



## Committee: Security Council

### Question of: The Situation in Crimea

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#### Introduction:

Crimea is a small part of land on the peninsula stretching from south Ukraine between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azove. It lays very close to Russia and is only separated by a narrow river called Kerch Strait.

It was originally inhabited by the Tartar who were eventually send to Asia due to the Soviet Union thinking that they worked in Cooperation with the Nazis, who were occupying Crimea during the 1940s. After the Tartars were forced out if the area. Russians started to inhabit the peninsula which resulted in many, many, regions where the majority of the people talk Russian and recognise that as their ethnicity.

In 2014 the Pro-Moscow president Victor Yanukovzch was driven out of office by violent protests. The following action was from Russia to send troops to Crimea and occupy the territory of the Russian speaking community, who did not object to those actions. They furthermore took control of the Crimean government.

There was a referendum held, whether Crimea should become a part of Russia or not. Most of the Russian speaking population voted in favour, yet the referendum was declared illegal by the Ukrainian Government and western countries.

Meanwhile many Ukrainian media platforms were closed and or prohibited, many activists who fought against the Russian armies got arrested. There have also been many accusations of violations of human rights where multiple countries and international organisations tried to help. The UN has debated about this issue as well.

#### The Issue:

In 2014 Crimea was under the authority of the Pro-Moscow president, Boris Yeltnis, who wanted stronger ties to Russia and therefore appealed to a majority of the citizens who had Russian ethnical background and a stronger connection to Russia.

Yet Crimea does not only consist of people who are in full support of stronger connections to Russia and who would prefer to have more independence from the Russian forces. These activists are the Crimean Tartars, which will be mentioned in the history paragraph again.

Yet on the 22nd of February 2014 he was driven out of office by violent protests in Kiev who wanted Crimea to be orientated by the western world. After this action, Russian troops moved into the peninsula to take control of Crimea and its government. A referendum was held in which the majority voted to join Russia, yet this referendum was declared illegal by the EU and the Ukraine itself, due to violating the Ukrainian constitution and International Laws as well. And thus, Crimea was illegal annexed by Russia.

## History

Crimea was already once before in the focus of the Russian history. In 1944 when Joseph Stalin accused the peninsula of working in collaboration with the Nazi regime. He then expelled the residents of the area, mostly Crimean natives, the Tartars, and sent them on a dangerous voyage to Asia. During these travels most of the people fell sick and died.

The survivors and their families were only allowed back when the Soviet Union was already crippling and did not really have much power left.

Yet once the Crimean Natives, got back to their homes, they had to live in poor housing conditions and face unemployment. Furthermore, there was a large Russian population living in the area, when the Tartars came back.

The mass deportation of 1944, as it was called, was recognised as a genocide in 2015. A reason why the conflict is so big is because many of the people who moved there feel Russian and stand to their Russian rights, while especially the Natives want to have more power ignorer to gain the same rights as their ancestors.

This is where the problem starts to form, since the peninsula is dived into people who want to join Russia and people who want to gain more independency.

## The Conflict

Many people especially those with Tartarian background were being persecuted, jailed and killed. Russian administrations claim that those actions are not based on the ethnical background of the people, yet the most house-searching were in Tartarian neighbourhoods. Mr. Ridawan Barriev, a representative of the Tartars wanted the help of other countries and organisations to support them against their fights with Russia. Overall there have been cases of Tartar activist going missing or being found dead in the peninsula which suggests the dramatic human rights accusations. By 2016 there have been 24 political prisoners, 16 missing citizens of which 18 were Tartarian and 10 of the missing people are with Tartarian background and furthermore 10 dead activists, with Tartarian origin, have been found. The arrests are not only limited to activists, but also high-ranking members of the Tartarian representatives. One attack on the office building of one of the leaders of the Tartars has caused very heavy material damage. Furthermore, Crimean head of civil volunteer Corps Stanislav Krasnov and activist Oksana Sehtest have been arrested due to accusations of illegal possession of firearms. The fear of persecution is not only a reason for concern for Crimean people, but also for the Russian lawyer, Nikolai Polovoz, who was defending Crimean tartars and has been facing many difficulties since he had to face allegations in 2016 and has been interrogated in 2017 by the Russian government in order

to stop him defending Crimean tartars. Additionally, in 2016 there have been reports of two Crimean citizens refusing to make a false testimony against one of their Tartarian leaders, in order to get a shorter sentence themselves.

When the electrical power in Crimea went out due to natural circumstances, Tartarian activists were hindering the workers to repair the connection, which is why Russia called out the state of emergency, yet the Tartar activist wanted to negotiate the freedom of their previously jailed leaders for the power supply in Crimea. In 2016 the new president of Ukraine, Petra Poroshenko, wanted to file lawsuits against Russia in the International Court of Justice focusing on the release of the imprisoned activists.

Multiple individual and neutral troops have been sent into the peninsula in order to check if any Human rights are being violated. The Ukrainian foreign minister asked for a permanent observation in 2016 from international organisations. On the first of February an independent team was sent in the before not entered peninsula to observe just that situation. Ever since then more and more organisations published human rights violations made in Crimea to demonstrate the severity of the situation.

The Media has been heavenly impacted by the Russians since many Tartar channels on TV and Radio have been shut down for not meeting the editorial standards which were set by Russia and people have been arrested for this as well. That caused the EU to step in where they denounced the actions and the Ukrainian president asked for a re-establishment of the Crimean Tartar media which increased the pressure on Russia. After that more and more of the Crimean channels were replaced with Pro-Russian channels.

Furthermore, the Russian government has made it difficult for people to travel back and forth into the Ukraine, meanwhile it is no problem to go onto the Russian mainland, it gets increasingly hard to travel to the and through the Ukraine and back. More and more organisations publish human rights violations made in Crimea and have published them to demonstrate the severity of the situation. By putting 6 nuclear heads in the Crimean Peninsula they endangered the population, with the already critical industrial pollution, which caused the moving of many people due to the bad health conditions.

Further accusations have been made by Ukrainians who accuse Russia of bringing over 1 million Russians to the peninsula in order to ethnically homogenise the region.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has tried to bring more hope to the Tartars by repeating that there have been new laws and regulations made which have to be held by Russians, those legislations focus on protecting their rights.

Most recently, on the 26 of November 2018, the Ukraine approved the martial law which allows them to be preparing military groups for any case of Russian aggressions on the border and furthermore puts more tension to the situation.

## Turkey

Ever since the crisis in Crimea showed its first signs the Turkish government has out called their support for the indigenous Crimean and have supported them in official get togethers of the people

and has aided to make other countries see the drastic situation as well. One of Turkish delegates has found out in 2015 that not enough indigenous matters have been taught throughout Crimea.

### United States of America

The United States of America, under the presidency of Barack Obama, have followed a similar yet more active path than the European Union by condemning the decisions of Russia arresting Crimean Tartar leader which was denounced by the European Union who would be an easier target to any sanctions or similar actions. In the early 2018 the United states have officially declared that they will not recognise the illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

### Key Events

Event/Date	Explanation
March 2014	Russia annexed Crimea
2.6.2015	Russia made moves against the leader of Mejlis to destabilise the Ukrainian power
22.11.2015	Russian authorities declared state of emergency
25.1.2016	Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko will file lawsuit to international courts due to illegal annexation
4.2.2016 European Parliament adopted new resolution	was supposed to make Russia stop the systematic persecution of indigenous Tartars respect their culture and religious rights and release the community leaders who were illegally detained and urged Russia to allow EU authorities to observe the human rights in the peninsula
22.9.2016	Ukraine Representative highlighted violation of human rights in Crimea informs of the UN Human rights council
15.12.2016	Amnesty international released a report which severely condemns Russian authorities for their persecution of Crimean tartars and ruthless control in Crimea
19.12.2016	UN general assembly voted a resolution condemning Russia's occupation of the Crimean peninsula; UN officials recognised Crimea as temporarily occupied by Russia; urged the end of all abuses against civil rights in Crimea

24.2.2017	The society for threaten Peoples published a record with all human rights violations in Crimea and state the danger that indefinites people from Crimea are living in; more than 90% of the 177 arrested people were Crimean tartars
15.3.2017	Crimean journalist will be tried for not following the Russian editorial policy
16.3.2017	Resolution condemning Russia from European parliament; called for the release of Ukrainian activists detained in Russian and the peninsula
20/21.4.2017	ICJ denied demand to force Moscow to cease supporting pro-Russia separatists; ICJ recognised the discrimination and persecution
26.9.2017	UN officials says that Russia illegals annexed Crimea
12.4.2017	UNESCO sends officials to protect cultural monuments belong to ethnic minorities

### Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

1. European Parliament adopted resolution to make Russia respect the different culture and stop them from prosecuting those people just because of their ethnic background and furthermore urged Russia to let more international groups enter the peninsula to observe the human rights accusations. Yet even though after this resolution there was another raid by Russian riot police which was targeted at the tartaric community.
2. Furthermore, there was more attention given on the Crimean crisis in March 2016 when it was mentioned in the UNHCR conference, with special focus on the tartars.
3. In 2016 Ukraine wanted to put Kiev in charge of the human rights for the Crimean Peninsula.
4. At the end of 2016 the UN passed a resolution which condemned Russian occupation, recognised Crimea as being occupied by Russia and urged the abuses against civil rights to stop.
5. In 2017 yet other resolutions were passed which condemned Russia and called for the release of the Ukrainian activists who were arrested on the Russian peninsula.
6. The International Court of Justice has decided not to make Russia withdraw pro-Russian separatists from the peninsula yet has recognised the discrimination and persecution.

7. On the 26 of September 2017 the UN officially declared Crimea to be illegal annexed by the Russian Federation. After this announcement there have been further house searches of Crimean Tartars.

## Possible Solutions

- Encourages there to be an open conversation between the affected parties of Crimea and Russia in order to establish a constant communication line
- would like the countries to consider giving more access to international organisations in order to maintain the assurance of no human rights violations and aid people who need help
- wants to enforce the stop of controlled media in the peninsula and enforce further media liberation
- Suggests to build up a centre in the peninsula where inhabitants can file their complaints and where those will be checked on

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