

**CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP** 

## ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION TO CRC/C/UKR/5-6

# SITUATION WITH RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA AND SEVASTOPOL CITY IN THE CONTEXT OF PENINSULA OCCUPATION BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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### INTRODUCTION

Due to the occupation of the part of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and City of Sevastopol (hereinafter — Crimea) by the Russian Federation (hereinafter the RF), it exercises the functions of government in such territory. The occupation of Crimea by the RF was condemned by the UN General Assembly (hereinafter the UN GA) by resolutions 71/205 of 19 December 2016, 72/190 of 19 December 2017, 73/263 of 22 December 2018, Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, and in resolutions 73/194 of 17 December 2018 and 74/17 of 9 December 2019, Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter the Convention), States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

This report has prepared to be sent to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. It presents major trends and violations of the UNCRC recorded by the Crimean Human Rights Group for the period of Crimea occupation (starting from 2014).

The data about the facts described in this communication were collected remotely through reviewing the open source information. In addition, the information on the children's events held was verified by the local CHRG monitors.

The information presented in the report was sent to the International Criminal Court in September 2020 as part of the "Responsibility of Russian officials for forcing the population of Crimea to serve in the Russian armed forces (in the context of state policy of promotion of military service among children)" submission prepared by the Crimean Human Rights Group and the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City (Ukraine, Kyiv).<sup>1</sup>

## TO ENSURE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE THE SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD (CONVENTION, ARTICLE 6)

Throughout 2020, the Crimean Human Rights Group noted the holding of a number of militaristic mass events organized by the RF authorities and the authorities of the occupation administration of Crimea among the civilian population, including children. They were held despite the need to take measures to limit the holding of mass events in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, that endangers the health of children present in crowded places, though, according to the occupation authorities, the number of cases is constantly growing.<sup>2</sup> Such actions violate UNCRC Article 6-2.

In particular, in Crimea, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the authorities of the occupation administration of Crimea and representatives of the RF Armed Forces organized and held four large-scale mass events documented by the Crimean Human Rights Group, that exposed the lives and health of children to an additional, completely unjustified danger of COVID-2019 infection, these are:

• on June 24, 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the occupation authorities held a military parade of Russian troops and equipment in the cities of Crimea;<sup>3</sup>

- <sup>2</sup> <u>https://crimeahrg.org/en/crimea-has-seen-a-sharp-increase-in-the-number-of-covid-19-infections-for-the-fifth-week/</u>
- <sup>3</sup> <u>https://crimeahrg.org/en/ccupation-authorities-in-crimea-failed-to-provide-audience-with-covid-19-necessary-protection-measures-during-military-parades/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://crimeahrg.org/en/propaganda-of-rf-armed-forces-among-crimean-children-coercion-to-serve-in-the-occupying-power-army/</u>



- on July 26, 2020, the occupation authorities held a number of mass events dedicated to the RF Navy Day in Sevastopol;<sup>4</sup>
- on August 27–29, 2020, the ARMY 2020 military-technical forum was held in Kerch. The RF military taught local children to handle weapons at the central city square and promoted service in the RF Armed Forces;<sup>5</sup>
- on August 27 29, the ARMY 2020 military-technical forum was held also in Sevastopol. The RF military taught local children to handle weapons at the central city square and promoted service in the RF Armed Forces.<sup>6</sup>

## RIGHT TO PRESERVE IDENTITY, INCLUDING NATIONALITY (CONVENTION, ARTICLE 8)

Having occupied Crimea and attempted to annex it, the RF has been imposing so called automatic Russian citizenship on civilian persons in Crimea, which is contrary to international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and customary international law), that was condemned by UN GA resolutions 71/205 of 19 December 2016, 72/190 of 19 December 2017, 73/263 of 22 December 2018 and 74/168 of 18 December 2019.

The RF federal constitutional law no 6-FKZ of 21 March 2014 'On taking the Republic of Crimea into the Russian Federation and establishing new entities — the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol Federal City — in the Russian Federation composition', set up that from the date of taking the "Republic of Crimea" in the Russian Federation and establishing new entities within the Russian Federation, citizens of Ukraine and stateless persons permanently residing on that day on the territory of the "Republic of Crimea" or on the

4 https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-sevastopole-proveli-voennyj-parad-s-grubymi-narusheniyami-protivoepidemiologicheskih-norm-foto/

<sup>5</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/en/in-the-center-of-kerch-despite-the-pandemic-the-service-in-the-russian-army-is-beingpromoted-photo/

<sup>6</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/en/militaristic-mass-events-are-held-in-sevastopol-during-a-pandemic/

territory of the "federal city of Sevastopol" shall be recognized RF citizens, excluding those who, within one month after this day, declare their desire to retain the other citizenship they and (or) their minor children have, or remain stateless.

At the same time, persons living in Crimea, including children, are subjected to discrimination<sup>7</sup> and deportation if they refuse to accept Russian nationality, that was noted and condemned in the above-mentioned UN General Assembly resolutions. The children deprived of parental care and who do not have parents (guardians) who could refuse to accept Russian nationality also cannot oppose the automatically granted RF nationality.

Such RF actions regarding the Crimean civilians disrespect the right of child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, as recognized in the UNCRC Article 8-1. In addition, most of services, including health care, education at schools and higher educational establishments, employment, are almost inaccessible for non-Russian nationals in Crimea.

## RIGHT OF CHILD TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION (CONVENTION, ARTICLE 17)

In Crimea, in disregard of the UN CRC Article 17, the access of the population, including children, to media and social networks independent of the Russian authorities is consistently blocked.

As of the end of June 2020, according to the monitoring carried out by the Crimean Human Rights Group, Ukrainian radio stations are received only in 5 of 19 settlements in the north of Crimea, with the signal of Ukrainian FM radio stations licensed to broadcast in Crimea deliberately blocked by Russian broadcasters.<sup>8</sup> In other settlements of the peninsula, the Ukrainian radio stations were blocked by the Russian Federation from the very beginning of the occupation — in March 2014.

In addition, in Crimea, 8 providers in at least 7 largest settlements completely block more than 20 Ukrainian information and entertainment sites and 2 social networks.<sup>9</sup> Some of these sites produce content in Ukrainian, including that for children. The website of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories that provides, inter alia, information on the education of children in the territory of Ukraine controlled by the Ukrainian authorities, has been also completely blocked on the territory of Crimea.<sup>10</sup>

The Crimean Human Rights Group, while studying the situation with freedom of speech in the occupied Crimea, monitored the Russian and Crimean media and recorded over 700 examples of hate speech.<sup>11</sup> Most of the illustrations are incitement to hatred based on ethnicity (mainly towards Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars<sup>12</sup>) as well as on religious beliefs (mainly towards Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses). At the same time, the authorities de facto in Crimea are selective in responding to incitement to hatred, thus xenophobic statements in the media and social networks towards Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses eventually go unpunished.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, the Crimean officials and politicians permit xenophobic statements in the mass media, the hate speech is used also in the press releases of Crimea and RF legal enforcement bodies, and the textbook on history of Crimea for Grade 10 was added a specific section in 2019 to incite hatred to the Crimean Tatars.<sup>14</sup>

- <sup>8</sup> <u>https://crimeahrg.org/en/jamming-ukrainian-fm-radio-signal-in-crimea-strengthened/</u>
- <sup>9</sup> <u>https://crimeahrg.org/en/8-providers-block-completely-30-websites-in-crimea/</u>
- <sup>10</sup> <u>https://mtot.gov.ua/ua/jak-gromadjaninu-z-tot-zareestruvatisja-na-zno</u>
- <sup>11</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Hate-book-EN-1.pdf
- <sup>12</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-shtrafuyut-za-zloupotreblenie-svobodoj-massovoj-informaczii-no-pozvolyayutispolzovat-yazyk-vrazhdy/
- <sup>13</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-shtrafuyut-za-zloupotreblenie-svobodoj-massovoj-informaczii-no-pozvolyayutispolzovat-yazyk-vrazhdy/
- <sup>14</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/ru/rossijskij-uchebnik-istorii-kryma-dlya-10-go-klassa-razzhigaet-nenavist-k-krymskim-tatarampravozashhitniki/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/en/ukrainians-who-did-not-receive-russian-passports-fined-in-crimea-and-deported/



## RIGHT TO EDUCATION (UN CRC ARTICLE 28)

Children who have entered higher educational establishments in 2020 in the territory controlled by the government of Ukraine cannot freely leave Crimea to get to their study places due to restrictions imposed by the Russian Federation.

So, in accordance with Ordinance of the RF Government of March 27, 2020 No. 763-r "On measures to prevent the penetration of a new coronavirus infection into the territory of the Russian Federation", children living in Crimea may leave the peninsula only once, when they need to submit documents for admission, but after their return they should be subject to the ban on the second time departure. As of the end of November 2020, the students living in Crimea were on e-learning due to the quarantine restrictions in the higher educational establishments of Ukraine. With the quarantine restrictions finished, such students would not be able to leave to the territory controlled by the government of Ukraine to continue the study.

The RF keeps on parrying the UN GA demands and ICJ judgement of 19 April 2017 on provisional measures under the case of 'Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination' (Ukraine against Russia') depriving the Crimean children of access to the Ukrainian language based education.

According to the monitoring results of the Crimean Human Rights Group, no single school where all subjects are taught in Ukrainian, has left in Crimea. There are also significantly fewer classes with Ukrainian instruction language than declared by the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation. Though school No. 20 in Feodosia has been declared by the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation in Crimea as a school with the Ukrainian language of instruction, all subjects there are taught in Russian. The Ukrainian language has remained only as an individual subject in some classes.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> https://crimeahrg.org/en/no-ukrainian-language-media-school-has-remained-in-crimea/



UNDERTAKING OF STATES TO RESPECT AND TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR RULES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE TO THEM IN ARMED CONFLICTS WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE CHILD (CONVENTION, ARTICLE 38)

The RF occupation of Crimea has been accompanied by the RF violating a number of its commitments as the Occupying Power pursuant to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. For instance, the RF has been compelling Crimean residents to serve in the armed or auxiliary forces of the Russian Federation, including through pressure or propaganda, that was noted in UN GA resolutions 72/190 of 19 December 2017, 73/263 of 22 December 2018 and 74/168 of 18 December 2019.

Violating the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 51, and the UNCRC, Article 38, under the so called 'military patriotic education', the RF has been propagandizing a voluntary enrollment to its army among the children, through both holding mass propaganda events, and establishing educational establishments and introducing academic courses in the comprehensive schools delivering the elementary military training and aiming at preparing the children to serve in the RF Armed Forces as one of major objectives.

The propaganda of the service in the RF Armed Forces is based on the RF national laws and regulative documents adopted by the authorities on the occupied territory of Crimea.

The Federal Law "On Military Duty and Military Service" dated March 28, 1998 No. 53-FZ<sup>16</sup> defines the mandatory nature of the military obligations of the Russian Federation citizens, that include a

<sup>16</sup> <u>https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\_doc\_LAW\_18260/</u>

military registration, a compulsory preparation for military service, conscription, military service under the conscription, staying in reserve, call-up for military training and a military training during the period of staying in reserve. The law establishes that male citizens aged 18 to 27, who are on the military register or not, though obliged to be on the military register and not staying in reserve, shall be subject to conscription for military service. The Federal Law no 53FZ assigns the RF state bodies (as well as the authorities on the occupied territory of Crimea0 tasks on military and patriotic education of the citizens.

In addition, Resolution of RF Government dated December 30, no 1493 'On State Program 'Patriotic Education of Russian Federation Citizens for 2016 – 2020<sup>17</sup> set up the tasks for the "patriotic education" of the Russian Federation citizens, in particular, "the development of military-patriotic education of citizens, enhancement of the prestige of service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and law enforcement agencies", "assistance in creating conditions for the successful recruitment of trained citizens with high motivation to undergo military and public service to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, law enforcement agencies and other structures", "the formation of a system of continuous military-patriotic education of children and youth", "development and intensification of interaction of military patriotic associations (clubs), military units, and veteran organizations in order to increase the young people motivation to the military services and readiness to defend the Fatherland".

The resolution names the Federal Agency for Youth the Program Coordinator. Moreover, the Program establishes the Action Plan for implementing the State Program "Patriotic Education of Citizens of the Russian Federation for 2016-2020", that defines the tasks for the "patriotic education" as well as the entities entrusted with implementing them. The list of such entities, apart from the RF state bodies, include the federal state budgetary institution "Russian Center for Civil and Patriotic Education of Children and Youth" (the so-called "Rospatriotcenter"<sup>18</sup>), the all-Russian public-state organization "Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and Navy of Russia" (the so-called " DOSAAF of Russia"), the federal state budgetary institution "Center for Support of Youth Creative Initiatives", all-Russian public-state organization "Russian Schoolchildren Movement", the federal state budgetary institution "Russian Schoolchildren Movement", the federal state budgetary institu

The Program also determines that RUR1,718,691,500 rubles are planned to be allocated for its implementation in 2016-2020, including RUR1,628,191,500 from the federal budget.

Since the RF considers Crimea, occupied by it, a part of its own state territory, the RF national legal provisions are mandatory for the authorities de facto on the territory of Crimea.

The regulative framework for propagandizing the service in the RF army among the children of so called 'Republic of Crimea' (an administrative territorial entity created by the RF on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) has been enacted by Edict of the RC Head "On approving the Concept of patriotic education, and spiritual and moral upbringing of the population in the Republic of Crimea" No. 522-U dated December 18, 2014.<sup>19</sup>

In accordance with the Edict provisions, "the adoption of the Concept is due to the need to develop a system of patriotic education of citizens in the Republic of Crimea, to ensure a unified approach to its organization process, to coordinate activities of all its implementation entities in this field". Patriotic education is defined by the Edict as "a systematic and purposeful activity of the executive bodies of state power of the Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies of municipalities in the Republic of Crimea and nongovernmental organizations to bring up the citizens in high patriotic consciousness, readiness to fulfill their civic duty and constitutional obligations to protect the interests of the Motherland".

The Edict also states that "the goals of patriotic education in the Republic of Crimea shall be education of patriotic feelings and consciousness of citizens of the Russian Federation living in the Republic of Crimea, the development of high social activity, civic responsibility, ability to act for strengthening the state, ensuring its vital interests and sustainable development". The ways of achieving these goals shall be, in particular, "establishing socially significant patriotically oriented values, views, and beliefs in the consciousness and feelings of citizens' and 'improving the military and patriotic education as well as increasing motivation to

<sup>19</sup> <u>https://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub\_237906.pdf</u>

<sup>17</sup> https://base.garant.ru/71296398/#friends

<sup>18</sup> http://docs.cntd.ru/document/901828960

the military service, receiving basic knowledge in the sphere of defence by the Republic of Crimea citizens as well as their training in the military service basics'.

The Edict states that "the patriotic education in the Republic of Crimea shall be carried out within the framework of the national policy pursued in the Russian Federation in this area, and based on federal laws, regulatory legal acts of the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, the federal state program on patriotic education of the Russian Federation citizens, laws and other regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Crimea, regional programs in the field of patriotic education in the Republic of Crimea". The Edict includes all state executive bodies of the "Republic of Crimea", local self-government bodies of municipalities in the "Republic of Crimea", scientific and educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and associations in the system of "patriotic education", and to manage the "patriotic education" system, to implement the common strategy in this area of activity, to combine the efforts of government bodies, non-governmental and religious organizations and movements, interdepartmental structures — non-governmental (coordination) councils shall be set up.

- The Edict defines also aspects of the patriotic education, in particular:
- formation of the Russian civil identity foundations,
- implementation of information and propaganda activities in order to attract young people to participate in the 'heroic and patriotic focused' activities
- involvement of young people into military-applied and service-applied sports,
- 'upbringing of the citizens of the Republic of Crimea in patriotic values and patriotic self-awareness'
- 'education in loyalty to the military and heroic traditions of the Russian army, increasing of the prestige level of the service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation",
- 'development a conscious attitude to fulfilling the constitutional duty of protecting the freedom and independence of the country, ensuring its sovereignty, in the society',
- 'familiarization of teenagers and young men with the life and activities of military units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, with the peculiarities of service and life of military staff',
- 'development of such forms of military-patriotic education as a defense-sports recreation camp, field training camps, military-historical, military-technical and military-sports clubs and associations, schools for young sailors, pilots, border guards, paratroopers; military sports games, hiking courses, circles, sports sections'
- development of cadet traditions, establishment of cadet groups in the educational establishments.

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the "Republic of Crimea" "On approving the State Program of the Republic of Crimea "Implementation of the State Youth Policy in the Republic of Crimea" dated April 30, 2020 No. 258<sup>20</sup> envisages achievement of such objectives regarding children in the occupied Crimea:

- Educating the society in a positive attitude towards the military service
- Increasing the role and creating conditions for the participation of non-governmental associations, non-profit organizations, Kazak societies entered in the prescribed manner in the state register of Kazak societies of the Russian Federation, in the implementation of tasks in the field of patriotic education;
- Augmenting the number of students in educational organizations involved in the activities of **YUNARMIYA**, the All-Russian Children and Youth Military Patriotic Public Movement;
- Enhancing the proportion of children and youth involved in non-governmental associations, Kazak societies and organizations of a "patriotic" orientation (search units, military-patriotic, volunteer organizations, student groups, societies of history researchers, educational and other organizations);
- Learning ideological attitudes towards "the readiness of citizens to defend the Fatherland", raising the prestige of state, including military, service.

In order to implement the tasks, set by the Program, RUR 1,549,589,850 (approximately USD22.03) are planned to be allocated from the budget of the Republic of Crimea in 2020-2024 for its implementation.

<sup>20</sup> http://docs.cntd.ru/document/570781098



Exercising the above mentioned obligations on holding the events promoting the RF army service, the occupation authorities on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea adopted a number of ordinances to implement a number of 'military patriotic' focused actions, including those being a part of the all-Russian actions, as well as to establish the responsibilities of the occupation authorities on their implementation. Those of them to be noted are Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of the "Republic of Crimea" dated October 20, 2016 No. 1257-r 'On approving the action plan for implementing the state program "Patriotic education of citizens of the Russian Federation for 2016-2020" in the territory of the Republic of Crimea', approved by the resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation dated December 30 2015 No. 1493;<sup>21</sup> Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of the "Republic of Crimea" (December 30 2015 No. 96-r "On approving the Action Plan for the patriotic education of the population of the Republic of Crimea for 2015".<sup>22</sup>

The occupation authorities in the occupied City of Sevastopol adopted Law of 'City of Sevastopol' dated November 29, 2018, no 462-ZS 'On patriotic education in the City of Sevastopol'.<sup>23</sup> In accordance with this act, "the goal of patriotic education shall be to revive and to strengthen the foundations of patriotism among the population of the city of Sevastopol as priority spiritual, moral and social values, the formation and development, especially with the younger generation". State bodies and military units defined in the Law shall carry out, in particular, activities on military-patriotic education — a set of measures aimed at "developing the population of the city of Sevastopol with a conscious need to fulfill their constitutional duty and the obligation to protect the Fatherland, to be prepared to the military service, bring-ing up a pride for ... the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, ... a respect to the national history and the military services ...'.

Being guided by the above-mentioned regulative framework, the RF has been setting up education establishments on the territory of the occupied Crimea where children are taught the military service basics and encouraged to enroll later the RF army. This is illustrated by the establishments below.

22 https://rk.gov.ru/document/show/4156

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://rk.gov.ru/document/show/6354

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://sevzakon.ru/view/laws/bank/2018/zakon\_n\_462\_zs\_ot\_29\_11\_2018/opublikovanie/



#### "State budgetary educational institution of the Republic of Crimea "CRIMEAN CADET CORPS" Cadet Boarding School".

This school objectives are<sup>24</sup>

- to keep the best traditions of Russian education and culture, folk and military traditions;
- to educate and train cadets for the purpose of their encyclical and comprehensive development, socioeconomic adaptation to independent activity, to prepare cadets for military or other civil service;
- to implement an in-depth training of cadets in military applied disciplines;
- to train cadets to be physically healthy and tough, capable of enduring the difficulties of military service, to foster professional skills and psychological qualities in them;
- to develop the Russian civic identity, high general culture, moral, ethic, psychological, business and organizational qualities that contribute to the choice of a life path in favor of highly moral, professional and responsible service to their people, in the cadets.

#### "State budgetary educational institution of the Republic of Crimea "Boarding School of Arts Kerch Educational and Training Complex"

This educational institution teaches school-age children the military fundamentals and promotes the military service in the army of the Russian Federation among students.

The boarding school has introduced classes focused on the military musical training and education. For instance, **YOUNG CADET** course was introduced in Grades 5-6, with military musical training and education focus, to teach the students the military fundamentals.<sup>25</sup> The boarding school holds annually

<sup>24</sup> Created by Order of 'Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea' no 91 of 3 July 2014 to implement Ordinance of 'Council of Ministers of Republic of Crimea' no 556r of 24 June 2014 <u>http://www.kril-kkk.ru/images/Documents/07.pdf</u>

<sup>25</sup> According to the Boarding School Public Reports for academic years 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, and Year Plan for Academic Year 2019/202 <u>http://licey-iskusstv.ru/Dokument/otchet/publichnyj\_otchet\_2016.pdf</u>, <u>http://licey-iskusstv.</u>

events on cadetting<sup>26</sup> and passing out,<sup>27</sup> where the students are subject to propaganda of the military service in the RF troops.

In accordance with the Charter, the School shall be in charge of a military registration of citizens<sup>28</sup> and timely submission of the data on conscripts, as well as shall ensure that students receive basic knowledge about the defense of the state, about the military duty of citizens of the Russian Federation, and the training of male students on the military service basics.

For example, in the 2017/2018 academic year, the military commissariat of the city of Kerch made military registration files for 15 cadets born in 2001, being a preparatory step for conscription into the armed forces.<sup>29</sup> In the 2018/2019 academic year, 11 more young men born in 2002 were registered for military service.<sup>30</sup>

"State budgetary educational institution for additional education of City of Sevastopol "Centre for Military and Patriotic Development of Studying Youth"<sup>31</sup>

The Center for Military-Patriotic Development issued an order,<sup>32</sup> that became grounds for producing such programs as **"Defender of the Fatherland"**, **"Young Patriot"**, **"Pre-conscript"** and **"Patriots of Russia"**, aimed at promoting the service in the RF army and encouraging the introduction of a militaristic program among children of different ages.

**The "Defender of the Fatherland" program** purpose is "to instill patriotic consciousness, social activity, civic responsibility, loyal service to the Fatherland, readiness to fulfill a civic duty and constitutional obligations to protect the interests of the Motherland."

- The "Defender of the Fatherland" program objectives and tasks are:
- To develop psychological and physical readiness of students for service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation;
- To instill the interest in military service, to prepare for contract service and entrance to higher educational institutions.<sup>33</sup>
- The "Young Patriot" program course is designed to "comprehensively prepare young people for future service with the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. The program is focused on the military-patriotic upbringing of young men and women, is targeted to prepare young men for the defense of the Fatherland, based on the military traditions of Russia. The main goal of military-patriotic upbringing within the program is to prepare students for the defense of the Motherland, their people, their native land, to foster a sense of respect and pride for the Russian Federation and its Armed Forces".
- The purpose of the "Young Patriot" program is, inter alia, 'to raise future patriots-citizens ready to serve the Motherland'.<sup>34</sup>
- The goals of the "Pre-conscript" program is, in particular, "to educate future patriots-citizens who are ready to serve their Motherland, to contribute to the formation of positive motivation for the military service".<sup>35</sup>

- <sup>29</sup> According to the Boarding School Public Report for academic years 2017/2018; Certificate for Reconciling Military Registration Data of Conscripts dated 10 May 2018
- <sup>30</sup> According to the boarding school year plan for 2019/2020.
- <sup>31</sup> https://cvpvum.edusev.ru/uploads/5000/20394/section/316118/licenziya.pdf

<sup>32</sup> Order no 86 of 7 September 2016 on approving additional educational and general development programs <u>https://</u>cvpvum.edusev.ru/uploads/5000/20394/section/316121/prikazy/prikaz\_ob\_utverzhdenii\_dop\_ot\_07.09.2016\_86.pdf

- <sup>33</sup> https://cvpvum.edusev.ru/uploads/5000/20394/section/316112/36506/Narva.pdf
- <sup>34</sup> https://cvpvum.edusev.ru/uploads/20400/20394/section/316112/2019-2020/UTOPLENNIKOV\_19.pdf
- <sup>35</sup> https://cvpvum.edusev.ru/uploads/20400/20394/section/316112/2019-2020/DRAGUN\_D\_19.pdf

ru/Dokument/otchet/otchet2016.pdf, http://licey-iskusstv.ru/Dokument/otchet/otche1t\_publichnyj\_2018.pdf, http://liceyiskusstv.ru/Dokument/plan/god\_20.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> https://youtu.be/zRLEIYp1-x4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> https://youtu.be/I6r2PDpHFjY

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Pursuant to Federal Law no 53FZ of 28 March 1998 'On military duty and military service', resolution of RF Government no 719 of 27 November 2006 'On approving the Regulation for Military Registration'

**The goals of the 'Patriots of Russia'** program are, in particular, "to identify and develop the abilities of each student in the military sphere, to raise students with strong-willed and moral qualities of citizen and patriot of the Motherland, to contribute to the formation of positive motivation for military service".<sup>36</sup>

Education in the framework of the above programs is carried out on the basis of the regulatory acts of the Russian Federation national legislation.<sup>37</sup>

The aforementioned programs provide for drilling, basic military training, including mastering certain types of land troops weapons (Kalashnikov assault rifle, hand grenades).

#### Nakhimov Naval College of Sevastopol City

Nakhimov Naval College of Sevastopol City was established by Ordinance of RF Government no 953-r of 4 June 2014 'On establishing federal state budget military higher educational establishment 'the Black Sea Naval College of Red Star Order named after P.S.Nakhimov' of Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation'.<sup>38</sup>

The tasks of this educational establishment include, inter alia, preparing the staff for the RF Armed Forces, 'instilling the state patriotic conscience, educating in the Russia spirit, loyalty to the constitutional duty, pride of being a part of the Armed Forces of Russian Federation'.<sup>39</sup> The educational establishment accepts children aged 16 for training.<sup>40</sup>

#### "Municipal budgetary comprehensive educational institution "Secondary Comprehensive School – Nursery School no 36" of the municipal formation of Simferopol City Area, Republic of Crimea"

The nursery school, by its order,<sup>41</sup> opened three cadet classes to encourage and develop militaryapplied skills and ideas among preschool children. The classes were opened "with the aim of enhancing the civil-patriotic education of the younger generation and instilling the best traditions of classical cadet education in students, as requested by the parents (legal representatives)".

Their main purpose is "to create optimal conditions for the intellectual, cultural, physical and moral development of students, their adaptation to life in society, to create a basis for preparing minor citizens to serve the Fatherland in the civil and military fields".<sup>42</sup>

Another instrument used by the RF to promote the service in the occupying power army among children in Crimea is activity of organizations, the main or indirect task of which is to promote the military service in the RF army among children of different ages. This is illustrated by references of such organizations below.

#### State budgetary educational institution of additional education of the Republic of Crimea "Regional center for training for military service and military-patriotic education" ("KRYMPATRIOTTSENTR").

**"KRYMPATRIOTTSENTR"** was established by the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea in 2014. Its purpose and scope of activity are "the organization and methodological support for the citizens to receive the basic knowledge in the field of defense, to train them in the

- <sup>38</sup> <u>http://docs.cntd.ru/document/420200132</u>
- <sup>39</sup> <u>https://chvvmu.mil.ru/upload/site27/document\_file/CJYIIwVJ11.pdf</u>
- <sup>40</sup> https://chvvmu.mil.ru/Postupayuschim/Pravila\_postupleniya
- <sup>41</sup> Order No 341 of 31 August 2016 https://school-36-simferopol.ru/DswMedia/-341\_3108\_obotkryitiikadetskixklassov.pdf
- <sup>42</sup> https://school-36-simferopol.ru/DswMedia/polojeniekadetov-1-.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> https://cvpvum.edusev.ru/uploads/20400/20394/section/316112/2019-2020/POPOVSKIJ\_19.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Federal Law no 53FZ of 28 March 1998 'On military duty and military service', Concept of Federal System for preparing the citizens to the military service up to 2020, dated February 3, 2010 no 134r, Order of RF Ministry of Defence and the RF Ministry of Education and Science of February 24, 2010, no 96/134 "On adopting Guidance for training the Russian Federation citizens in the defence basics and preparing them in military service fundamentals at educational secondary (full) comprehensive institutions, educational institutions of elementary and secondary vocational education, and at the training centers', Resolution of RF Government of October 5 2010 no 795 'State Program 'Patriotic Education of Citizens for 2011 — 2015'



basics of military service in educational institutions and training centers, and for the military-patriotic education". "The Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea" appoints the head of the Center, approves its charter, ensures registration, develops and approves the state assignment of the Center.

"KRYMPATRIOTTSENTR" is one of the key voicers for the propaganda of the military service in the RF army among the Crimean children. For example, "Krympatriottsentr" became a co-organizer of the 'Military Patriotic YUNARMIYA' thematic session held on August 9 — 29, 2018 at the Alyye Parusa Children's Health Center.<sup>43</sup> During this period, "Krympatriottsentr" delivered trainings on tactics and strategy of military operations, the design of modern small arms, shooting, military sports games among camping children. The trainings for children were delivered, in particular, by "active officers of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, renowned military men, active DOSAAF staff, the Russian Union of Veterans and the Russian Community of Crimea",<sup>44</sup> including Deputy Commander of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Guards Separate Special Forces Brigade of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Colonel, Vladimir Vladimirovich Nedobezhkin.<sup>45</sup>

## All-Russian public-state organization "Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and Navy of Russia" ("DOSAAF of Russia")

All-Russian public-state organization "Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and Navy of Russia" ("DOSAAF of Russia") has been also operating in the occupied Crimea. This organization was set up pursuant to Resolution of Russian Federation Government no 973 of 28 November 2009 'On All-Russian public-state organization "Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and Navy of Russia". According to this organization charter, it shall contribute to the 'military patriotic

<sup>44</sup> <u>https://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/v-respublike-krym-sostoyalos-zakrytie-yunarmejskoj-smeny.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> http://alieparusa.com.ru/images/Docs/Svedeniya\_ob\_obrazovatelnoy\_organizatsii/Otchet\_o\_rezultatakh\_ samoobsledovaniya/Otchet\_o\_rezultatakh\_samoobsledovaniya\_za\_2018\_g.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> https://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/geroj-rossii-vladimir-nedobezhkin-posetil-yunarmejskuyu-smenu-v-dots-alye-parusa.html

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education' of citizens, training of the citizens in military registration specialties for the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, other troops, military formations, training of the citizens in the elementary defense knowledge and the military service basics, participate in organizing and holding "patriotic (military-patriotic) events aimed at promoting historical and cultural, military-heroic traditions, love for the Fatherland, readiness for work and defense of the Motherland'.<sup>46</sup>

DOSAAF of Russia organized joining the **YUNARMIYA** Organization by 200 children — residents of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The DOSAAF is also one of the founders of the YUNARMIYA.<sup>47</sup>

#### The All-Russian Youth Military-Patriotic Social Movement YUNARMIYA

The Crimean Branch of the All-Russian Youth Military-Patriotic Social Movement **YUNARMIYA** singles its goal as 'The leaders of the organization aim at raising a generation capable not only of defending the Fatherland with arms in hand, but also of standing up for Russia's interests in peaceful spheres. The Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation promised the YUNARMIYA members that they would have the opportunity to fly on airplanes, jump with a parachute and shoot from any weapon, with the exception of missiles".<sup>48</sup> The Crimean YUNARMIA was established in June 2016 with a support of 'the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea' and KRYMPATRIOTTSENTR state budget institution.<sup>49</sup>

Pursuant to the Indicative educational programs of additional education for the YUNARMIYA military-patriotic circle for secondary schools and additional education institutions for children and youth approved by the Board of Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea, no 1/2 of 30 March 2018, and based on them, working programs for YUNARMIYA led circles activities are developed by the general educational establishments for comprehensive schools and additional

- <sup>48</sup> RF Yunarmiya website. URL: <u>http://www.youngarmiya.ru/p/faq.html</u>
- <sup>49</sup> Information on establishing the CRIMEAN YUNARMIYA. URL: <u>http://monm.rk.gov.ru/rus/index.htm/news/340464.htm</u>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> http://dosaaf92region.ru/ustav/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> <u>http://www.dosaaf.ru/region91/news/yunarmiya-sevastopolya-poluchila-popolnenie/</u>

education institutions for children and youth, aimed at, inter alia, enhancing the authority and the prestige of military service, instilling love to the Russian Federation as 'Motherland'. This program is intended to work with children studying at Grades 6-9 and includes, for instance, practical shooting from small arms (handling of-barreled weapons, familiarization with machine guns, high-speed shooting techniques, tactical shooting techniques, shooting techniques in motion, shooting techniques from a moving vehicle, group work, sniper training, test shooting), disassembly and maintenance of automatic weapons, throwing grenades.<sup>50</sup>

Apart from acting directly in the schools of the Crimea, YUNARMIYA is involved in certain events of a "military-patriotic" or militaristic nature. So, in November 2018,<sup>51</sup> YUNARMIYA played the game "Shield and Sword" during the dedicated shift "School of Future Commanders" at the ARTEK International Children's Center, that included demonstration by children-participants of skills in fire-power training, throwing grenades, putting on a chemical protection suit, setting up a tent, building a rope crossing and providing the first aid.<sup>52</sup>

In October 2019, Yevpatoriya hosted the fourth annual republican (i.e. the so-called "Republic of Crimea") camp-fire of the YUNARMIYA participants, attended by servicemen of the RF Black Sea Navy army corps. The event was attended by more than 250 children who competed in drill training, achievement of firepower training and tactics targets. During the event, children met with Russian military men, and discussed the military service by conscription and by contract, the procedure for entering higher military educational institutions.<sup>53</sup>

#### "Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea"

"Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea" is one of the authorities in the occupied Crimea that, inter alia, plans and approves holding events aimed at the propaganda of the service in the RF army and other military units among the Ukrainian nationality children living on the occupied territory of the AR Crimea and City of Sevastopol, in the Crimean educational institutions.

Thus, the Ministry has approved indicative educational programs of additional education for the YUNARMIYA military-patriotic circle for secondary schools and additional education institutions for children and youth.<sup>54</sup> The Ministry also monitors and tests programs in the system of municipal institutions, recommends that the administrations of municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Crimea implement a set of measures to include and test programs in the system of additional education for children and youth in municipalities of the Republic of Crimea starting from September 1, 2018.<sup>55</sup>

In 2018, the 'Ministry' held the POBEDA<sup>56</sup> (Victory) military-sports game in Crimea "in order to improve the system of patriotic education, which ensures the formation of solid foundations of patriotic consciousness, a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of loyalty to the duty of defending their Motherland among the youth of the Russian Federation." The objectives of the game are, in particular, preparation for service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation; military-applied training of adolescents, support for the YUNARMIYA all-Russian children's and youth patriotic social movement. The 'Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea' is one of the organizers of the game in the 'Republic of Crimea'. The game, in accordance with the Regulations, is for teams of students aged 14-16 years from the educational institutions of the "Republic of Crimea".

<sup>56</sup> On 12 February 2017 'Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea' issued Order No 284 'On holding POBEDA All-Russian Military and Sports Game Republican Phase in 2018' <u>https://monm.rk.gov.ru/file/pr284-12022018.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> https://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/YUnarmiya-OP-D0.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> <u>http://ermuo.ru/index.php/news/772-shkola-budushchikh-komandirov-v-arteke</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> https://tvzvezda.ru/news/forces/content/201811261916-mil-ru-8udbl.html?utm\_source=tvzvezda&utm\_ medium=longpage&utm\_campaign=longpage&utm\_term=v1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> <u>https://tvzvezda.ru/news/forces/content/20191014920-ND8Yi.html?utm\_source=tvzvezda&utm\_medium=longpage&utm\_campaign=longpage&utm\_term=v1</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Decision no 2/1 of 30 March 2018 'On approving and implementing Indicative educational programs of additional education for the YUNARMIYA military-patriotic circle for secondary schools and additional education institutions for children and youth'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> https://vishnevka.educrimea.ru/uploads/20500/20486/section/992682/Reshenie\_kollegii.pdf?1549025781754

The game was held in accordance with the Action Plan for implementing the Concept of a nationwide system for identifying and developing young talents for 2015-2020<sup>57</sup> in the Republic of Crimea, aimed at 'improving the system of patriotic education, which ensures the formation of solid foundations of patriotic consciousness, a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of loyalty to the duty of defending their Motherland among the youth of the Russian Federation."

#### Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation

Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation determines and approves the procedure for holding sports events related to building a positive image of the RF army in the occupied Crimea and demonstrating special skills by RF military personnel, as well as developing such skills among residents of the occupied Crimea, including children.

Thus, the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation has established the "Unified Calendar Schedule for interregional, All-Russian and international physical culture events and sports events in the military-applied and service-applied sports for 2019".<sup>58</sup> This Plan sets out that on the territory of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, competitions will be held in such disciplines as army hand-to-hand combat, military applied sports, military sports all-around, rowing on boats, rowing and sailing all-around, service biathlon, shooting from a regular or a service weapon.

The applied military sports are a kind of sports based on special actions (including techniques) related to the performance of the official duties by military men and employees of some federal executive bodies, the preparation of citizens of pre-conscription and conscription age for the military service, and developed within the operations of one or several federal executive bodies.<sup>59</sup>

The Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation establishes the procedure for developing the rules for such sports, and also organizes all-Russian reviews of physical readiness of citizens of pre-conscription and conscription age for the military service.<sup>60</sup>

Thus, the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation is responsible for holding sports events aimed at promoting the military service and paramilitary sports among Crimeans.

The Crimean Human Rights Group documented also a number of events hold in Crimea occupied by the RF and aimed at propagandizing the service in the army of occupying power.

- Children from the city of Sevastopol took part in the activities of the **GVARDEYETS** defense and sports camp. On June 13, 2017, in the Nizhny Novgorod region, the fifth jubilee GVARDEYETS defense and sports camp was formally opened at the 210<sup>th</sup> Interspecific Regional Training Center for training junior specialists of the engineering troops. According to the Zvezda TV channel, controlled by the RF Ministry of Defense,<sup>61</sup> the children "will get acquainted with the tasks and capabilities of the engineering troops, army life, will participate in various sporting events, play airsoft, visit museums and even perform the first (initial) training exercise with AK -74. With the camp shift finished, the children will make a solemn oath of YUNARMIYA men dedication".<sup>62</sup>
- The children's camps **"GVARDEYETS-1"** and **"GVARDEYETS-2"** were created with the support of the RF Ministry of Defense, DOSAAF of Russia and "YUNARMIYA" on the basis of military units of the RF Armed Forces in the cities of Kostrovo, Nizhny Novgorod Region, and Penza, in order to provide children with basic military training and to ensure their "Patriotic education".<sup>63</sup>

<sup>63</sup> http://pfo.gov.ru/media/files/file/fUMgx402vIBPfiH8b9wcnIZPpmSk2VcF.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> The Concept was approved by Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Crimea of November 24 2015 no 1106r 'On approving the Action Plan for implementing Concept of a nationwide system for identifying and developing young talents for 2015-2020 in the Republic of Crimea <u>https://rk.gov.ru/document/show/5113</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Order no 1090 dated 27 December 2018 that approved 'Unified Calendar Schedule for interregional, All-Russian and international physical culture events and sports events in the military-applied and service-applied sports for 2019" <u>http://www.minsport.gov.ru/2019/doc/EKP\_VPVS\_2019-0511.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> RF federal Law 'On physical culture and sports in the Russian Federation' no 329-FZ of 4 December 2017 <u>http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\_doc\_LAW\_73038/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Resolution of the RF Government 'On the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation' dated 19 June 2012 no 607

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> <u>https://sc.mil.ru/social/media/television/more.htm?id=8771@morfOrgInfo</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> https://tvzvezda.ru/news/forces/content/2dcba73c44c28788aceb2cf87e3648793039c305ee166d72593a20e11d29112d



- A military-patriotic shift for students of military educational institutions, incl. Nakhimov Naval College and cadet schools of Belarus and Russia in the ORLIONOK All-Russian Children's Center.<sup>64</sup> This children's center was established by the RF Government and the RF Ministry of Education.<sup>65</sup> The shift participants will be offered the military training for children.<sup>66</sup>
- In June 2016, the Crimean phase of the all-Russian race "Race of Heroes" was held for the first time at the ANGARSK training ground of the separate coastal defense brigade of the Black Sea Navy.<sup>67</sup> An exhibition of military equipment and weapons was organized for the race audience.<sup>68</sup>
- On March 26, 2019, the "Spartakiad of pre-conscription Kazak youth" was held in the occupied Crimea for children 10-17 years old. The event was organized by the **Crimean Area Kazak Society of the "Black Sea Kazak Army" Military Kazak Society** with the support of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea and the RC State Budgetary Educational Institution "KRYMPATRIOTTSENTR". The goal of the Spartakiad was to foster a "sense of patriotism" in children and readiness for military service (Spartakiad means a sports and athletic contest).<sup>69</sup>
- In December 2019, the "Shield and Sword" military tactics game was held in Sevastopol, attended by children who were members of the YUNARMIYA "All-Russian children's and youth military-patriotic public movement" and representatives of the dedicated unit of the ARTEK international children's center- "School of Future Commanders". The game participants shot air rifles and threw grenades at a distance.<sup>70</sup>
- In February 2018, in Yalta, DOSAAF of Russia held an open tournament in shooting from pneumatic weapons, attended by children who represented DOSAAF of Russia, YUNARMIYA, students of the Nakhimov Naval College. In addition to pneumatical weapon shooting, the children were involved in disassembling and assembling a Kalashnikov.<sup>71</sup>

64	https://center-orlyonok.ru/RU/news/V-Orlyonke-otkrylas-smena-budushchikh-ofitserov-Soyuznogo-gosudarstva-Belarusi-i-Rossii
65	https://center-orlyonok.ru/RU/Content/AboutCenterPage
66	https://plus.rbc.ru/pressrelease/5d512d7f7a8aa960f77c2346
67	https://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12087708@egNews
68	https://youtu.be/r65i_BI9GcA
69	http://oko-crimea.ru/news/v-krymu-proshla-spartakiada-doprizyvnoy-kazachey-molodezhi
70	https://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12267810@egNews
71	https://yalta.rk.gov.ru/ru/article/show/9550
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- On February 15, 2019, ORLIONOK children's and youth military-sports game of YUNARMIA detachments of Dzhankoy District, dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, was held at the "May School" Municipal Educational Institution. About 80 children YUNARMIA members were involved in the military-sports game, which included competitions in drill and strength training, incomplete assembly and disassembly of a Kalashnikov assault rifle and magazine filling.<sup>72</sup>
- On February 26, 2019, the Regional phase of the ORLIONOK All-Russian children's and youth military-sports game among the teams of all municipalities took place. About 20 teams of municipalities of the so-called. "Republic of Crimea" took part in the ORLIONOK military-sports game competitions. The game included a competition in military applied and sports disciplines, including the competition for the knowledge of the tactical and technical characteristics of weapons, disassembling and assembling the AK-74, filling the magazine, and firing in the laser shooting range. The men of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps of the 126<sup>th</sup> Separate Brigade of the RF Black Sea Navy performed the demos at the game.

The game was won by Feodosiya City team — **'School of Sea Boys'**, and awarded with vouchers for "Serving Fatherland' Shift at the ORLIONOK All-Russian Children's Center.<sup>73</sup>

• In April 2016, "Serving Fatherland' Shift attended also by children from Crimea was held at the ORLIONOK All-Russian Children's Center. Among this shift partners were ROSPATRIOTTSENTR, YUNARMIYA, the Russian movement of schoolchildren, and the VYMPEL Military-Patriotic Center. During the shift, the children were march drilled, trained in disassembling and assembling the AK-74, hand-to-hand combat techniques, they learnt basics of sniper training, tactical training, grenade throwing,<sup>74</sup> combat pistol and AK-74 firing.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>72</sup> <u>https://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/voenno-sportivnaya-igra-orlyonok-sredi-yunarmejskih-otryadov.html</u>

<sup>73</sup> https://www.krympatriotcentr.ru/regionalnyj-etap-vserossijskoj-detsko-yunosheskoj-voenno-sportivnoj-igry-orlyonok.html

- <sup>74</sup> https://vk.com/album-29588888\_236679548
- <sup>75</sup> https://youtu.be/Ckh-8eo05bg

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Thus, children living on the territory of the occupied Crimea are considered by the Russian Federation as its citizens, and therefore are subject to the propaganda of service in the RF army under the "military-patriotic education" policy based on the RF national laws. The RF set up institutions and authorities on the territory of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, propagandizing for the children living in Crimea a voluntary enrollment to the RF armed forces. Such actions of the Russian Federation are a violation of its international legal obligations in accordance with the UNCRC, Article 38.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AS PROVIDE BY THE UN CRC

The Russian Federation as occupying power that has extended its jurisdiction over the occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, being a State Party of the Convention on the Rights of Child, and violating its international legal commitments under UN CRC articles 6, 8, 17, and 38, shall:

- 1. Take measures to counter the COVID-19 pandemic in the occupied Crimea, in particular, not to hold events, including those of militaristic nature, provoking mass gathering of people, during the pandemic.
- 2. Stop imposing automatically a Russian citizenship on the population of Crimea as well as deporting those who rejected this citizenship, and hold off the regressive consequences of this decision for exercising the human rights by such people.
- 3. Stop blocking radio stations broadcasting from territory controlled by the government of Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian websites, unless such blocking is done in order to comply with other provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. Cancel restrictions on leaving the territory of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol for students of higher educational establishments and other categories studying in the educational establishments on the territories controlled by the government of Ukraine.

5. Implement the ICJ judgement of 19 April 2017 on provisional measures under the case of 'Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination' (Ukraine against Russia') and provide the children in the territory of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol with the access to the Ukrainian language based education.

- 6. Stop using the hate speech by the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation in Crimea in relation to civilians, including children of Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar nationality as well as Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses.
- 7. Stop the propaganda of serving voluntarily in the armed forces of the Russian Federation among children, both by holding propaganda mass events and by creating educational institutions and training courses within the framework of general education schools that provide the elementary military training for children and set preparing children for service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation as one of the primary tasks.

#### THIS ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION WAS PREPARED BY A CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

The Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG) is a non-profit Ukrainian human rights organization of Crimean human rights defenders and journalists, aimed at promoting the observance and protection of human rights in Crimea by attracting wide attention to problems of human rights and international humanitarian law in the territory of the Crimean peninsula. The CHRG focuses on documentation and ongoing monitoring of human rights violations and war crimes in connection with the illegal actions of the Russian Federation in Crimea. The CHRG is guided by principles of objectivity, reliability and timeliness in the preparation and spreading of the information.

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