

# The Mission of the President of Ukraine in Crimea: **Activity Report 2023**



Mission  
Of The President Of Ukraine  
In The Autonomous Republic Of Crimea



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Throughout 2023, the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea/ Office of the Crimea Platform (hereafter - the Mission) continued to work systematically in the several areas that are crucial for the development and implementation of the state policy on the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereafter - the occupied Crimea). These include monitoring the situation in occupied Crimea, developing suggestions for the formation and implementation of state policy on the temporarily occupied territory, and engagement of the international audiences within the framework of the Crimea Platform.





## I. The situation in the occupied Crimea

During 2023, the Mission analysed more than 25 different aspects of the situation in the occupied Crimea, in particular, for our citizens in the occupied peninsula. The situation is getting worse every year, especially deterioration begun after the start of the Russian full-scale invasion. Political persecution and illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens are still taking place in the occupied peninsula and also expanded to the newly occupied territories.

### Political prisoners

**204** total

including **123** crimean tatars

The First Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people Nariman Dzhe-lyal, civic journalist Iryna Danylovych, journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko, civil society activist Server Mustafayev, artist Bohdan Ziza and many others are behind the bars.





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In 2016, Russia banned the work of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, the representative body of the Crimean Tatars. The situation was not affected even by the order of the International Court of Justice on provisional measures in the case “Ukraine vs Russia” (2017), which requires the latter to refrain from restricting the rights of Crimean Tatars to represent their interests, including the resumption of the activities of the representative body. On the contrary, in 2023, the occupying administration illegally “nationalised” the Mejlis office in Simferopol, once again demonstrating their disrespect for international judicial institutions.



The Headquarter of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people in Simferopol

From 2014 until 2023 occupying administration “nationalised” property of

**387** individuals and legal entities  
**108** of them - throughout 2023

Russia has established administrative and criminal liability for the so-called “discrediting of the Russian army”.

As of the end of December 2023, there were **625** cases of administrative prosecution and **8** cases of criminal prosecution under the relevant category in occupied Crimea.

The following activities are persecuted by the occupying administrations as “discrediting the Russian army”:

- ▶ calls to stop the war;
- ▶ listening to Ukrainian songs;
- ▶ any visual combination of the yellow and blue colours;
- ▶ posting images of Ukrainian state symbols on social media, tattoos with the Ukrainian map in the internationally recognised borders;
- ▶ comments on social media in support of Ukraine, etc.





## Monitoring the situation with the illegal conscription to the Russian army of Ukrainian citizens residing in occupied Crimea

As of the end of December, 2023, Russia is completing the **18th** illegal conscription campaign in the occupied Crimea.

As a result of the illegal campaigns around **44,500 Crimean residents** were illegally mobilised to serve in the Russian army, including about **5,500 people in 2023**. This is a **violation of the norms and customs of international humanitarian law**. It is known that the occupying administration have considered **497 criminal proceedings under the article on avoidance of military service**, **185** of which were initiated after 24 February 2022.

## II. Measures for formulating and implementing state policy on the temporarily occupied territory

In September 2022, the Mission together with other state institutions, NGOs and experts, began to develop the strategy on priority measures necessary for the effective reintegration of Crimea immediately after its liberation. These documents set the basis for the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the priorities of Ukraine's state policy in the field of deoccupation, reintegration and restoration of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, approved by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine dated 23 August 2023.

### Training of a personnel reserve to work in the deoccupied territories and educational initiatives

To restore public authorities in Crimea, the government needs to prepare about **50,000** employees in advance.

The government has established the prerequisites for launching the personnel reserves of civil servants, educators and doctors.

Over **2,000** applications have been processed during the work of the initiative.





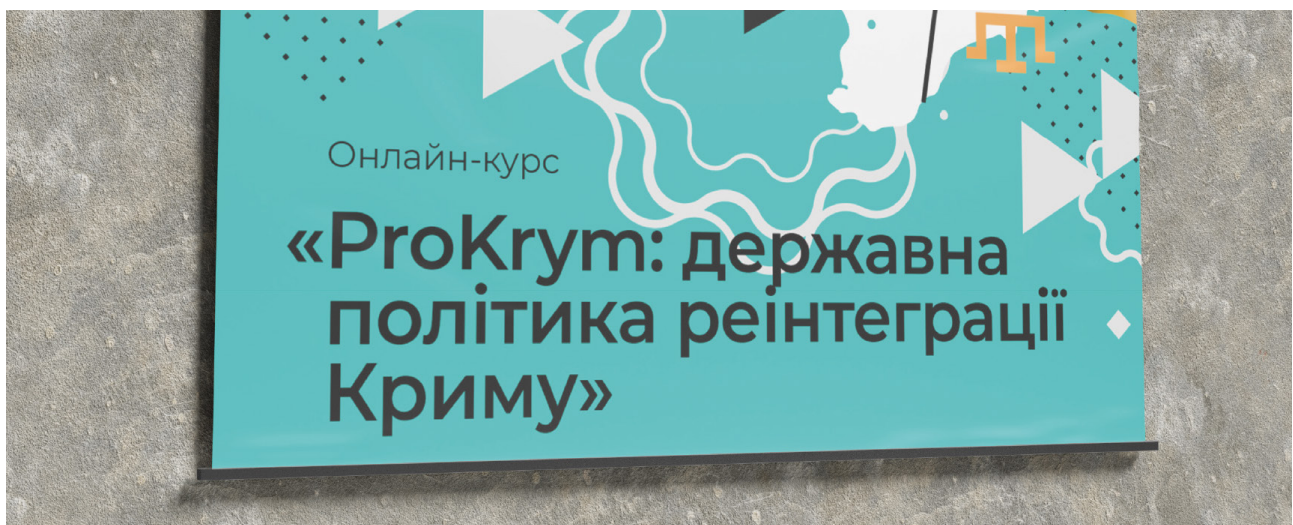
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At the initiative of the Mission, the Master's degree programmes "Post-Conflict Governance" and "Governance in Post-War Territories" were launched at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, ordered by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service.



An online course "ProKrym: State Policy of Reintegration of Crimea" was made and launched. 15,400 people completed the course within 6 months of its launch.

The issue of launching a medium-term management training programme for the reestablished state agencies on the basis of the MIM Business School is being considered.





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## **Reform of the administrative and territorial structure, decommunisation and decolonisation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol**

The Mission initiated amendments to the legislation that would unblock decommunisation and the formation of communities in the newly created districts before deoccupation.

The initiative was supported by the The Ministry for

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YANY KAPU

Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine and members of the relevant committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Certain Issues of the Administrative and Territorial Structure of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea” was adopted on the day of the Third Crimea Platform Summit, 23 August 2023.

According to the new law, Crimea is divided into 10 districts, 69 settlements have been renamed.

## **Development and promotion of the Draft Law of Ukraine on Recognition of Educational Results of Persons Residing at the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine**

In 2023, the Mission developed and, in cooperation with the Members of Parliament of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, promoted the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine regarding the Recognition of Educational Results of Persons Residing at the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine”.

The law lays grounds for setting up an effective mechanism for assessing the results of education for persons who received their education in the occupied territories, which in turn enables residents of such territories to continue their education in Ukrainian educational institutions or obtain a certain degree.



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ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ  
УКРАЇНИ







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## Developments in the application of special economic and other restrictive measures

The Mission has initiated sanctions against judges and officials who ensure the functioning of the penitentiary system of the aggressor state in the occupied territory.

The Mission submits proposals for designations via both MPs of Ukraine and through the interdepartmental commission that operates under the Government.

In 2023, **56 judges** of the occupying courts were sanctioned based on proposals of the Mission.

## Taking part in the work of the National Commission for the Crimean Tatar Language

The National Commission for the Crimean Tatar Language was established in early 2023 as an advisory authority of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to help ensure the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the Crimean Tatar Language for 2022-2032.

The Commission considers problematic issues related to the use of the Crimean Tatar language, while the most important decision in 2023 was the decision to start **working on the Crimean Tatar language spelling**, which in 2024 should be approved by the Commission and submitted to the Government.







## Handling citizens' complaints

In 2023, the Mission processed about 1000 calls from citizens, including Ukrainian citizens who live in occupied Crimea, to the phone hotline and other communication channels. Upon the requests from the citizens of Ukraine:

- ▶ consultative assistance was provided in obtaining Ukrainian passport documents and social assistance from the state;
- ▶ the ways of leaving the temporarily occupied peninsula, the procedure for staying in third countries and crossing the borders to return to Ukraine were clarified.

About **600 electronic and written requests** on various issues were reviewed and handled.

## The work of the Mission in the legal field

The Mission, in cooperation with the central executive authorities, state bodies, NGOs and experts, carried out activities in the following areas related to the occupied Crimea:

- ▶ strengthening the institutional capacity of the Mission to participate in the restoration of public authorities;
- ▶ ensuring access to educational services;
- ▶ regulation of administrative and territorial structure issues;
- ▶ improving the mechanisms for criminal prosecution for collaborative activities;
- ▶ ensuring access to legal aid;
- ▶ conducting consultative and awareness-raising activities.

The Mission has developed:

- ▶ Draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Peculiarities of Restoration of Public Authority in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol”.
- ▶ Draft amendments to the law defining the status of the Mission, updating and adapting to the challenges associated with the reintegration processes.





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- ▶ Draft Law of Ukraine “On Peculiarities of Ensuring the Organisation of Preparation and Holding of Elections after the Termination or Cancellation of Martial Law in Ukraine” (initiated by the Central Election Commission).
- ▶ Amendments to the regulatory acts related to ensuring the educational rights of the residents of the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol. One of the results is the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Recognition of Educational Results of Persons Residing in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine”.
- ▶ Amendments to the legal acts regulating the administrative-territorial structure of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the restoration of the functioning of local executive authorities and local self-government bodies.

Together with the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision, the Mission submitted proposals for amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid” and developed the Procedure for Submitting an Electronic Application for Free Secondary Legal Aid and Copies of Documents Confirming a Person’s Affiliation with One of the Categories of Persons. The result was the simplification of obtaining free secondary legal aid (representation in court) by citizens of Ukraine residing in the temporarily occupied territories. In particular, there will be no need to leave the temporarily occupied territories to defend their rights or interests in court.

The Mission carries out informational and explanatory work by publishing materials on the Mission’s information resources concerning the rights and legitimate interests of citizens residing in the temporarily occupied territories or who have moved to other parts of Ukraine (Internally Displaced Persons).

## **Public activities**

**On 26 February 2023, the Mission took part in the organisation of a number of events dedicated to the Day of Resistance to Occupation**

- ▶ On 25 February, a special screening of the documentary “Crimea. As It Was” was held.
- ▶ On 26 February, on the Day of Resistance to the Occupation of Crimea, the Ukrainian premiere of the documentary “Voice of Crimea. Nariman Dzhelyal”. An exhibition of the art project “U(CRIME)A. Crimea under Russian Occupation” was held.
- ▶ On 27 February, the Mission, together with PEN Ukraine, organised the event “SolidarityArt”, dedicated to political prisoners who are held in Russian captivity.



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On 7 April 2023 the Mission together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Office of the President of Ukraine, conducted the first official Iftar accompanied by the photo exhibition «Islam.Crimea.Ukraine». The President of Ukraine, leaders of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, representatives of the Muslim community, and Ukrainian Muslim soldiers attended the event.

On 18 May 2023, the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar people organised and took part in the meeting of the President of Ukraine with representatives of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people.



The first official Iftar in Ukraine with the participation of the President of Ukraine, 7 April, 2023





## **Other activities**

The Strategy of Cognitive Deoccupation of Crimea was developed in cooperation with experts. On the premises of the Mission, the Council on Cognitive Deoccupation of Crimea was established, which is working on the development of measures to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy of Cognitive Deoccupation of Crimea in various fields.

The members of the Council are divided into thematic areas:

- ▶ informational and cultural reintegration of Crimea;
- ▶ information security and countering disinformation;
- ▶ memory policy;
- ▶ respect for diversity;
- ▶ integration of Crimea into European Ukraine: restoration and implementation of reforms;
- ▶ the policy for children and youth on educational reintegration.

The Council includes representatives of state bodies, MPs, representatives of the public and expert community, scholars, communication specialists, human rights activists, etc.

Together with the “Come Back Alive” charity fund, 10 million UAH were raised to provide equipment for advanced aviation gunners.

For this purpose the Mission arranged an auction. Some artworks that were put up for auction were dedicated to Ukrainian citizens resisting the Russian occupation regime, namely Nariman Dzhelyal, Server Mustafayev, Halyna Dovhopola, Seyran Saliyev, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Iryna Danylovysh, Bohdan Ziza, Servet Gazyev and Emir-Usein Kuku. In general a lot of famous Ukrainian artists gave their work for the auction, in particular Alevtina Kakhidze, Vartan Markaryan, Olena Kainska, Zirka Savka, Kateryna Kozynska, Rustem Skybin, Zhanna Kadyrova, etc.





## **Communicational activities**

The Mission organised monthly briefings on its activities and the situation in the occupied Crimea on the information platforms of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Media Centre Ukraine, Ukrinform and the Media Centre in Odesa, etc. In total, the Permanent Representative held 8 briefings on the following topics during the year:

- ▶ **Strengthening of resistance in the occupied Crimea and failures of the Russian Federation's hostile propaganda;**
- ▶ **Ukraine's immediate steps after the deoccupation of the Crimean peninsula;**
- ▶ **events on the occasion of the Day of Resistance to the Occupation of Crimea;**
- ▶ **educational programmes and the process of preparing a personnel reserve;**
- ▶ **future reintegration of Crimea;**
- ▶ **Russian crimes on the territory of the Crimean peninsula;**
- ▶ **resistance of Ukrainian citizens in the occupied Crimea;**
- ▶ **illegal imprisonment of journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko and other Crimean journalists.**

Materials about the activities of the Mission and the Permanent Representative were published by national and international media, in particular: "Radio France", "ICTV", Japanese journalist Hirano Takashi, "Espresso", "FreeDom", "Crimea. Realii", "Channel 5", ABC News, the Crimean Tatar TV channel "ATR", "The New York Times", the Ukrainian project "Krym.Realii", the Japanese edition "NHK", "Associated Press", the German media outlet "DER SPIEGEL", etc.

An information campaign was held to mark the Day of Resistance to the Occupation of Crimea.

During April-May 2023 the Mission together with PEN Ukraine and Human Rights Centre "ZMINA" held the campaign "Letters to a free Crimea". All comers from different countries were able to write letters to illegally imprisoned Ukrainians who are being held by the occupying administrations in the occupied Crimea or deported to the territories of the Russian Federation. During the month of the campaign, the Mission received over 350 letters for Crimean political prisoners. The letters were sent from the mainland part of Ukraine, Poland, Sweden and Thailand.

A number of the Permanent Representative's columns were prepared for publication on the website of the "Ukrainska Pravda" online media outlet:

- ▶ **"Who should be punished for collaborative activities in Crimea";**



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- ▶ “Ukrainian Crimea open to the world: humanitarian policy on the peninsula after its de-occupation”;
- ▶ “Global South. Why Ukraine should work with countries that do not provide us with weapons”;
- ▶ “5 most common fears of Crimeans about de-occupation: debunking Russian myths”;
- ▶ “Crimea 2023: resistance movements, preparations for the counter-offensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, CCTV cameras and illegal sentences”;
- ▶ “Preparing for the de-occupation of Crimea: restoration of public authorities and personnel policy”.

Established cooperation with the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory and together prepared thematic materials about the history of the Crimean peninsula, clarify historical facts to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the extensive history of the Crimean peninsula, and debunk the myths systematically created by the Russian Federation to polarise society and spread disinformation and propaganda. The following materials were prepared:

- ▶ “Anniversary of the death of Ismail Gasprinsky, a prominent Crimean Tatar educator, teacher, thinker, writer, publisher of the first Crimean Tatar newspaper in Crimea”;
- ▶ “Debunking the myth about the “resettlement” of the Christian population of Crimea in 1778 to the Azov province, which was allegedly “voluntary” and carried out by the Russian authorities solely for reasons of its “protection” from the Crimean Tatars”;
- ▶ Debunking the myth about Crimean war;







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- ▶ Debunking the myth that Holodomor (artificial famine in Soviet Ukraine in 1932-1933) did not affect the peninsula;
- ▶ Material dedicated to the anniversary of the First Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people in Crimea.

**Results of the efforts aimed to increase activity  
in the Mission's official social networks:**

- ▶ Facebook: 147 114 reaches, 53 287 profile visits;
- ▶ X: 1 698 800 post views, 52 300 likes, 6 870 reposts;
- ▶ Instagram: 21 067 reaches, 5 055 profile visits;
- ▶ Telegram: +900 subscribers.

**Results of the efforts aimed to increase the activity  
in social media of the Crimea Platform:**

- ▶ Facebook: 49 427 reaches, 23 068 profile visits;
- ▶ X: 1 191 000 post views, 46 400 likes, 5 429 retweets;
- ▶ Instagram: 6 225 reaches, 2 290 profile visits;
- ▶ Telegram: 66.15% enabled notifications.

Moreover, the Mission's and the Crimea Platform's websites were improved. After the updates, the following statistics are observed on the website of the Mission:

- ▶ 35 700 unique visitors per month (at the beginning of the year there were 4 761 per month).
- ▶ 157 360 page visits per month (at the beginning of the year it was about 10 000).

We also improved the website of the Crimea Platform, which resulted in the following indicators:

- ▶ 20 840 unique visitors per month (before that it was 7 040 per month).
- ▶ 24 400 page views (at the time of the website update, there were 9 735 visits).



## III. International activities

### Summits of the Crimea Platform

► On 23 August 2023, the Third Summit of the Crimea Platform was held. The representatives of 63 countries and international organisations attended the event. The Summit was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The Mission contributed to the development of the narrative about occupied Crimea and organisation of a side event with business representatives. During the event, the portal «We build Crimea», developed by the Mission in cooperation with the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, was presented.

► On 24 October 2023, the Second Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform was held in the Czech Republic and was attended by representatives from 51 countries, 9 of which were represented by two chambers of parliaments, as well as representatives of 6 international organisations. The main organisers of the event was the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.





## International conference “Crimea Global. Understanding Ukraine through the South”

The conference was initiated by the Mission and supported by partners from the public sector: NGO “International Centre of Ukrainian Victory”, NGO “Media Initiative for Human Rights”, NGO “International Partnership for Human Rights”, NGO “ZMINA Human Rights Centre”, NGO “Coalition ‘Ukraine. 5:00 a.m.’, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

The event was attended by representatives of the expert, academic, and civil society community from Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Colombia, Italy, Qatar, Chile, India, France, Indonesia, Mexico, Uruguay, Armenia, South Africa, and the Republic of South Africa, Turkey, Switzerland, Estonia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Spain, Nicaragua, Sudan, Kenya, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brazil, Austria, Argentina, as well as representatives of the government opposition of Venezuela, Iran and Syria living outside these countries.

In total, the conference brought together **over 300 participants** from **36 countries** who took part in **9 online/offline panel** discussions and **2 side events**.

The event was held in pursuance of the priority declared by the President of Ukraine to intensify dialogue with the Global South.

Systematic informing for international partners about the situation in the temporarily occupied Crimea and the state’s activities on de-occupation and reintegration of Crimea was ensured. It was implemented within the framework of regular political dialogue at the highest level between Ukraine and the EU, on the sidelines of the OSCE regional intergovernmental organisation ODIHR, during meetings with the UNESCO Mission to Ukraine, and events organised at the initiative of the US analytical centre “Hudson Institute”, The US-Ukraine Foundation, events on Crimean issues organised by the British Embassy, the youth organisation International Politics Forum, the “Crimean Evening” organised during the annual World Economic Forum in Davos (Swiss Confederation), Lviv Media Forum Talks in Berlin (Federal Republic of Germany) etc.





The participants of the international conference “Crimea Global. Understanding Ukraine through the South”, 16 October 2023

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In 2023, the Mission held about 118 meetings:

► **38 meetings** with representatives of the foreign diplomatic missions in Ukraine, including 3 briefings for diplomatic representatives of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, the EU, NATO and G7, and a cultural diplomacy event organised jointly with the Embassy of Estonia in Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Affairs;

► **13 meetings** with representatives of the foreign media and delegations of journalists from Europe, Africa and Latin America;

► **11 meetings** with foreign parliaments' delegations (the UK, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Czech Republic, the European Parliament, the U4U parliamentary network, etc);

► **56 meetings** with representatives of international organisations, analytical centres, experts, etc.

A total of **6 business trips** were carried out to participate in international events, including **4 business trips**:

- Davos (Swiss Confederation);
- Vienna (Republic of Austria);
- Prague (Czech Republic);
- Berlin (Federal Republic of Germany).

**and 2 advocacy trips: to Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta, Yogyakarta).**

The trip was part of the implementation of the priorities announced by the President of Ukraine on working with the Global South and promoting the Peace Formula proposed by the President of Ukraine. The delegation of the Mission held 20 meetings with governmental and non-governmental actors, including representatives of the academic community, religious and human rights sectors, gave 4 public lectures and a number of interviews to Malaysian and Indonesian TV broadcasters.

Beside that, photo exhibitions dedicated to the anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion to Ukraine were organised and presented in India, Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia.



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The visit of the Head of the Crimea Platform Office as part of a delegation of expert community representatives **to the United States (Washington, DC and New York city)**. The visit was aimed at holding meetings with officials of the US Government and members of the US Senate/Congress, representatives of the White House, the US National Security Council, the US Department of Defence, and the US Department of State to promote the US support for Ukraine in political, economic, and military aspects.

During the visit the following was held:

- ▶ **15 meetings** with congressmen and representatives of their offices;
- ▶ **16 meetings** with Permanent Representatives, diplomats representing various states to the UN, including representatives of EU member states, USA, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, Australia and Guatemala, Brazil, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Mexico, Chile and Mozambique;
- ▶ participation in a briefing on the situation in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, organised at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN for representatives of delegations of UN Member States (representatives of more than 20 states took part);
- ▶ meeting with the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas.

Also, on the initiative of the Mission and within the framework of activities aimed at the development and promotion of the Crimean Tatar language, which is included in the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” for 2023-2026, support was provided for Crimean Tatar language courses in Odesa for internally displaced Crimean Tatars who fled occupied Crimea.

The Mission established communication with leading international experts regarding joint work on the issues of deoccupation and reintegration of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The team of the Mission joined a tour of Ukrainian cities, organised by Human Rights Centre “ZMINA” in support of Crimean political prisoners and visited Kropyvnytskyi, Chernivtsi and Lviv.

Also in the context of the topic of political prisoners, the Mission organised a meeting between relatives of illegally imprisoned Ukrainian citizens and Latin American journalists. A number of meetings between representatives of NGOs working on the issue of civilian hostages held by the Russian Federation were initiated.





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With the participation of MPs of Ukraine, members of the Inter-Factional Association “Crimea Platform” in the the 9th convocation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, a number of joint meetings were held, in particular, with delegations of foreign parliaments (the parliaments of the UK, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Czech Republic, the European Parliament, the U4U parliamentary network, etc.)

As part of the development of the Draft Law of Ukraine “On the Status of the Crimean Tatar people”, in cooperation with experts, the MPs of Ukraine, members of the Crimea Platform, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, with the mediation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the relevant draft document was sent to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE) and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for further forwarding to the Directorate General for Democracy and Human Dignity, as well as to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine to obtain an expert opinion on the draft document.



## Social media:



[ppu.gov.ua/en](https://ppu.gov.ua/en)



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