



# HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING IN THE NON-GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS OF THE LUHANSK AND DONETSK REGIONS

JANUARY, 2018

INFORMATOR:

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Illegal arrests,  
detentions and  
restriction of freedom  
of movement

In January 2018 in certain districts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, controlled by the armed groups of so-called “LNR” and “DNR” new facts of human rights violations were identified: illegal detentions, restrictions of freedom of movement of civilians, obstruction of the activities of international organizations, involvement of schoolchildren into the events with propagandistic aims, coercion of the residents of so-called “LNR and DNR” to join “civic society organizations”, development of parallel legal system and violation of property rights. Unfortunately, all these human rights violations have become a “norm” for residents of the territories of so-called “people’s republics”.

## 1. Illegal arrests, detentions and restriction of freedom of movement

January 25th press-service of so-called of “Ministry of State Security of LNR” informed that the employees of the Ministry expelled to the Ukrainian government-controlled territory Roman Kunchenko who earlier had been sent to the territory controlled by illegal military formations of “LNR” within the framework of exchange of captives between Kyiv and CDDLR. “Ministry of State Security of LNR” accuses Kunchenko in cooperation with intelligence agencies of Ukraine, and as it is reported in the message “in accordance with the note to Article 336 of the CC of LNR – “Espionage”, the investigating authorities decided not to involve Roman Kunchenko to criminal liability and expel him from LNR with a ban on entry for a period of 10 years.”

January 15th press-service of so-called “Supreme Court of DNR” informed that “Supreme tribunal” sentences were pronounced against four Ukrainian citizens who were accused of espionage, preparation of terrorist acts and other “crimes”.

Thus, the citizen of Ukraine, born in 1979, “being an opponent of the Republic, registered in the social network “Twitter”, where, from October 2014 to August 2016, he posted information about the movement of military equipment, maps of the area, indicating the location of the fire point areas of DNR, as well as other military information.” He was charged under art. 321 (espionage) of the “DNR criminal code” and was sentenced to imprisonment for a period of fourteen years and six months with serving a sentence in a strict-regime correctional colony.

The second “defendant”, a citizen of Ukraine, born in 1996 in Alchevsk, was charged in committing a crime under Art. 321 (espionage) of the “Criminal Code of DNR”. It is reported that “the defendant under the instructions of foreign intelligence collected and submitted information for use against the security of DNR.” He was sentenced to 15 years in prison with a term of imprisonment in a strict-regime correctional colony.

The two other citizens of Ukraine, born in 1982 and 1994 respectively, were found guilty of committing crimes under several articles of the “Criminal Code of DNR”. In the case considered by the court, “more than twenty episodes of criminal activity of the defendants acting under the instructions of the Ukrainian intelligence service were recorded.” It is reported that “the accused collected information about the deployment of military units, the location of civilian objects, which are important from the point of view of life support, the place of residence of commanders of military units.”

The accused, born in 1982 was sentenced to imprisonment for a period of 22 years with a fine of 100 thousand rubles with the serving of punishment in a strict-regime colony. The accused bo in 1994 was sentenced to imprisonment for 18 years, with serving a sentence in strict-regime colony.

Additionally, the press service of the “Ministry of State Security of DNR” reported that last year 246 people were detained on suspicion of espionage and treason.

Media of CDDLR reported on disappearance of Garmash Maksim and Babich Sergey and Sirenko Sergey,



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who were transferred to the territory of CDDLR as a result of exchange of prisoners of war in December 27th, 2017. It became known that they had been arrested by the staff of the Ministry of State Security in January 6th, 2018, and for two weeks nothing is known about them.

January 15th 2018 media of “DNR” placed the Decree of Aleksandr Zakharchenko № 363 “On temporal prohibition of the departure to the territory of Ukraine of workers of the public sphere of DNR”. According to the decree departure is prohibited to the workers of “enterprises, institutions, organizations of state and municipal form of ownership in order to provide personal security of the citizens of DNR”.



“ 2.

Development of parallel legal system, advocacy, notary, courts

“ 3.

Coercion for membership in “civil society” organizations and participation in “patriotic” and “social” actions of “LNR” and “DNR”. Involvement of children in propaganda

## 2. Development of parallel legal system, advocacy, notary, courts

In the territory controlled by illegal armed groups of “LNR” and “DNR”, so-called “authorities” and controlled media continue to inform local people and world community on activity of their “state agencies” and results of their “work”. It should be noted that this activity has no legal force and is aimed only at demonstrating the so-called “statehood” in the “republics”.

At the beginning of 2018, the “state bodies” of CDDLR reported on the “results” of the past 2017 year.

Media of “LNR” reported that in 2017 the number of notarial acts was more than doubled compared to the previous year: “In 2016, 42,484 notarial acts were performed, in 2017 - 91569”.

The so-called “Ministry of Justice of LNR” in December registered 26 departmental regulatory legal acts, in total in 2017 593 acts were registered. This was reported in the “department”.

“The Ministry of Finance of LNR” in 2017 issued 284 special permits for economic activities related to precious metals and precious stones. It is reported that the “budget of the republic” was replenished by 3.9 million rubles.

## 3. Coercion for membership in “civil society” organizations and participation in “patriotic” and “social” actions of “LNR” and “DNR”. Involvement of children in propaganda

In the territories controlled by members of illegal armed groups of the “LNR” and “DNR”, military-patriotic propaganda among children, teenagers and youth is actively carried out, involving them in membership in “civil society” organizations.



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So-called, in 2016 25 200 people joined the ranks of “civil movement “Peace to Luhansk region”, and from the beginning of 2017 - almost 15,2 thousand people. And currently its ranks count 100,5 thousand participants. “Republican executive committee” informed about that

January 18th, 2018 the workers of Alchevsk metallurgical plant (AMK) at the constituent assembly created the primary organization of the “social movement” (CM) “Peace to Luhansk region”.

January 22nd, 2018 local residents of Pervomaysk on the initiative of the local territorial branch of “CM “Peace to Luahsnk region”, held an event on the day of the death of the acting mayor of the city, Yevgeniy Ishchenko. Also participants of the Pervomaisk regional headquarters of the Children’s and Youth Organization “Young Guard” were involved.



“ 4.

Violation of property rights

#### 4. Violation of property rights

In January 2018, in the territories of “DNR” and “LNR”, the process of so-called “nationalization” of enterprises that had previously operated under the jurisdiction of Ukraine or belonged to the citizens of Ukraine, living in the territory controlled by Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, continued. The process of “searching for the owners” is widespread.

Thus, in “LNR” in December the so-called “state committee of taxes and fees” posted 30 announcements about the search for owners of various property.

“ 5.

Obstruction of the activities of international organizations

#### 5. Obstruction of the activities of international organizations

Health care workers, working in the territory controlled by illegal armed formations of “LNR” were forbidden to communicate with representatives of SMM OSCE without preliminary issuance of “permit” from one of the executives of “LNR”. “Healthcare workers of the hospital in Luhansk informed the team of the mission that for meeting arrangement with them observers have to obtain permit from one of the executives of LNR”, – was said in the report of OSCE from January 26th, 2018.

January 11th, 2018 in the media of LNR the message occurred: so-called “Ministry of State of LNR” jointly with “MIA of LNR”, the intelligence activity of an unregistered foreign humanitarian ACF organization was suppressed (Action Against Hunger). They were carrying out the activity in the territory of LNR in the interests of Ukrainian intelligence agencies. The message says that “in violation of the legislation of LNR, ACF acted under the guise of the Luhansk NGO “People’s Mutual Assistance”, was collecting information about the socio-political and economic situation in the Republic.” Later, the Ministry of State of LNR reported that “the facts of the interaction between the SBU (Security Service of Ukraine) and the ACF were revealed.”