

ПОСОЛЬСТВО УКРАЇНИ
В КОРОЛІВСТВІ ДАНІЯ



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Ms. Eva Kjer Hansen

**Chairwoman of European Affairs
Committee of the Folketing
of the Kingdom of Denmark**

Dear Ms. Hansen,

Violation by the Russian Federation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine has brought to the forefront the observance of human rights in the Crimean peninsula and in the affected regions.

On 12 May 2014 the report of the Human Rights Assessment Mission (HRAM), undertaken at the request of the Ukrainian Government by two autonomous OSCE institutions – the ODIHR and HCNM, was released (please, find attached).

The report found that a number of serious human rights violations, which occurred during the reporting period of March-mid April 2014, did not precede but rather accompanied and followed the emergence of various illegal armed groups, first and foremost in the Crimea and eastern and southern Ukraine. The victims of these violations were primarily pro-Maidan activists and journalists, while those in the Crimea also included Ukrainian military personnel and members of the Crimean Tatar community.

According to the findings of the Human Rights Assessment Mission (the full text is attached), the situation of national minorities in the Crimea has suffered the most dramatic changes over the past couple of months. Ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars found themselves in a very precarious situation. Ethnic Ukrainians, especially those who speak Ukrainian rather than Russian, have come to fear potential violence and harassment based on their ethnic affiliation. Following a string of reported incidents, including physical attacks, Crimean Tatars are now deeply concerned for the safety and security of their community. Specific concerns exist with respect to citizenship and residency status, employment and the right to work, and land and property rights.

At the same time the Mission did not find any evidence of violations of the rights of Russians in the Crimea, as well as in other regions covered by the HRAM during its deployment.

It is noteworthy in this respect that the recent Report of the Presidential Council of the Russian Federation for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, issued

following the visit of its members to the cities of Simferopol and Sevastopol in the Crimea, Ukraine, on 15-18 April 2014 contains a significant number of findings and observations that fully coincide with the assessment made by the ODIHR/HCNM HRAM in its Report. According to the Council, the situation is particularly worrying with regard to threats and limits to the exercise of the human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular in the sphere of media freedom, education, religion, as well as citizenship, right to property, and an array of other economic and social rights. The cases of murder, torture, ill-treatment and discrimination, including on ethnic grounds, were registered.

In view of the above it is critical to continue independent monitoring of the human rights situation in the Crimea and other affected regions in order to provide transparent and unbiased reporting on the human, economic, and security situation on the ground, affected by the aggression and subversive actions of the Russian Federation.

As violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity continue by the Russian Federation, I deem it highly important for the Folketing European Affairs Committee to consider what additional steps might be taken to address the consequences of these flagrant violations of the OSCE and Council of Europe principles and commitments by the Russian Federation as member and participating state of these distinguished international bodies.

Taking into account the crucial moment for the people of Ukraine struggle to build better future, the Folketing European Committee's message of support will also be highly appreciated. It could become another step forward in showing support and solidarity with Ukraine's effort to open a new democratic chapter in its modern history.

Let me also express my readiness to continue open and comprehensive dialogue with you.

Enclosure: 170 pages.

Sincerely yours,



Andriy Biriuchenko
Charge d'Affairs a.i.