

Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on the situation in Ukraine

Human Rights Council, 27th Session, 23 September 2014

Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

The Czech Republic welcomes the OHCHR report on the human rights situation in Ukraine including the situation in illegally annexed Crimea which summarizes the events in Ukraine since November 2013. We support the conclusions and recommendations contained in OHCHR reports based on the work of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and we call for their full implementation by all parties, while emphasizing that the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 68/262 is the cornerstone of any sustainable and peaceful solution to the conflict. In this regard, we commend the government of Ukraine for its continuous cooperation with the Monitoring Mission.

Situation in the East of Ukraine is of serious concern, namely the actions with an impact on the civilian population, including killing of civilians, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and torture. We are worried about the targeting of civilians and civilian structures by armed groups leaving behind hundreds of deaths and several hundred thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs). We fully agree with the High Commissioner that all allegations of human rights abuses and violations have to be fully investigated in accordance with international human rights law.

We share the High Commissioner's observations on illegally annexed Crimea. We remain concerned about increasing cases of human rights abuses and restrictive measures against Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians, ethnic and religious minorities and all those opposing Russia's illegal annexation. We are also deeply concerned about the illegal transfer of prisoners from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine to the Russian Federation, among others Oleg Sentsov or Nadiya Savchenko. We call on the international organizations to continue monitor the human rights situation in Crimea.

The Czech Republic welcomes the current ceasefire agreement between Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists and we encourage all parties to respect and implement the Minsk Protocol and to continue finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. President,

We agree with the report's conclusion that the situation of IDPs is critical in Ukraine and that the conditions in which most IDPs live will not be sustainable for much longer, inter alia, due to the possible energy cuts during winter time. Thus, we would like to hear High Commissioner's opinion on the situation in collective centres and possible measures which can be taken by the international community in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

Thank you.