mission_report_June_2014_RUS.pdf

⁷¹ Information from the CHRG Review for February 2016. — URL: http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Crimean_Human_Rights_Group_February_2016_RU.pdf

⁷² Publication; Crimea Ready to Help South East of Ukraine. — URL: https://www.gazeta.ru/politics/news/2014/05/02/n_6124641.shtml

⁷³ Video: Two Battalions of Crimean Self Defense Go to Help Slaviansk. — URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkP9ESE63_4

⁷⁴ Interview: We Were Seventeen Kilometers on the March Across Border. — URL: <http://svpressa.ru/war21/article/103643/>

⁷⁵ Publication: Strelkov Was Crimean Kazak Guest. — URL: <https://komtv.org/28608-igor-strelkov-12/>

⁷⁶ Photo of Arseniy Pavlov in VKontakte social network. — URL: https://vk.com/photo362481393_414914033



of Russia assistant being invited. The Crimean ‘government’ website informs that during the event the persons who participated in the occupation of Crimea and military actions in the Donbass, were stately granted ‘Republic of Crimea’ awards and ‘Donbass Volunteer’ signs. Mr Vladislav Surkov was among the awarded. The Crimean awards were also handed out to Aleksandr Boroday, leader of the ‘Union of Donbass Volunteers’ and the first head of non-recognized ‘DNR’.⁷⁷

In mid-January 2017 leaders of armed groups: DNR and LNR, Aleksandr Zakharchenko and Igor Plotnitsky, invited by the ‘Russian Community of Crimea’, visited the peninsula. During the press-conference Mr Zakharchenko stated that about 2,000 volunteers from Crimea were fighting in the Donbass. Mr Plotnitsky added that the Kazaks were the most battle worthy among them.⁷⁸

EXERCISING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FUNCTIONS

The paramilitary units acting in Crimea substitute functions of law enforcement agencies, trying to ‘legitimate’ themselves.

On December 23 2016 reports of regional branches of the ‘People’ Regiment’ of the ‘People’s self-defense of Republic of Crimea’ for 2016 were published at the ‘People’s self-defense’ website including its Armiansk⁷⁹, Sovetsk⁸⁰, Kerch⁸¹, and Dzhankoy⁸² units. The reports describe in detail the actions performed together with the peninsula’s law enforcement bodies.

For instance, ‘from January to December 2016 Armiansk Branch of the ‘People’s self-defense of Crimea’ Regiment, together with the police, detected 160 administrative violations, drew up protocols, initiated five criminal cases. The staff of the Armiansk Branch of the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps of Crimea’ Regiment secured FOROS health resort, ENERGETIK recreational resort, BEREGOVOYE children’s health complex, a military commissar’s office in Krasnoperekopsk town’. The Sovetsk Branch of the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps of Crimea’ Regiment brought 15 people who violated the laws, according to its opinion, to the police station for the same period. In 2016 the staff of Kerch Branch of the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps of Crimea’ Regiment, together with the RF road traffic police department for Crimea, protected 24/7 the public order at Kerch Bus Station as well as participated in patrolling KRYM Port of the Kerch Ferry Line. The ‘volunteers’ took part in detaining 775 people accused of administrative offences and 66 people accused of criminal crimes. In 2016 the Dzhankoy Branch of ‘people’s volunteers’, together with the police of Dzhankoy Railway Station, drew up 640 administrative protocols.⁸³

The published reports testify also that the representatives of the ‘People’s self-defense’ are granted access to the personal data of residents of Crimea and Russia. For instance, according to the report, staff of the Kerch Branch of the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps of Crimea’ Regiment, together with the police personnel, checked 89,240 citizens in the federal search base at the KRYM Port of the Kerch Ferry Line.

⁷⁷ Publication: Sergey Aksenov Met Activists of Donbass Volunteer Union and Handed Awards. — URL: <http://glava.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/335617.htm>

⁷⁸ Publication: Head of LNR Highly Appraised Battle Capacities of Kazaks from Crimea Who Participated in Battles in South_East of Ukraine. — URL: <http://www.c-inform.info/news/id/47949>

⁷⁹ Report of Armiansk Branch of the ‘People’s self-defense’ Regiment for 2016. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/otchet-37.html>

⁸⁰ Report of Sovetsk Branch of the ‘People’s self-defense’ Regiment for 2016. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/otchet-38.html>

⁸¹ Report of Kerch Branch of the ‘People’s self-defense’ Regiment for 2016. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/otchet-36.html>

⁸² Report of Dzhankoy Branch of the ‘People’s self-defense’ Regiment for 2016. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/otchet-dzhankoyetskogo.html>

⁸³ Report of Dzhankoy Branch of the ‘People’s self-defense’ Regiment for 2016. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/otchet-dzhankoyetskogo.html>



An underage Ukrainian detained for the T-shirt with the Emblem of Ukraine. Simferopol, August of 2015. URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/>



Actions of such paramilitary units substitute often the functions of the law enforcement bodies that is interference with privacy (detentions, searching of private cars and belongings). The ‘people’s volunteers’ abuse their ‘authorities’, using their capacities to persecute activists while getting away with.

For instance, on August 2 2015 the ‘People’s self-defense of Crimea’ reported a detention of a teenager at Simferopol Railway Station for the emblem of Ukraine and stickers of AZOV National Guard Ukrainian battalion with calls to return Crimea into Ukraine. The ‘People’s self-defense’ website published a photo of the minor.⁸⁴

The paramilitary units of Crimea participate also in formations with the police and have their own playwars. For instance, on September 7 2015, a snap drill of ‘People’s self-defense of Crimea’ branches was carried, according to the instruction of Sergey Turchanenko, commander of the People’s self-defense of Crimea’ Regiment. The ‘People’s Volunteer Corps of Crimea’ website informed that ‘five Simferopol companies as well as Armiansk, Saki-Yevpatoria, Dzhankoy, Kerch, Lenino, Yalta branches and Sovetsk and Bakhchisarai units participated in the drill⁸⁵. On November 25 2016 an all-military formation of the police, OMON (special police force), SOBR (rapid deployment task force), ‘People’s self-defense’, and the Kazaks was held at the parade ground of the Crimean Group of RF National Guard troops, for the joint briefing of the staff going to protect the public order.⁸⁶

Participation in securing various public events together with the law enforcement bodies legitimate these units in the public eye, including children and young people.

For instance, on September 24 2016 a mass meeting dedicated to the Day of Flag and Emblem of Crimea was held on the square at ‘State Council’ of Crimea. The event was attended by ‘People’s self-defense’ Regiment staff, cadets of School No 37 and ‘Open Cosmic Lyceum’ of the ‘People’s self-defense of Crimea’ Regiment, representatives of the Kazaks, the ‘Russian Community of Crimea’ and local ‘authorities’. The public order at the event was protected by the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps’ Regiment staff and law enforcement officers⁸⁷.

An active participation in the events legitimizing the occupation of Crimea and the paramilitary units in general, creates a favorable context for any actions of such units, including unlawful ones.

⁸⁴ Information on detaining the minor in Simferopol. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/v-simferopole-5.html>

⁸⁵ Information on ‘people’s volunteer corps’ drill. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/narodnogo-opolcheniya-kryima.html>

⁸⁶ Information on joint formation at the parade ground of the Crimean Group of RF National Guard troops. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/opolchentsy-5.html>

⁸⁷ Information on mass meeting dedicated to the Day of Flag and Emblem of Crimea. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/v-simferopole-21.html>



Considering the above mentioned facts, one may conclude that the RF authorities use the paramilitary units as law enforcement body that performs functions beyond the limits of authorities of the RF law enforcement agencies acting de facto in Crimea. Persecutions and abductions of activists and journalists, attempts at private property, participation in the politically motivated criminal prosecutions in the atmosphere of absolute impunity provide the RF authorities in Crimea with additional capacities of impact on the people disagreeing with the occupation of Crimea.

PARTICIPATION IN WAR PROPAGANDA

Representatives of various paramilitary units propagandize also actively, with numerous public events, the service in the RF army or involvement of children and young people in these units.⁸⁸

For instance, on March 18 2016 the 'People's self-defense of Crimea' staff gave an open lesson of military patriotic education in the local comprehensive school of village of Skvortsovo, Simferopol District. Demonstrative disassembling and assembling of Kalashnikov assault automatic rifle were presented at the lesson and elements of the 'volunteer's gear were showed.⁸⁹ On November 24 2016 on the occasion of Alexander Suvorov's (Russian military leader of the 18th c. considered a national hero) birthday cadets of Simferopol educational establishments swore solemnly an oath at the monument to Suvorov, upon the initiative of 'People's self-defense of Crimea'. Some children participating in the event were wearing the people's volunteer's uniform.

Representatives of the Crimean Kazaks also arrange military patriotic games for children. For instance, in April of 2016 the 'Crimean Kazak Union' held the next, 16th, children's Kazak game — 'Kazak Tricks' — in Alushta District. The competition phases included an air gun target shooting, single fights, 'Kazak Versta' track (obstacle line) and check of Kazak ranks knowledge.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ Publication: Simferopol Cadets Swore Oath. — URL: <https://komtv.org/55051-simferopolskie-kadety/#hcq=iET2K8q>

⁸⁹ Publication of the 'open lesson' of the 'volunteers'— URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/skvortsovskaya-shkola.html>

⁹⁰ Publication: 'Kazak Tricks' Train Patriots. — URL: <https://goo.gl/tso8kt>



SECTION 2. MILITARIZATION OF PUBLIC LIFE IN CRIMEA

Propaganda of violence, war, service in the RF armed forces as well as language of hatred and various forms of militarizing the public life of Crimea residents are considered in the section, first of all, in terms of respect of the international humanitarian law provisions and international human rights by the RF. The monitoring outcomes show that the militarization of the public life of Crimea is one of major aspects of the RF governmental policy in Crimea and covers many areas of public life. The militarization forms focused on children are of major threat, therefore a particular attention is paid to militarization issues of education, sports, and culture.

Article 29.1, Convention on the Rights of the Child, says: States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; (b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations; (c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own; (d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin.⁹¹ Russia is a State Party, having ratified the Convention on August 23 1993.

However, the system for educating the children developed by the RF in Crimea is dominated by principles and approaches that contradict the major values of human rights. For instance, most educational establishments in Crimea try to develop a positive attitude of children not only to the army and the war, but also to the paramilitary units that have been many times involved into the violations of human rights in Crimea. In addition, the education of children and young people in Crimea states propaganda of the military services in the occupying state army and creation of positive image of war as one of its objectives.

A complex of comprehensive actions aimed at militarizing the conscience of children and young people in Crimea is called 'military patriotic education'. During such actions the children and young people are taught to use weapons and wear military uniform. The children learn various types of arms, are trained in man-to-man fighting, and study fundamentals of the military science. One of major 'values' to be enrooted in the children's conscience is to justify aggression and military conflicts for interests of Russia. With such education, occupation of Crimea and actions of paramilitary units are legitimized in their conscience. Apart from this, the residents of the occupied peninsula are taught, since childhood, to identify themselves only citizens of Russia and are prepared to defend the interests of occupying state, including service in its armed forces, law enforcement bodies or participation in the Russian paramilitary units.

MILITARIZATION OF EDUCATION SYSTEM IN CRIMEA

Education and other spheres of public life of children and young people in Crimea are militarized by a system of Russian and local de facto authorities, institutions and organizations. In addition to the paramilitary organizations mentioned above and the RF armed forces, this system includes also representatives of local and Russian authorities, budget institutions of Crimea and Russia, non-governmental and budget organizations, law enforcement agencies, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). Facts proving their involvement into the propaganda of the war and the service in the RF Armed Forces among the Crimean children and young people are presented in this section.

⁹¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/childcon.shtml



PARTICIPATION OF RF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES REPRESENTATIVES

The propaganda of the military service and the general militarization of the children's conscience are carried by the RF education system functioning de facto in Crimea. Since March 2014 the RF strategy on educating children has been implemented in Crimea.⁹² The strategy cornerstone is that 'one of the objectives for children's education up to 2025 shall be to form patriotism, pride for the Motherland, readiness to defend the Fatherland's interests, responsibility for the future of Russia in children through development of programs for patriotic education of children, including the military patriotic education'.

Target state programs 'On patriotic education of RF citizens' are developed in the RF, with implementation in Crimea started since April 2014. At the moment the State Program 'On patriotic education of the citizens of the Russian Federation for 2016 — 2020' is being implemented in Crimea. The state program points out that one of its objectives is a military patriotic education of RF citizens and formation of positive motivation in the young people to the military service.⁹³ Key responsibility for this program implementation is assigned to RF Ministry of Education and Science, RF Ministry of Defense, RF Ministry of Culture, Federal Agency for Youth Affairs.⁹⁴

The Federal Youth Agency (RosMolodezh) is the only dedicated all national governmental body which activities are entirely focused on the youth of Russia. One of the aspects of the Agency activities is a state support of the youth non-governmental organizations. A list of 15 organizations included into the Federal Register of the youth and children's non-governmental organizations supported by state is published at the Federal Youth Agency website.⁹⁵

One of them is 'Association of Knights' NGO. The charter of organization states that one of its tasks is to 'propagandize service to the Fatherland'.⁹⁶ It acts also in Crimea, and at its website the organization reports on holding actions to learn man-to-man fighting techniques, weapons firing, and war history for the children in Crimea.⁹⁷

In addition, the children from Crimea are transported in organized way to the territory of RF to participate in the military patriotic events.⁹⁸ For instance, the SOYUZ 2014 — SUCCESSORS of VICTORY All-Russian Youth Training Camp of Military Sports Organizations and Cadet Units was held on April 30–May 10 2014 in the city of Naberezhnye Chelny (Republic of Tatarstan) under the patronage of Mr Rustam Minnikhanov, President of Republic. The children from Crimea participated in the event.



Child is being taught to fire weapons at the event organized by the Crimean 'Association of Knights', Crimea, April 2016.
©URL: <http://asvityazi.ru/>

Representatives of the RF Ministry of Defense are also involved into the military

⁹² Strategy for education development in RF. — URL: http://monm.rk.gov.ru/file/14_Raspor_996_p.pdf

⁹³ State RF Program for Patriotic Education. — URL: <http://www.rosvoentr-rf.ru/obobshchennye-doklady/razrabotka-gpp-2016-2020-iyun-noyabr/utochnenny-variant-gosprogrammy.php>

⁹⁴ Order on State Program. — URL: <http://government.ru/media/files/8qqYUwwzHUxzvKH1jsKAErrx2dE4q0ws.pdf>

⁹⁵ ROSMOLODEZH List of organizations. — URL: <https://fadm.gov.ru/activity/scope/13/details>

⁹⁶ Charter of Association of Knights' NGO. — URL: http://asvityazi.ru/?page_id=21

⁹⁷ Report on sports festival dedicated to the 24th anniversary of establishing the BERKUT special police force, in Crimea. — URL: <http://asvityazi.ru/?p=4967>

⁹⁸ Publication: SOYUZ 2014 — Successors of Victory, Naberezhnye Chelny. — URL: <http://oruzheinik.ru/news/234/>



patriotic events in Crimea⁹⁹. For instance, on August 14 2015 ‘We — Successors of Suvorov’ event was held in Yevpatoria. The event was attended by children and young people of Yevpatoria as well as representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Russia, ‘State Council of Republic of Crimea’, Yevpatoria Town Council, acting members and veterans of the ‘People’s Volunteer Corps’, representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate Crimean Eparchy.

PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are occupational administrative bodies established by the Russian Federation on the territory of Crimea that exercise de facto the governmental functions on the peninsula, implement the Russian policy and are not legitimate in the context of international law. The local authorities are active in implementing the education militarization policy.

For instance, the ‘Ministry of Education of Crimea’ publishes the information on the military patriotic education activities and their budget expenses on its official website.

So, according to the order of the ‘Ministry of Education’ of Crimea, RUR27,460,000.00 were allocated in 2016 for organizing and holding civil patriotic and military patriotic events.¹⁰⁰ These are various contests, games, festivals on military subjects, where children meet with the military, wear military uniform, learn weapons, go in for paramilitary sports and participate in the military action simulations. One of them is ‘ZARNITSA All-Crimean Military Patriotic Game’¹⁰¹. RUR0.5mln were allocated for this event only in 2016. Another event is POBEDA Crimean Republican Military Sports Game. The website of ‘Ministry of Education’ of Crimea has published the program of this game that includes such contests for children as ‘Obstacle Line’, ‘Scout Footway’, ‘Shooting’¹⁰². In 2016 RUR0.8mln were allocated from the budget for this game in Crimea.

The website of Sevastopol ‘government’ published ‘Report on using the budget as at 1 January 2017’. It says that RUR12,452,123.00 were spent for funding the events aimed at spiritual, moral and patriotic education of the youth within the reporting period.¹⁰³



‘Little Prosecutors’, Choir of Natalia Poklonskaya.
©URL: Канал Поклонской на Youtube

⁹⁹ Information on events for children with participation of the RF Ministry of Defense. — URL: <http://evp.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/311848.htm>

¹⁰⁰ Order on approving the schedule of program events for 2016. — URL: http://monm.rk.gov.ru/file/_1615_ot_09062016_quoto_vnesenii_izmeneniy_v_prikaz_ot_15022016g_168_quotob_utverjdenii_plana_realizatsii_programmnih_meropriyatij_v_2016_goduquot.pdf

¹⁰¹ Information of the Ministry of Education of Crimea on ZARNITSA Game. — URL: <http://monm.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/336476.htm>

¹⁰² Order on POBEDA Game in Crimea. — URL: <http://monm.rk.gov.ru/file/pr550-08042016.pdf>

¹⁰³ Report on using the budget of Sevastopol City as at 01 Jan 2017. — URL: https://sevastopol.gov.ru/government/statistics/budget/index.php?ELEMENT_ID=32190



The 'Prosecutor's Office' of Crimea also takes part in the events aimed at militarizing the life of children. Ms Natalia Poklonskaya, 'Prosecutor' of Crimea, who is charged with high treason in Ukraine and involved in unlawful deprivation of Ukrainian citizens in Crimea from liberty due to political motifs, held regularly such events with children^{104,105}. For instance, on April 30 2016 'Prosecutor's Office of Republic of Crimea' held a military patriotic action dedicated to the 71st anniversary of Victory in WWII. During the event 150 junior schoolchildren participated in 'initiation into little defenders of Russia'. The RF military men also participated in the event.¹⁰⁶ In addition, Ms Poklonskaya established 'Little Prosecutors' Choir. Children singing in the choir, including those of elementary school age, are dressed in the military uniform and perform war songs.

PARTICIPATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Federal Security Agency of RF (FSB) establishes military patriotic clubs in Crimea where children learn about the FSB activities, that promotes the service in this agency.

For instance, the project on establishing military patriotic children's clubs 'Young Friend of Border Guard' has been implemented by the FSB Border Guard Department in Crimea, 'Union of Paratroopers of Crimea' NGO, SIVASH military patriotic center, with active support and participation of Department of Education, Youth and Sports of Dzhankoy District Administration. Such clubs have starting working in Dzhankoy District schools since September 2015, including 'Mayskaya School' (Green Shoulder Straps' Club), 'Pobednenskaya School' ('Green Berets' Club and 'Leader' Club).

On May 14 2016 the SIVASH Military Patriotic Center, together with the Dzhankoy District Department of Education and Crimean FSB branch, held the 3rd 'SPARTAKIAD' (military patriotic clubs Olympics) of Dzhankoy School clubs dedicated to the Day of Border Guard. The SIVASH Center website described the Olympics in the following way: 'Fire Training: firing exercises, Yarygin gun (simulator). A practical demonstration training with use of machines and weapons of the Border Guard bodies and Airborne troops was presented to the children. The border guards told about capacities of state border control technical means and demonstrated the working dogs. The paratroopers of intelligence unit showed light weapons, D6, D10 and ARBALET parachute systems, and told about their specifications and use. The children practiced disassembling / assembling AK74 and SVD'.¹⁰⁷

EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Military science divisions have started functioning in the higher educational establishments of Crimea. Dmitry Medvedev, head of RF Government, signed an ordinance on establishing military science divisions in Sevastopol State University (SevGU) and Crimean V.I.Vernadsky Federal University.^{108,109}

Within the educational program centralized patriotic events including also those aimed at distorting facts and substituting concepts are held regularly in the Crimean schools. For instance, on March 16 2015 the all-school lesson dedicated to the anniversary of Crimea occupation presented as 'restoration of historical justice' was held in Crimea. Reports on this event were published at the official website of school no 28 in Simferopol.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁴ Video: Natalia Poklonskaya, Prosecutor of Republic of Crimea in 'Under Protection of Law' Program. — URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jseDlUPAuw>

¹⁰⁵ Video: Children of Prosecutors of Crimea Singing 'To Serve Russia'. — URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I3-rDl3FNM>

¹⁰⁶ Video: Natalia Poklonskaya Initiated Schoolchildren in 'Little Defenders of Russia'. — URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AsS0xRYzbE>

¹⁰⁷ Article: «III YuDP SPARTAKIAD». URL: <https://dsng.jimdo.com/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/>

¹⁰⁸ Publication: Military Science Division of KFU To Work Since September 2017. — URL: <http://www.c-inform.info/news/id/41633>

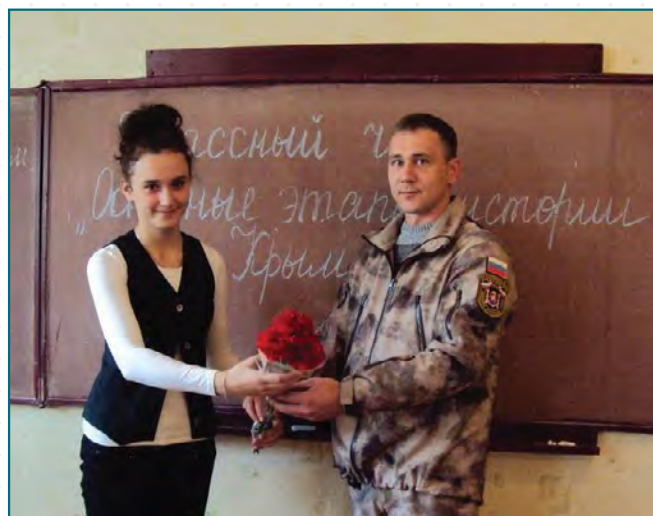
¹⁰⁹ Publication: Military Science Division at SevGU. — URL: <https://sev.life/sevastopol/voennaya-kafedra-na-baze-sevgu/>

¹¹⁰ Reports on all-school lesson 'Crimean Spring' in 2015 and 2016 — URL: <http://xn-288cd3cgu2f.xn-p1ai/krim-vesna>, <http://xn-28-8cd3cgu2f.xn-p1ai/posts/1897396>



A schoolgirl giving flowers to the 'defense volunteer' during the open lesson dedicated to the occupation of Crimea. Simferopol, Secondary School no 28, 16 March 2015.

©URL: <http://28-школа.рф/>



PARTICIPATION OF BUDGET ESTABLISHMENTS OF CRIMEA

On April 3 2015 the State Budget Establishment of Crimea 'Regional Center for Preparing to Military Service and Military Patriotic Education' (KrymPatriotCentr) was established on the peninsula.¹¹¹ The order on establishing the Center was signed by Ms Natalia Goncharova, 'Minister for Education, Youth and Science'. The Center deals with arranging and holding civil patriotic and military patriotic events funded from the budget of Crimea and included into 'Ministry of Education of Crimea' Event Program.

For instance, the youth paramilitary sports spartakiad (Olympics) was held on November 24-27 2016. The Olympics organizers were 'Ministry for Education, Science and Youth' of Crimea and KrymPatriotCentr RK GBU. 160 children and teenagers participated in the event who assembled and disassembled a submachine gun, threw grenade in the target and knives, put on and of the all-military uniform and ABC protective mask, and did sports exercises.¹¹²

As at 1 April 2016, RUR5,613,000.00 were allocated from the budget for the activities of the 'Regional Center for Preparing to the Military Services and Military Patriotic Education'.¹¹³

SIVASH Center for military patriotic education and scientific and engineering creative work was also established in Crimea. It is a branch of KrymPatriotCentr. The SIVASH website has published photo reports on military focused events for children and young people.¹¹⁴

On 13 December 2014 SEVASTOPOL CENTER FOR MILITARY PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF STUDYING YOUTH State Budget Education Establishment for Additional Education of Sevastopol City was established in Sevastopol. According to the Charter, one of the Center objectives is to hold military patriotic events with children and pre-conscription age young people to prepare them for the services in the Armed Forces and other RF law enforcement agencies.¹¹⁵

For instance, 'Sevastopol Center for Young People Military Patriotic Education' arranged RUBEZH 47 (frontier) military patriotic sports game. The final phase of the game was held on September 17 – 19

¹¹¹ Statutory documents of KrymPatriotCentr. — URL: http://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/sites/default/files/uploads/Pressa/1463564737/ustavnye_dokumenty.pdf

¹¹² Information on paramilitary sports Olympics. — URL: <http://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/spartakiada-po-voenno-prikladnym-vid-2.html>

¹¹³ Information on use of budget funds as at 1 April 2016. — URL: http://monm.rk.gov.ru/file/svod_na_sayt_ishpolnenie_byudjeta_na_010416_minobraz_rk.pdf

¹¹⁴ SIVASH Center website. — URL: <https://dsng.jimdo.com/>

¹¹⁵ Entitlement documents of the Sevastopol Military Patriotic Center. — URL: http://cvpvum.edusev.ru/documents/right_documents



Trainees of SIVASH Military Patriotic Center who won the top award of the military patriotic rally – a model of assault rifle.

©URL: <http://mptaifun.ru>

2014 in the GORNY Children Health Camp in Sevastopol. According to this establishment website, the RUBEZH game was held with the support of the Main Department of Education and Science, RF Black Sea Navy commandment, Main Department of the RF Ministry of Emergency Situations, SRO DOSAAF of Russia, Sevastopol City Department of RF MIA.¹¹⁶

PARTICIPATION OF RF BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

The RF budget organizations take also an active part in actions on militarizing education on the peninsula.

For instance, the RUSSIAN CENTER FOR CIVIC AND PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (RosPatriotCentr) Federal State Budget Establishment is subordinate to the Federal Agency for Youth. The RosPatriotCentr projects are aimed at approving an opinion on 'legitimacy' of Crimea occupation in the Crimean society.¹¹⁷

The RUSSIAN STATE MILITARY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CENTER at GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION (RosVoyenCentr) also participates in the military propaganda. The list of center prime objectives in its charter includes military memorial events, propaganda and publications on heroic history and combat traditions of the Russian army and navy in the mass media, promotion of the military patriotic education of young people.¹¹⁸ For instance, the VECHNYI OGON' 2016 (eternal fire) All-Russian Children Military Historical Assembly organized by RosVoyenCentr was held in the ARTEK International Children Center on May 4 – 24 2016. Within the assembly program the teenagers visited military detachments and ships, participated in the Victory Parade and the military historical festival.¹¹⁹

The RUSSIAN MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (RVIO) public and state organization is also active in Crimea. Its charter says that the RF Ministry of Defense shall act on behalf of the RF Government in the RVIO Central Board, participate – via the RVIO Board – in developing major aspects of the Society activities, support the implementation of Society objectives, and monitor the achievement of the tasks imposed on it.¹²⁰ This organization holds many events aimed at the militarization of the public life in Crimea. Most of them are related to the victory in WWII. During the whole year the society delivers special actions dedicated to the victory, for instance, 'Alley of

¹¹⁶ Publication: City Finals of RUBEZ military patriotic sport game. — URL: <http://sev.center/news/61-gorodskoy-final-voenno-patrioticheskoy-sportivnoy-igry-rubezh-47.html>

¹¹⁷ Publication; 'Re-Union of Crimea with Russia — Day that Unites! — URL: <http://www.xn--80akivbcegedodc1d.xn--p1ai/news/245>

¹¹⁸ Charter of RosVoyenCentr. — URL: <http://www.rosvoentr-rf.ru/o-rosvoentsentre/ustav/reshenie-ustav.php>

¹¹⁹ Information on the military assembly in Crimea. — URL: <http://rvio.histrf.ru/activities/projects/item-2450>

¹²⁰ Charter of the Russian Military Historical Society. — URL: <http://rvio.histrf.ru/officially/ukaz-1710>



A pre-school age child is holding the assault rifle at the Race of Heroes event, Crimea, Angarsky Mountain Pass, 18 June 2016.
©URL: <http://www.dosaaf.ru/>

Victory', 'Lilac of Victory', 'Forest of Victory', requiem parties, rallies, local Olympics, celebratory assemblies, etc.¹²¹ Mr Sergey Aksenov, head of 'Government' of Crimea, is chairman of the RVIO Crimean branch. For instance, the RVIO Crimean branch members participated in the All-School Open Lesson 'Russia and Crimea — Joint Destiny' for pupils of 9-11 forms where Mr Aksenov told about the 'Crimean Spring' events.¹²²

Ms Tatiana Ivanchenko, member of the Russian Military Historical Society Board, was included by ordinance of Mr Aksenov, 'Head' of Crimea, into the Working Group on developing the State Program 'Patriotic Education of Population in the Republic of Crimea' for 2016 – 2017.¹²³

The organization involved the Crimean children into the participation in the paramilitary sports events held by it on the territory of RF.¹²⁴ For instance, on November 5 2014 the paramilitary sports competitions of the teenagers were held, and in their course the delegation of the teenagers from Crimea visited the Greater Moscow area.

The branches of the All-Russian public and state DOSAAF organization (Voluntary Association for Assistance to Army, Air Force and Navy) also participate in the military propaganda among the children and young people. One of the major DOSAAF aspects of activities is preparation of the young people to serve in the RF Armed Forces.

Since September 29 2014 the regional branch of the Russian DOSAAF has started its activities in Crimea. The Crimean DOSAAF branch is a co-organizer of various paramilitary events for children and young people. One of such events — Race of Heroes — took place in Crimea on June 18 2016 at the ANGARSKY training field of the RF Black Sea Navy. The Crimean DOSAAF branch trained children in partial assembling and disassembling of the Kalashnikov assault rifle.¹²⁵

The cultural establishments in Crimea also hold various events propagandizing the military services, aimed at 'legitimizing' the occupation and creating a positive image of the military and paramilitary units.

For instance, on March 31 2016 lesson 'School of Young Fighter' organized by the paratroopers of Crimea and Sevastopol Maritime Assembly was held in the '11th Coastal Battery' museum,

¹²¹ Information on RVIO activities. URL: <http://rvio.histrf.ru/soobshestvo/71>

¹²² Information on the open lesson on the occupation of Crimea. — URL: <http://rvio.histrf.ru/soobshestvo/post-945>

¹²³ Ordinance on establishing a working group for developing a program of the military patriotic education of young people in Crimea. — URL: http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_243405.pdf

¹²⁴ Information on the participation of teenagers from Crimea in the paramilitary sports competitions in the Great Moscow Area. — URL: <http://rvio.histrf.ru/activities/news/item-1199>

¹²⁵ Information on the Race of Heroes Event in Crimea. — URL: <http://www.dosaaf.ru/rss/5681-gonka-geroev-crimea>



Participants of the I AM PATRIOT of CRIMEA Game held in the Feodosiya Museum of Antics, Feodosiya, 9 December 2016.
©URL: <http://centr-intellekt.ru/>

Sevastopol. The action for the schoolchildren was supported by Kazak societies: 'Nakhimovskaya Terskaya Sotnia' and 'Sviato-Nikolskaya Kamyshovskaya Sotnia', 'Sevastopol Kazak Area'.¹²⁶

Cultural figures of Crimea are also involved into the military propaganda. For instance, according to the order of RF Minister of Defense, General S. Shoigu, No 796 of 9 October 2016, Ms Liudmila Koroliova, director of the 'Pearl of Russia' Russian Folk Instruments Band and 'Sadko' Folk Russian Band of the House for Children's and Youth Creative Work, was awarded with medal 'For Return of Crimea'.¹²⁷

PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS OF CRIMEA

A part of these organizations that had acted in Crimea before the occupation re-registered according to the RF laws or continued their activities without the registration, when Crimea came unlawfully under the RF control. Apart from this, since April 2014 new public military-focused organizations have been set up in Crimea. Some of them are branches of Russian organizations.

For instance, on March 16 2015 a branch of 'Union of Paratroopers of Crimea' was established in Yalta. The organization is active in the military patriotic education.¹²⁸ As an example, on October 6 2016 a military patriotic sports relay race was held in Crimea, together with the Union of Paratroopers of Russia, where children mastered weapons use skills and learnt military service fundamentals.¹²⁹

PARTICIPATION OF RF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS¹³⁰

RF public organizations take actions on involving the Crimean children and young people in military patriotic events held both in Crimea and on the RF territory.

For instance, within the project of BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO All-Russian Organization 'KRYM. DONUZLAV-2015' the 9th Youth Patriotic Forum Camp was held in the settlement of Novoozernoye on July 8 – August 3 2015.¹³¹ BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO (Combat Brotherhood) was founded by retired Russian military men, participants of various military conflicts with the RF involvement. The first deputy chairman of the BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO All-Russian Organization Mr Dmitry Sablin, its actual leader, was a member of the RF Council of Federation Committee on Defense and Security at the moment of the forum-camp, and was elected to the RF State Duma in September 2016. Nowadays he is a member

¹²⁶ Information on the young fighter school in Sevastopol. — URL: <http://sevastopol.gov.ru/info/news/19867/>

¹²⁷ Publication: 'Our Strength in Unity! — URL: <http://sevorkestr.ru/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B0.htm>

¹²⁸ 'Union of Paratroopers of Yalta. — URL: http://ugyalta.com/news/v_yalte_sozdali_otdelenie_soyuza_desantnikov_kryma/

¹²⁹ Article 'Military Patriotic Sports Relay Race Held in Crimea. — URL: <http://rsva-crimea.ru/main/112-v-krymu-sovmestno-s-soyuzom-desantnikov-rossii-proshla-voenno-patrioticheskaya-sportivnaya-estafeta.html>

¹³⁰ Including the RF public organizations funded out of RF budget.

¹³¹ Notice on DONUZLAV Camp. — URL: <http://bbratstvo.com/tag/donuzlav/>



of the State Duma of Russia Committee for development of civic society, public and religious associations.¹³² The opening of the KRYM. DONUZLAV–2015 Forum Camp was also attended by Mr Aleksander Yuschenko, Deputy of RF State Duma, Mr Gennadiy Shorokhov, Chairman of BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO executive committee, Mr Sergey Tarasov, deputy of ‘State Council’ of Crimea. Mr Sergey Markov, member of RF Public Chamber, Mr Sergey Glaz’yev, adviser to the President of Russia, Mr Nickolay Starikov, co-chairman of ‘ANTIMAYDAN’ movement, leader of VELIKOYE OTECHESTVO (Great Fatherland) Party, Mr Aleksey Klimov, a participant of ‘Chechnya Campaign’, Mr Viktor Kurov, the first deputy of Head of Office of Vladimir Region Governor, Mr Vladimir Rogov, leader of Slavic Guard, Mr Aleksey Aleksandrov, head of ‘DNR People’s Council Office’, Ms Daria Moroz, head of ‘Committee for Human Rights at the Council of Ministers of DNR’, Mr Konstantin Knyrik, head of News Front web portal, Mr Vitaliy Khamov, ataman (leader) of SOBOL Kazak community, et al., participated in the event.

The organizers informed that 475 young men and women from the RF, Belarus, the Syrian Arab Republic, Southern Ossetia, Crimea and certain areas of Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine being in effect controlled by Russia, took part in the activities of the youth patriotic forum camp.

The DONUZLAV 2015 Forum Camp project was implemented out of state support funds allocated as grant due to the ordinance of President of Russia, no 243-rp of 25 July 2014.¹³³

The ‘PATRIOTS ARE NOT BORN’ project of the Fund for patriotic education and military patronage activities from Chelyabinsk was also implemented in Crimea. The RF NCO state support contest website says that the project intends to promote development of patriotism and love to Motherland among the present-day youth, to propagandize service for the Fatherland, and to learn the actual conditions of the military services in the units under the patronage.¹³⁴ To implement the project the Fund received RUR5.0mln as RF state support.¹³⁵

Grants are received also by the writers publishing books about the war. For instance, RUR3.0mln of state support have been allocated for the propaganda of fiction in Crimea, with particular project focus on the creative works of the war veteran writers. The money for this project was received by ‘Fiction Propaganda Bureau of Writers’ Union of Russia’ non-commercial partnership.¹³⁶

The NOCHNYE VOLKI (Night Wolves) inter-regional public biker organization received a state grant of RUR12.0mln for the project: ‘PATRIOT All-Russian Patriotic Youth Center in Sevastopol City’.¹³⁷ The NOCHNYE VOLKI organization has held regularly mass military and Anti-Ukrainian events for the children and young people on the place of the supposed PATRIOT Park.

For instance, on November 26 2016 a grand-scale event dedicated to the presentation of PATRIOT Park Project took place at the bottom of GASFORT Mount in Sevastopol. The event as the organizers stated was held together with the RF Ministry of Defense. The military equipment was also exhibited, the RF military men demonstrated their skills, and the children and young people were taught to fire weapons.¹³⁸

¹³² Information on opening the DONUZLAV 2015 Camp. — URL: <http://bbratstvo.com/2015/10/12/molodezhno-patrioticheskiy-lager-forum-krym-donuzlav-2015/>

¹³³ Information on state funding of DONUZLAV Camp. — URL: <http://bbratstvo.com/2015/07/28/kadety-iz-votkinska-pobyvali-v-donuzlav-2105/>

¹³⁴ PATRIOTS ARE NOT BORN’ Project Fiche. — URL: <https://grants.oprf.ru/projects/grants2014-1/nno/1286/project/228/>

¹³⁵ Information on victory won by ‘PATRIOTS ARE NOT BORN’ Project in the state support bidding for NNO. — URL: <https://grants.oprf.ru/grants2014-1/winners/rec1171/>

¹³⁶ Information on victory won by Literature Propaganda Bureau in the grant state support bidding for NNO. — URL: <https://grants.oprf.ru/grants2014-2/winners/rec765/>

¹³⁷ Information on victory won by PATRIOT PARK in the grant state support bidding for NNO. — URL: <https://grants.oprf.ru/grants2015-2/winners/rec6294/>

¹³⁸ Photo Report: PATRIOT Park with ZARNITSA Game at GASFORT Mount in Sevastopol. — URL: <https://sandro.life/park-patriot-gora-gasforta-sevastopol/#more-7891>



Schoolchildren during the Yunarmia membership initiation ceremony. Sevastopol, 29 October 2016.
©URL: <http://мультимедиа.минобороны.рф>

YUNARMIA (YOUNG ARMY) MOVEMENT

A global public movement that militarizes the conscience of children on the peninsula is 'YUNARMIA' of Crimea. The Crimean YUNARMIA was founded as branch of the YUNARMIA All-Russian Children and Youth Military Patriotic Public movement. The RF YUNARMIA website declares: 'Leaders of the organization seek to bring up a generation capable not only of defending the Fatherland in arms, but also of protecting Russia interests in peaceful spheres'. The RF Minister of Defense promised the YUNARMIA members that they would be able to fly the aircraft, jump with parachutes and fire any weapon except the missiles'.¹³⁹

The Crimean Branch of YUNARMIA (since June 2016) was one of the first to be established and supported by the 'Ministry of Defense, Science and Youth of Republic of Crimea' and KrymPatriotCentr RK budget organization.¹⁴⁰

On 29 October 2016, 1000 schoolchildren of Sevastopol swore simultaneously the solemn 'Oath of YUNARMIA Members'.¹⁴¹ Photos from the event were published at the RF Ministry of Defense website.¹⁴²

There are also public organizations in Crimea that though acted on the peninsula prior to occupation, have not re-registered according to the RF laws. Such movements, for instance, include 'Union of Monarchists of Russia'.¹⁴³

PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Some political parties of RF participate in the propaganda of war and militarization. For instance, the website of Crimean Branch of RF Communist Party (CPRF) publishes calls and slogans propagandizing the Russian army. Among them: 'Best Weapons and State-of-Art Equipment For Army and Navy', 'People and Army Undefeatable!', 'Yes to Russian Army and Navy', 'Defend Army — Preserve Russia'.¹⁴⁴ The CPRF website informs also that an event for patriotic education of the young generation, dedicated to the removal of the USSR troops from Afghanistan was held on February 13 2017 in the meeting hall of

¹³⁹ Website of RF YUNARMIA. — URL: <http://www.youngarmiya.ru/p/faq.html>

¹⁴⁰ Notice on establishing the YUNARMIA of Crimea. - URL: <http://monm.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/340464.htm>

¹⁴¹ Information on children joining the Sevastopol YUNARMIA. — URL: https://vk.com/sev_yunarmiya?w=wall-122681115_602%2Fall

¹⁴² Photo report: Schoolchildren Joining YUNARMIA in Sevastopol. — URL: <http://xn--80ahclcogc6ci4h.xn--90anlfbebar6i.xn--p1ai/multimedia/photo/gallery.htm?id=33456@cmsPhotoGallery>

¹⁴³ Article: Kerch Remembers Russian Exodus. — URL: http://zerkalokryma.ru/lenta/people/blogs/kerch_pomnit_o_russkom_ishode/

¹⁴⁴ Slogans with RF army propaganda. — URL: <http://kprfkro.ru/>



Representatives of Kerch 'Union of Monarchists' and children at the prayer rally in Kerch, 15 November 2016.
©URL: <http://zerkalokryma.ru/>

Piatikhvatky secondary school in Crimea. The event was attended by Mr A.Lopushansky, secretary of Piatikhvatky CHRF branch.¹⁴⁵

Representatives of the YEDINAYA ROSSIA (United Russia) Party take part in various events in Crimea dedicated to glorifying the Russian army.¹⁴⁶ On September 9 2015 the topic dedicated lesson 'Heroic Defense of Sevastopol in Crimean 1853 — 1856 War' prepared by Ms Raisa Glukhova, a member of United Russia Party and a Russian language and literature teacher, and activists of 'United Russia' Party (Vladimir Druzhynsky, Yulia Skladoniuk, Viktor Glukhov, Nadezhda Kiyanchenko, Zhanna Klyshko) was held in Novopokrovsk School.¹⁴⁷

However, activities of the Russian political parties in educational establishments are forbidden by Law of Russia 'On education'. Pursuant to Article 27.12 of Law, 'political parties, religious organizations (associations) shall not be established and shall not act in the state and municipal educational establishments'. RF Law 'On political parties' forbids interference of political parties into the academic process of educational establishments'. The participation of political parties in Russia in militarizing the conscience of children is also inconsistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child that declares that the child shall be fully prepared for independent life in the society and educated in the spirit of principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity'.

PARTICIPATION OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Priests of the Russian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate (MP ROC) do their best to create a positive attitude of the Crimean children and young people to the RF army. For this purpose the representatives of clergy participate together with the military men and paramilitary unit members in various events, ceremonies and events where children and young people are involved.

For instance, on February 23 2016 a prayer service was held in the town of Stary Krym, in the Dormition of Holy Mother of God Church where representatives of Kirov District Registered Kazaks and

¹⁴⁵ Publication: Patriotic Education of Young People of Krasnogvardeysk Region. — URL: <http://kprfkro.ru/news/18168>

¹⁴⁶ Information on MOLODAYA GWARDIYA (Youth Guard) action 'WE — CITIZENS OF RUSSIA'. — URL: <http://respublika-crimea.mger2020.ru/nextday/2016/06/20/88221>

¹⁴⁷ Information on a topic dedicated lesson from UNITED RUSSIA Party. — URL: <http://kgr.er-crimea.com/pervichnoe-otdelenie-partii-edinaya-rossiya-s-novopokrovka-otmetilo-den-pamyati-russkih-voinov-pavshih-pri-oborone-g-sevastopolya-i-v-kryimskoy-v-oyne-1853-1856-gg/>



Crimean schoolchildren during the excursion to the military unit organized by the MP Orthodox Church, Simferopol, 22 October 2016. ©URL: <http://crimea-eparhia.ru/>

pupils of 3a Form of Lyceum School of Stary Krym UVK No 3 were invited. Some actions in the framework of this prayer service took place at the military training field.¹⁴⁸

The clergy representatives hold paramilitary Orthodox camps on the territory of peninsula. For instance, in August 2016 a summer camp of Orthodox Scout Brotherhood at Sts Peter and Pauls' Cathedral was organized in Crimea. The Crimea (MP) Eparchy website reports that according to the camp program the children were taught to survive in the forest, to transmit signals for helicopters, and move soundlessly (basic principles).¹⁴⁹

Similar camps with the Crimean children participation are organized also on the RF territory. The Krasnodar Regional Branch of ORTHODOX SCOUT BROTHERHOOD Inter-regional Children Personality Developing Public Organization elaborated the project: 'Youth of Kuban and Crimea, Let's Build Common Future!' that was supported by the Russian Orthodox Church grant.¹⁵⁰ Within this project the children from Sevastopol spent time in the Orthodox scout camp created in Novorossiysk City. The camp was organized by the Novorossiysk regional branch of the Orthodox Scout Brotherhood.¹⁵¹

The representatives of MP Orthodox Church arrange also war dedicated excursions for the schoolchildren. For instance, in the framework of 'Lessons of Courage and Patriotism' related to the 15th anniversary of sanctification of Russian Commander Fedor Ushakov and 320th anniversary of the Russian Navy establishment, a trip to the military unit was organized for the YUNARMIA members and cadets of schools no no 37 and 3, Simferopol City. During the excursion the children wearing the military uniform studied the military equipment and communicated with the RF army representatives.¹⁵²

CADET ESTABLISHMENT AND CLASSES

A particular place in the educational militarization system is played by cadet colleges and classes supported by the military men, law enforcement agencies, paramilitary units. They are created in the functioning educational establishments or become independent educational establishments included into the general education system of Crimea. Some of them are funded from the budget, though there are private schools, too. The purpose of such establishments is propaganda of military service

¹⁴⁸ Photo of events in Stary Krym. — URL: http://krim-cerkov.church.ua/2014/01/27/fotoxronika-kreshheniya/dsc_0140/

¹⁴⁹ Information on the orthodox scout camp in Crimea. — URL: <https://goo.gl/7DKxRk>

¹⁵⁰ Information about the victory in the ROC grant bidding. — URL: <https://goo.gl/KSgzVN>

¹⁵¹ Information about the camp in Novorossiysk. — URL: <http://www.hersones.org/bratstvo-pravoslavnyh-razvedchikov-sledopytov-bprs-g-sevastopolya-prinyalo-uchastie-v-osennem-lagere-v-gorode-novorossiysk.html>

¹⁵² Information on courage lesson at the Crimean Eparchy website. — URL: <https://goo.gl/cvH1QT>



Children learning firearms during the sport defensive training meeting 'Sons of Fatherland, settlement of Peschanoye, Bakhchisaray District, August, 2016.

© URL: Сыны отечества Крым-Донбасс



and preparation of children for the service in the RF army. Such actions on the occupied territory are forbidden by Article 51 of Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, 'Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War'.

One of the leading establishments of such kind in Crimea is the SEVASTOPOL PRESIDENT CADET COLLEGE Federal State Budget Funded Comprehensive Education Establishment created by Decree of President of RF no 74-rp of 20 March 2014 and Decree of Government of RF no 972-r of 6 June 2014. According to the decrees, the Russian Federation is a founder, with RF Ministry of Defense exercising founder's functions and authorities regarding the Sevastopol Cadet College. The RF Ministry of Defense is also entitled to be the college property owner.¹⁵³

Similar actions are also taken by the paramilitary units. For instance, CRIMEAN KAZAK CADET CORPS (school) private educational establishment was licensed by the RF for educational services in November 2015. The establishment website says that 'the corps was re-registered according to the Russian laws on 29 January 2015'.¹⁵⁴ This school cadets are wearing only Kazak uniform, no civil clothes are allowed. Additional academic subjects include history of Orthodoxy, history of Kazaks, history of Crimea, military topography, shooting, riding, man-to-man fighting.

On March 16 2016 pupils of two cadet classes of the People's Volunteer Corps' of Crimea in Simferopol Secondary School no 37 swore an oath,¹⁵⁵ and then they were handed a special uniform following the fashion of the 'People's Volunteer Corps' of Crimea uniform. These children are involved into various military events held by the unit members.

With the help of various mass and regular events, the exclusively 'Russian' identity and tolerance to war and violence are developed in the children who are also motivated to serve in the RF Armed Forces. In order to attract such children into the armed forces of occupying state they are convinced that one of top moral and ethical values for the Crimea residents is to defend the Russian Federation from enemies.

The total militarization of conscience of children and youth in Crimea, first of all propaganda of war and military service, takes place everywhere and on regular basis. At numerous events organized by the military and paramilitary units the children are trained to fire, and to assemble fire arms, are offered competitions based on physical force use, and are taught the ABC of reconnaissance and military science.

¹⁵³ Official website of the Cadet College in Sevastopol. — URL: <http://sevnvmu.ru/about/>

¹⁵⁴ Website of Kazak Cadet Corps. — URL: <https://goo.gl/rnRQY0>

¹⁵⁵ Information on oath of cadets at the Simferopol Administration website. — URL: <http://simadm.ru/press/government/4316/>



Women with strollers and children in military uniform at holiday parade on May 9 2015, Simferopol.

©URL: <http://hochukrohu.ru>

Such actions are held in various forms: games, contests, military subject competitions¹⁵⁶, paramilitary children camps, cultural and entertainment events¹⁵⁷, lectures, conferences, theatrical shows, establishment of special paramilitary educational establishments and classes, lessons and meetings for military patriotic¹⁵⁸, spiritual patriotic and patriotic education¹⁵⁹, excursions¹⁶⁰.

For instance, on November 26 2016 the members of the Pervomaysk People's Volunteer Corps Branch together with the BOYEVOYE BRATSTVO public veteran organization and Pervomaysk Khutor Society Kazaks held an air rifle competition of 14 comprehensive schools of Pervomaysk District at the Pervomaysk DOSAAF grounds. The competition participants could disassemble and assemble AK47 assault rifle, see various types of ammunition supplies and personal equipment of the RF army soldiers.¹⁶¹ The most broad scale ones among these events are various military sports and military patriotic games. These games are organized at the local level, in addition, the children from Crimea are selected to participate in all kinds of all-Russian games as well as phases of the all-Russian paramilitary competitions take place in Crimea.

The Crimea children are regularly sent to the military patriotic and military historical camps both on the territory of peninsula and in Russia. Such camps are usually financed out of the RF budget. For instance, in June 2016 Crimean senior schoolchildren spent 18 days in the GVARDEYETS (Guard Man) military patriotic camp of the Privolzhsky Federal Area (RF). In the camp the teenagers saw weapons and equipment of engineering troops: APC, TAYFUN armored car, UR77 mine cleaning devices, various types of electric engineering means, firearms and ammunitions as well as fired the rifles.¹⁶²

Parades and theatrical actions with involvement of children take place regularly (for instance, 'George's Ribbon'¹⁶³). When the USSR Victory Day in WWI is celebrated, the parades of children and their parents wearing the military uniform are held. For instance, one of such parades was on May 9 2015 in Simferopol, the other one — on September 10 2016 in Kerch.

¹⁵⁶ Information on the military tactical game festival for your people. — URL: <http://nwrussia.info/rm/news/1885/>

¹⁵⁷ Publication: Parade of Baby Strollers in Kerch. — URL: <http://kerch.fm/2016/09/10/v-kerchi-proshel-parad-kolyasok.html>

¹⁵⁸ Information on 'Sons of Fatherland' training meeting. — URL: <https://goo.gl/doXF0p>

¹⁵⁹ Information on the meeting of volunteer corps members with the students. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/desant.html>

¹⁶⁰ Publication: 'At DOBRO Summit One Could Try Himself in Practical Work. — URL: <http://zavladimir.ru/?p=21622>

¹⁶¹ Pervomaysk District: shooting competition. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/4828.html>

¹⁶² Information on staying of the Crimeans in GVARDEYETS Camp. — URL: <http://pfo.gov.ru/press/events/100263/>

¹⁶³ Publication: George's Ribbon Action Started in Simferopol. — URL: <http://crimea.vgorode.ua/news/sobytyia/257608-v-symferopole-startovala-aktsiya-heorhyevskaia-lentochka-foto>



DEVELOPMENT OF CULT OF WAR AND POSITIVE IMAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE OCCUPYING STATE AMONG THE CIVILIANS

Actions on militarization and war propaganda are actively carried out among the adult civilian population of Crimea.

In late 2014 a number of documents was adopted in Crimea that regulated the behavior of the Crimean residents in case of war actions. On November 17 Mr S.Aksenov signed Edict 'On creating the Evacuation Commission of the Republic of Crimea' that stipulated preparatory actions to evacuate the population, materials and cultural values to the safe districts, their location, establishment of medical and other institutions necessary for the priority help to the people affected in case of dangers occurring during the military actions or due to such actions as well as in case of emergency situation occurrence.

On November 21, Mr S.Aksenov adopted Decree 'On managing education of the Republic of Crimea citizens on the elementary defense knowledge and their training on the military service elements in 2015'.¹⁶⁴ On December 2 Mr S.Aksenov signed Edict 'On maintaining a steady functioning of the Republic of Crimea organizations in the war time and in case of emergency occurrence'.¹⁶⁵ In addition, an updated version of the Russian Federation Military Doctrine was adopted on December 19.

Such documents promoted creation of atmosphere of fear and inevitable military conflict with Ukraine that presented the RF Armed Forces as the only savior from external threat.¹⁶⁶

In addition, the Russian authorities are trying to develop a positive perception of militarization and a need to serve in the RF army among the adult population of Crimea through various public events and actions of the RF Armed Forces. Many events are aimed at attracting the young people to serve in the RF Armed Forces. Such events may be conditionally classified as follows: trainings, parades, military equipment exhibitions, festivals, military action reconstructions, feasts, rallies, processions, ceremonies, car races. The events develop a positive attitude of the Crimeans to the RF army, the service in the RF Armed Forces is advertised, the Crimea occupation and paramilitary units are legitimized in the public conscience, the population is trained in elements of military art and weapon skills, people are taught to perceive positively war, weapons and military uniforms. Children, teenagers and young people participate in such events, where they, in addition to the targeted children events, are subject to the additional impact of military propaganda.

For instance, in August — September 2016 a part of large scale CAUCASUS 2016 war game of the RF Armed Forces was held on the territory of Crimea. The most spectacular phase of the war game was at Cape Opuk on September 9 2016.

This event was widely communicated in all mass media, not only of the RF, but also of the world. An opening demonstration of the military equipment and actions of the RF Armed Forces was aimed at both deterrence of potential war opponents and achievement of authority among the Crimea residents including those of conscription age.

In February 2016 the training exercises of army reservists finished in Crimea. Over 1000 soldiers and officers were mobilized and took a special training course. The end of military trainings was celebrated in Sevastopol with ceremonial parade.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁴ Decree of S.Aksenov "On managing education of the Republic of Crimea citizens on the elementary defense knowledge and their training on the military service elements in 2015' of 21 November 2014. — URL: http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_235338.pdf

¹⁶⁵ Edict 'On maintaining a steady functioning of the Republic of Crimea organizations in the war time and in case of emergency occurrence' of 2 December 2014. — URL: http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_235995.pdf

¹⁶⁶ Information of CFM review for December 2014 <https://goo.gl/69CkZP>

¹⁶⁷ News story: Trainings of Army Reservists Finished in Crimea. — URL: <http://1tvcrimea.ru/pages/news/053466-v-krymu-zavershilis-uchenija-armejskih-rezervistov>



Final phase of the RF Ministry of Defense war game in Crimea, Opuk training field, September 2016.
©URL: Минобороны РФ

Parades of the military men, paramilitary unit members and military equipment are regularly held in Crimea. They are dedicated not only to the Victory of USSR in WWII, but also to anniversaries of various war conflicts, including the Crimea occupation. Parades dedicated to the anniversaries of establishing the RF military units and subunits take place in Crimea on a regular basis.

The RF army is carrying on the war propaganda with the military equipment exhibitions, too. At such exhibitions the children and adults are made accustomed to various types of weapons including the heavy one. The RF Armed Forces Mobile Conscription Stations are established at some of such exhibitions specifically targeted to advertise the conscription.

Festival events on the military and war subjects take place in Crimea at least once a month. They are dedicated to various reasons and events. During the particular festivals glorifying the paramilitary units ceremonies of awarding the 'volunteer corps' members and the Kazaks, including for the participation in the Crimea occupation, are held. For instance, on February 23 2015 ceremonial events dedicated to the first anniversary of the 'People's Volunteer Corps of Crimea' establishment were held in Simferopol. During the event the 'volunteer corps' members were decorated with special medals 'For Return of Crimea'.

After the occupation of Crimea the Russian authorities have been celebrating 'Reunion with Russia' Holliday when the residents together with the army and the paramilitary units 'celebrate' the anniversary of occupation. The ceremonial events dedicated to this were held in the Crimean cities and towns on March 16, 17 and 18.

After the occupation the day of military glory to commemorate the victory of Russian squadron over the Turkish one at Cape Sinop (event of Year 1853) is widely celebrated. Such days as Day of Suvorov's Birthday, Day of Establishment of Russian Marines, Day of Heroes of Russia are also celebrated, and cadet balls are held. These festivals make Russia army and navy heroic in the eyes of Crimeans, strengthening the positive impressions of the occupying army with the Crimean children.

On April 9 2016 the 40th anniversary of the Crimea Navy Base was celebrated in the settlement of Novoozernoye. A demonstration of the marine landing, exhibition of the military equipment and a show of the Black Sea Navy ships were organized for the settlement residents.¹⁶⁸

A specific component in the paramilitary festival system is represented by events dedicated to the integrity of Crimea and Russia. They are aimed at legitimizing the Crimea occupation in the society,

¹⁶⁸ Publication: 40th Anniversary of Crimean Navy Base Celebrated with Big Concert in Novoozernoye. — URL: <http://evpatoriya.today/40-letie-krymskoi-voenno-morskoi-bazy-otmetili-bolshim-koncertom.html#hcq=bmdkTcq>



'Head' of occupational government of Crimea Sergey Aksenov at 'volunteer corps' members awarding ceremony, 23 February 2015.
©URL: <http://rk.gov.ru/>



glorifying the Russian military men and paramilitary units as well as the banditti participating in the military conflict in the East of Ukraine.

Many mass cultural events are also focused on militarization. For instance, in August 2016 within the KOVCHEG SPASENIA (Arc of Salvage) event the audience watched a performance that involved the military equipment, and people in military uniform. Moreover, flags of unlawfully created DNR and LNR appeared at the stage.

In addition to the festival events, various memorial meetings, processions and actions related to the war and army subjects are widely held in Crimea. On October 19 2016 'People's Volunteer Corps' held the action in memory of one of the DNR pro-Russian fighters Arseniy Pavlov, killed in Donbas. The same day the same kind of event took place in Yalta. Similar actions were held in February 2017 after the murder of one more fighters' commander Mikhail Tolstykh. Photo reports on such actions are published by the 'People's Volunteer Corps' on its website.¹⁶⁹

One more propaganda instrument is car races organized in honor of the Crimea occupation. For instance, on 4 November 2016 a car race along the check stations was held in Sevastopol. The members of paramilitary Crimean organizations visited the places where during the occupation of Crimea the check stations set by them in February – March 2014 to assist the Russian army in the military seizure of Crimea, had been located.¹⁷⁰

In April 2016 ambitious shots of the KRYM (Crimea) docudrama telling about the events occurred during the occupation of Crimea were held. A lot of military equipment was involved into the shooting. During the shots the combat machines moved through the city districts.¹⁷¹

The Russian Orthodox Church plays an active part in militarizing the population. In the course of religious ceremonies this church members accept a positive image of the occupying country and paramilitary unit members. Representatives of the Kazaks and 'People's Volunteer Corps', the military men participate regularly in such ceremonies. For instance, in January 2017 the VICTORIUS Icon dedicated to the Crimea Occupation was painted in Crimea as gift for RF President Vladimir Putin. Before sending to Moscow the icon escorted by the Kazaks was stately showed to the faithful in the churches and in the military units in different parts of the peninsula.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁹ Information on the memory actions dedicated to Donbass pro-Russian fighters. — URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/opolchentsa-arsena-pavlova.html>, <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/news/v-simferopole-31.html>

¹⁷⁰ News story about the car race along the check stations of Sevastopol. - URL: <http://blokpostsevastopol.ru/posts/2180936>

¹⁷¹ Publication: 'KRYM' by Aleksey Pimanov: Most Ambitious Shooting in New Russian Cinema History. — URL: <https://goo.gl/FWVPkO>

¹⁷² Publication: Gift for Putin Visited Feodosiya. — URL: <https://komtv.org/57212-podarok-putinu/>



RF military men and representatives of 'volunteer corps' are driving the APC through Simferopol on celebrating the RF Paratroopers Day. 2 August 2015.
©URL: <http://narodnoe-opolchenie.ru/>

The priests bless the heavy weapons brought to Crimea, fixing the idea of a necessary militarization of Crimea in the conscience of the faithful.

The priests are always present when the Kazaks, including the teenagers, swear an oath and join Kazak units in Crimea. During the ceremony newcomers entering the Kazak units kiss icons, and the priests read prayers. In some Kazak units the newcomer's back is beaten several times by lash afterwards.¹⁷³

A rather popular war propaganda method is an opening ceremony of new monuments. After the occupation a number of new monuments and memorial plates dedicated to various wars and military men, were unveiled.

For instance, on June 11 2016 a monument to 'polite men' looking as RF military man was stately opened in Simferopol. The Russian propaganda builds up a positive perception of occupation in the Crimeans, calling the RF Main Intelligence Office special task force and 'Crimean Self-Defense' fighters who seized Crimea, 'polite men'. The official ceremony of monument opening was attended by the silent drill team of Black Sea Navy, 'Crimean 'Volunteer Corps'', a unit of one military detachment, clergy and hundreds of local people.

A monument dedicated to the RF military men that participated in the Crimea occupation was opened in Bakhchisarai on 17 March 2016.¹⁷⁴ On December 30 2016 the 'authorities' of Crimea'



APC, people in military uniform and flags of DNR fighters in Arc of Salvage drama. Sevastopol, August 2016.
©URL: <http://kerch.fm/>



Metropolitan of Feodosiya and Kerch Platon is blessing the RF anti-craft missile systems S300 and S400 in Feodosiya on 14 January 2017.
©URL: <http://black-drago.livejournal.com/>

¹⁷³ Video: Oath! Kuban Kazak Army. Crimea 2014. — URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eWGtM9lQqU>

¹⁷⁴ Publication: Monument to Russian Soldier Opened in Bakhchisaray. — URL: <http://uapress.info/ru/news/show/123465>



Child is joining the Kazaks on the territory of the Holy Intercession Church. Sudak. 15 February 2016.
©URL: <http://sandro.life/>



opened a monument to the 'People's Volunteer Corps of All Times'.¹⁷⁵ RUR19,414,650.00RUR were allocated for the creation of monument from Simferopol budget.¹⁷⁶ In addition, since April 2014 a memorial plate dedicated to the Crimea occupation has been installed in Crimea.

Murals presenting President of RF with appeal 'Crimea Is Ours' and describing positively the occupying country military men are created on the walls of houses in Crimea.

For these purposes the dedicated NETWORK project has been created in the RF which is funded from the RF budget via the system of grants and non-commercial organizations.¹⁷⁷ Artists employed in Crimea for this project have created a number of murals legitimizing the RF army and Crimea occupation on the walls of the houses.

Moreover, there is a well developed network for selling souvenirs and toys with occupant military men images on the peninsula. For instance, a toy from the 'Polite People' line that reminds visually a minimized copy of the RF GRU special force soldier, was sold in the SOUTHERN GALLERY Shopping Mall of Simferopol in January 2017. T-shirts with images of military men that occupied Crimea can be



Opening of monument to RF military men who participated in the occupation of Crimea. Simferopol, 11 June 2016.
©URL: <https://www.facebook.com/aksenov.rk/>



Mural presenting Mr Putin in the navy uniform, Sevastopol, May 2014. The inscription on the mural: 'Welcome Back to Home Harbor!' ©URL: <http://проектсеть.рф>

¹⁷⁵ Publication: Leaders of Crimea Opened Monument to 'People's Volunteer Corps of All Times' (Photo). — URL: <http://www.c-inform.info/news/id/47604>

¹⁷⁶ Resolution on allocating the funds for the monument to 'volunteer corps' members. — URL: http://simadm.ru/media/acts/2016/09/05/_2032_%D0%BE%D1%82_05.09.2016.pdf

¹⁷⁷ Investigation on the grant funding of NETWORK project. — URL: <https://russiagate.com/obshchestvo/iz-seti-s-lyubovyu/>



CONCLUSIONS

The occupation of part of Ukrainian territory — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City — and further actions of the Russian Federation in Crimea constitute a gross violation of the international law standards, are not consistent with the UN objectives, and defy the fundamental principle of the UN member states: a commitment to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations. The RF aggression against Ukraine has resulted into global violations of the fundamental human rights, military crimes and crimes against humanity in Crimea.

The documented facts show that restricting rights and freedoms in Crimea has become one of the major consequences of the public life militarization on the peninsula. Actions of Russian military men and paramilitary unit members in Crimea featuring essential elements of offence (murders, tortures, abductions, infliction of bodily injuries, robberies, plundering, etc.) have not been effectively investigated by the Russian authorities. As a result, the persons involved into the gross violations of human rights have not been brought to the court at all.

The global absolute glorification of the 'Crimean Self-Defense' members and the Kazak units, institutional and financial support provided to these associations by the Russian authorities, impunity of their representatives for crimes performed develop a specific perception of such paramilitary units in the public conscience: in general as informal law enforcement agencies and in particular their members as 'free of any control' community members. Consequently, the representatives of the paramilitary units keep on violating the human rights while the citizens of Crimea are deprived of any effective protective means against their actions.

One of the most severe threats is militarization of education in Crimea, that has finally resulted into educating the children in the spirit of cult of war and tolerance to violence, aggressive attitude to the states and peoples that do not support the 'Russian World' ideas. Moreover, the children are enforced only the 'Russian identity', breaking their ties with the country of birth and citizenship — Ukraine. The Russian authorities carry on the military propaganda among the under age residents of Crimea, preparing them to the service in the RF army that constitutes a gross violation of the international humanitarian law standards.

Violating the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, 'Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War' and Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Russia as occupying state calls citizens of Ukraine on the occupied territory to its army. It should be noted that a part of the Ukrainian citizens drafted into the RF Armed Forces are forcedly moved from the territory of Crimea to the territory of RF. A significant component of the Russia's information and communication impact is persistent offers for the Crimea residents to be contracted into the RF Armed Forces to continue the military service. Applying criminal and administrative laws, information and economic resources, the RF forces the Crimean residents being citizens of Ukraine to serve in the RF armed and auxiliary forces.

Anti-Ukrainian propaganda and propaganda of war and hatred at the state level have logically developed into manifestations of Crimea militarization that caused repeated violation of freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of mass media. In attempt to control the Crimea information space in order to implement such large-scale propaganda, the Russian Federation has almost destroyed independent mass media and pluralism, having restricted substantially the access of Crimea residents to the alternative information sources.

