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**DIGEST No 9 (41) BY UKRAINIAN HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS UNION,
USAID HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACTION PROGRAM**

July-August 2018

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USAID HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACTION PROGRAM UPDATES

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING, ANALYTICAL ACTIVITY AND ADVOCACY

National Human Rights Index

The National Human Rights Index initiative¹ (www.hro.org.ua) covers the monitoring of the National Human Rights Strategy's execution by the central executive authorities as well as implementation of the Local Human Rights Index (LHRI), which is designed to take into account the priority of human rights in course of the decentralization reform. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Human Rights in Action Program supports the aforementioned work in part of ensuring the rights of internally displaced persons and conflict-affected population.

In July, Ukraine's Ministry of Justice introduced an adjusted monitoring methodology of the National Strategy's and its Action Plan's enforcement by the respective government agencies² which offers more efficient tools for monitoring and control as well as imposes stricter responsibility for execution of envisaged measures ([link in Ukrainian](#)). It was UHHRU/Program which in collaboration with partners provided valuable input as regards to creating more tailored indicators allowing not only to observe what has already been performed but also to measure the impact made therefore (in particular, in relation to conflict-caused challenges).

Transitional justice model for Ukraine

UHHRU in frames of the USAID Human Rights in Action Program continues elaborating and promoting the transitional justice model tailored to Ukrainian context. The process was launched back in 2016 and since then a corresponding baseline study (*abstract review is available [here](#)*) has been conducted and [an international conference](#) has been hosted (*conference proceedings can be found [here](#)*).

Currently, the Program concentrates efforts on development of a national roadmap for applying transitional justice as well as on holding an awareness raising campaign meant to explain the principles of transitional justice and their relevance for Ukrainian society during the transition from authoritarian past to democratic present and from armed conflict to post-conflict state. For this, within three months there was drafted³ a framework document – the draft law “Principles of the state policy for protection of human rights to overcome the consequences of armed conflict” ([link in Ukrainian](#)), publicly presented in spring 2018, that supposed to become a basis for further conflict-related legislation.

The Program keeps on promoting the principles of transitional justice to benefit Ukraine's post-war future. News feed for July-August includes:

- Program keeps in touch with other stakeholders to combine efforts for establishing transitional justice model in Ukraine. Thus, our experts attended a national-level platform titled “Dialogue

¹ Being implemented by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) in cooperation with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (in office from 2012 till March 2018) and in collaboration with other civil society organizations.

² The new methodology, developed in line with the best world practices and under the guidance of the UN Development Program and UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission, brings Ukraine one step closer to the fulfilment of its obligations prescribed by the Action Plan to Implement the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement.

³ By a working group under the Ukraine's Ombudsperson (in office from 2012 till March 2018), which engaged experts of UHHRU and other NGOs, representatives of international organizations, as well as MPs and representatives of the Ministry of IDPs and occupied territories.



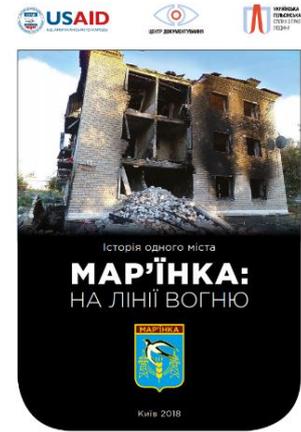
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about peace and safe reintegration”, the fourth sitting of which was held on July 6, and was devoted to discussing what Ukraine can learn from Columbia’s experience – [link in Ukrainian](#).

Our representatives also took part in the roundtable devoted to presentation of Ukraine-wide sociological survey of public opinion on the issue of overcoming the consequences of Kremlin’s aggression in Ukraine. *Video footage and major takeaways* [in Ukrainian](#).

- Program released a mini-report with a historical background for the occupation and defense of the town of Mariinka in Donetsk oblast. This is the fourth in a series of chronicles of hybrid armed conflict in Donbas that are produced by the Program and presented to the public and different stakeholders (three others are about Severodonetsk and Popasna in Luhansk oblast, and Mariupol in Donetsk oblast). In addition to restoring historical truth, these reports are also used by human rights defenders to encourage conflict-affected individuals to report their stories to our Documentation Center (maintaining a database of armed conflict-affected human rights violations), as well as are used in legal and international advocacy efforts. [Full report in Ukrainian and its executive summary in English](#).



- New in our thematic blog (*links are in Ukrainian*) – [Balkan’s experience and how it can be applied in Ukraine](#), specifically in terms of reforming security sector; [compensations to the conflict victims](#) – what does the international transitional justice practice say.
- Some noteworthy media appearances by our leading experts:

- ✓ Program’s Chief of Party Taras Tsymbrivsky in an [interview](#) to the UATV covered the issue of legal aid provision to the conflict-affected people and drew attention to the latest achievement – [court ruling](#) abolishing compulsory verification for IDP pensioners. Besides, he dwelled on the legal challenges in terms of armed conflict qualification, especially in view of the cases being currently under investigation by international courts.

Moreover, he visited Ukrainian TV channel “ZIK” to discuss the 4th anniversary of the MH-17 downing. Together with other participants, he [deliberated](#) (*link is in Ukrainian*) on a number of topical issues related to available legal remedies for the families of the victims, the prospects of bringing perpetrators to justice. Mr. Tsymbrivsky talked on the possibility of invoking a number of instruments, including universal jurisdiction, in order to prevent impunity and strengthen accountability for gross human rights violations.

- ✓ To mark the Day of Severodonetsk Liberation (the town was liberated from Russia-led forces on 22 July 2014) a [press conference](#) entitled “War Takes No Holidays” took place. It was dedicated to promoting the importance of issues related to war crimes documenting, overcoming consequences of the armed conflict and providing aid to its victims.

Program continuously analyzes legislation and keeps an eye on lawmaking processes to ensure its consistency with human rights standards enshrined in international instruments

- Program [prepared](#) human rights analysis of S.3336: Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act of 2018 introduced into the U.S. Congress on 1 August (*link is in Ukrainian*). Its objective is to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to combat international cybercrime, and to impose additional sanctions with respect to the RF, and for other purposes. The given document touches upon Ukraine’s interests as regard the statement of the U.S. policy on Crimea and some measures to end crisis in eastern Ukraine.



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- *Links are in Ukrainian.* On July 4, Program [took part](#) in the sitting of the Parliament Human Rights Committee's with the purpose to voice out the possibility to use as a model our draft law "On the legal status of certain categories of protected persons deprived of their liberty in connection with international armed conflict" (developed by UHHRU and Media Initiative for Human Rights)⁴. Furthermore, the said bill was [discussed](#) at Hromadske TV enlightening the disadvantages of four pieces of legislation recently registered in the Parliament by different MPs. Our experts emphasized that there is a need to make a qualitatively new legislative paper, which is in line with the international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law standards.

Further to this, UHHRU/Program officially applied to become a member of a Coordination Council that is being created under the Presidential Administration with the purpose of maintaining a constant dialogue between all parties involved and delivering proposals on how to solve a full specter of issues related to protection of political prisoners and other detainees.

- Fresh analytical findings as regards the Law of Ukraine № 2469-19 on National Security, adopted on June 21, are available [here](#).
- *Links are in Ukrainian.* Program's input is considered in the [draft law](#) No. 5435 "On the legal status of missing persons", adopted by the Parliament on July 12. While welcoming this initiative, we emphasize that the effectiveness of the search mechanism for missing persons will depend on the interpretation of the Law's certain provisions in practice, as well as on the adoption and implementation of appropriate by-laws.

Following the topic of the missing persons, [here](#) is also our public statement on occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared.

UHHRU's gender advisor shares tips with civil society sector

Since UHHRU/Program strictly follows its Gender Equality and Non-discrimination Policy and is already experienced in integrating gender-related aspects in its activities, our gender advisor Tamara Martsenuyk elaborated a set of recommendations to help less experienced organizations/experts with this sensitive matter – [link in Ukrainian](#).

Other related activities by UHHRU in brief:

- **Supporting political prisoners on every front** (*links are in Ukrainian*)
 - ✓ UHHRU Executive Director [talks](#) about case of political prisoner Oleg Sentsov, in particular as regard interim measures recently [applied](#) by the European Court of Human Rights (e.g. interim measures under Rule 39 applied only in urgent cases where there is an imminent risk of irreparable harm).
 - ✓ Open statement concerning political prisoner Stanislav Aseev held captive by the so-called "DPR", and violation of the journalists' ethics by Kremlin's media is available from the [link](#).
- **UHHRU's findings on systematic practice of torture in Crimea are reflected in the UN Committee Against Torture Concluding Observations as regard Russia's Periodic Report**

Almost all findings and recommendations from UHHRU-co-authored "[shadow](#)" report on the RF compliance with the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the territory of occupied Crimea in 2014-2018 are considered by the

⁴ If adopted, this will be Ukraine's first ever piece of legislation completely devoted to the status of detainees as "protected persons" and social guarantees for them.



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UN Committee against Torture in its [Concluding Observations](#) on the RF sixth periodic report (some more details are given [here](#)).

- **Keeping a close eye on Ukraine’s international human rights commitments**

On August 8, UHHRU [presented](#) a “shadow” report on execution by Ukraine of concluding observations as regard its 7th Periodic Report (CCPR/C/SR.3002) as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which examines situation from the standpoint of increased human rights challenges arising from the armed conflict. *Link to alternative report, which has been sent to UN Human Rights Committee, in [English](#) and in [Ukrainian](#). Besides, [here](#) is an accompanying interview, in Ukrainian, on the matter concerned.*

- **Just-in issue of analytical law digest Crimea Beyond Rules**

A special issue of the Crimea Beyond Rules Analytical Law Digest, titled “[Forcible expulsion of the civilian population from the occupied territory by Russia](#)”, is based on data contained in the thematic research conducted by the Regional Center for Human Rights. The digest describes subject of research and its methodology, applicable international standards, general situation with forcible expulsions of Ukrainian citizens, foreigners and stateless persons (who belong to the category of protected persons) from Crimea; types of expulsions applied by the Crimean “courts”, expulsion procedure and brief analysis of the court practice; administrative expulsion of persons who have served a criminal sentence; legal consequences of administrative expulsion; lack of effective remedies, violation of IHL, international human rights law obligations, legislation of the occupying power as well as provides for examples of the subject-matter legal cases.

Here is also a freshly released [publication](#) (*in Ukrainian*) which provides certain particulars about deportation of Crimeans from the peninsula and which is based on the said special issue.

- **Joining forces with Ombudsperson for strengthened protection of human rights of the Kremlin’s detainees**

On August 13, UHHRU-initiated meeting [was held](#) (*link is in Ukrainian*) at the Ombudsperson’s Secretariat under participation of other human rights organizations dynamically working to secure human rights of the Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in the occupied Crimea, non-government controlled areas of Donbas and in Russia and to release them from captivity.

STRATEGIC LITIGATIONS

Within this direction the USAID Human Rights in Action Program supports strategic legal cases domestically and internationally to protect public interests⁵, as well as assures their broad media coverage among the professional community and the public. Total number of UHHRU Strategic Litigation Centre’s (SLC) cases within the Program equals 212.

Program’s multi-layer contribution to safeguard rights of IDPs yields another telling result

Kyiv Administrative Court of Appeal [ruled to keep](#) in force the judgement of first instance court, hence reaffirming that IDPs should no longer be experiencing mandatory checks in the place of

⁵ Strategic litigations are one of the most powerful tools of human rights protection; conducted in the interests of a citizen or a group of citizens to achieve systemic changes in the legal field for the benefit of society and used for the purpose of creating the case-law (precedents).



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their registration. To be specific, it goes about abolishing certain damaging provisions of the Cabinet of Minister's Resolutions No. 365 (dd. 8 June 2016) and No. 637 (dd. 5 November 2014), which introduced checking procedure for pensioners and other IDPs willing to receive social payments (if exceeding the limit of allotted 60-days stay outside the place of registration, an IDP certificate is to be annulled and all payments suspended)⁶.

Some textual explanations by UHHRU lawyers can be read [here](#)⁷. Another subject matter interview with a lawyer, who conduct the case, is available [here](#), in Ukrainian.

New in our “Legal ABC” podcast as a part of legal awareness

Our strategic litigation lawyer delivered comprehensive explanations on the matter of why some conflict-suffered people still cannot get any compensation for the damage caused by the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas – [link in Ukrainian](#).

Other related activities by UHHRU in brief

- **UHHRU continues its work on protecting victims of Russian aggression with help of the European Court of Human Rights**
 - ✓ An application was filed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) regarding the illegal prosecution by the Crimean occupying authorities of thirteen persons for organizing single pickets in support of the Crimean Tatars. The occupying authority once again ignored the norms of international humanitarian law and the provisions of Articles 6, 7, 11 and 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights. We have also filed an application to the ECtHR on behalf of a Crimean citizen who is facing criminal charges for his post in social media, which he had published before the occupation even started.
 - ✓ An application was submitted to the ECtHR requesting that interim measures be applied for the applicant who had been detained by the illegal armed groups at the checkpoint on the border with the so-called “DPR”. Since March 2018, she has been held in captivity and denied the right to meet or communicate with her family members. The woman was forced to visit the occupied territory regularly because of her elderly mother living there. On August 8, the ECtHR satisfied the applicant's request for interim measures and ordered the Governments of Ukraine and Russia to notify the Court of the measures taken to locate the woman and release her from captivity.
- **UHHRU contributed into new interstate lawsuit over Kremlin's political prisoners**

UHHRU made an input into the 6th interstate complaint against the RF submitted to the ECtHR as a part of its continued, systematic and sustained efforts towards protecting rights and liberating political prisoners. In particular, it goes about evidences regarding some individuals concerned as well as legal language. *More details are available [here](#) and [here](#). Available is also*

⁶ The verification procedure was taking place on a regular basis – two half-year verifications from the date of opening their account at Ukraine's National Savings Bank and getting a payment card, and then one verification per year. Should affected individuals fail to present themselves, their IDP certificate could be annulled and social benefits and pension payments suspended, which used to happen on a regular basis. This mandatory requirement has resulted in a massive movement of people, mostly pensioners, across the 'contact line', long queues and overcrowding at the bank branches and at checkpoints. This requirement also prevented IDPs from travelling within Ukraine or abroad.

⁷ Litigation was initiated by one of the Union's member organization – Public Committee for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms of the Citizens – and massively used legal findings and potential of the USAID Program at the later stage of this case.



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a [video footage](#) of a related media event held on 13 August 2018 and an [article](#) (both links are in Ukrainian).

FREE LEGAL AID

UHHRU's [network](#) of legal aid centers (LACs) keeps on delivering free legal aid (including outreach legal consultations in the remote areas), holding information and awareness raising events in the sphere of human rights as well as documenting war crimes and conflict-related human rights abuse.

The USAID supports activities of the UHHRU's legal aid centers in Sloviansk, [Toretsk](#), [Mariupol](#), Kramatorsk, [Pokrovsk](#), [Sumy](#) and Dnipro providing legal aid to conflict-affected population, as well as [Kyiv-based Specialized LAC](#) targeting both Crimean and Donbas residents and IDPs and Crimea-oriented LAC in Kherson.

Raising awareness of citizens regarding protection of their rights *(links are in Ukrainian/Russian)*

- **Analysis of Law on Legal Status of Missing Persons**

In early August, the President of Ukraine signed a [law](#), which grants a special status to missing persons. Lawyers of the Human Rights Group "SICH", which runs our Dnipro-based legal aid center, tried to [find out](#) whether the new law would finally be able to settle the issue of the legal status of persons got missing in Donbas and Crimea.

- **People are not property: status of persons that fell victims to human trafficking**

In cooperation with the Sumy City Council, Sumy-based LAC prepared an [article](#) on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, dedicated to the issue of helping victims of human trafficking in Sumy Oblast.

- **World Humanitarian Day**

Humanitarian aid for IDPs is a rather painful subject for IDPs and NGOs from Sumy Oblast. Learn more about it [here](#).

- **Which categories of internally displaced people will get larger amounts of IDP-related aid**

Starting 1 July 2018, the subsistence minimum, which determines the amount of many types of social aid, has been raised. The amount of monthly targeted assistance for IDPs to cover living costs (including payment of housing services and utility for certain categories of IDPs) should increase as well. Read more about in a recent Sumy-based LAC's [post](#).

- **Issuance of Ukrainian passports for residents of occupied territories**

Overarching recommendations and fresh news on the matter of issuing a passport of a Ukrainian citizen to residents of occupied territories can be found from [the link](#). The situation remains trendy, so people are needed to be supplied with up-to-date explanations on how to act in case they experience difficulties.

- **Seminar on gender issues**

On July 10, UHHRU LAC held a seminar at the Pokrovsk Employment Center on the issues of employment for women, discrimination at work and other manifestations of gender inequality.



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Recent successes of legal aid centers in defense of human rights *(links are in Ukrainian)*

- **Hot-baked success stories from our Crimea-focused LAC** in more details can be found from [the link](#) whilst here is a brief overview:

- ✓ The first case concerns returning deposits of Crimea residents stored in the state-owned Privatbank – just another case in a row, but this time it was made possible to prove the entire absurdness of bank's arguments in the whole category of similar cases.
- ✓ The second one touches upon finding unlawful actions of the Ukraine's Pension Fund, which continues practice of sending inquiries to the so-called pension authorities in the occupied Crimea. The case is not new in the legal practice of Program's lawyers, but it brought to the surface a very low level of understanding of the situation by the Pension Fund's officials.
- ✓ An appellate court left in force a lower instance court's decision, which obliged the Cabinet of Ministers to elaborate a mechanism for compensating property damage resulted from the Crimean Tatars' deportation in 1944.

- **Successful cases on resuming of social payments and pensions for IDPs**

UHHRU LACs are helping IDPs that were denied pensions or other payments on various grounds. Thus, thanks to the Program-provided legal support, many pensioners already had their pensions retrieved and started receiving back payments. This time we bring to your attention the following new cases, which will help to better understand what should be done to resolve the issue:

- ✓ A [case](#) of the Mariupol-based LAC on restoring the rights of internally displaced pensioners.
- ✓ Another pensioner's [victory](#) over the Pension Fund, its Pokrovsk branch office.
- ✓ Two Sloviansk residents had their pensions suspended after a check at their place of registration conducted by the Pension Fund: the officials claimed that the IDPs dwelled elsewhere. After [Sloviansk-based LAC](#) took the case, pension payments were retrieved.
- ✓ There is a belief that the pensioners are the most vulnerable category of IDPs, whose rights are being systematically violated. Lawyers from Sumy legal aid center say that young people are also in need for protection, since their pensions for the loss of a breadwinner can also be suspended by the authorized public bodies. One of Program's [recent cases](#) clearly demonstrates that, but luckily lawyers' help was timely *(link is in Ukrainian)*.
- ✓ A local social protection office refused to grant an IDP woman with II group disability monthly targeted aid, which is supposed to offset cost of living expenses, including utility bills. The Sumy-based LAC helped the woman to defend her right to receive state financial support – here is the [link](#) to the court decision.
- ✓ Sumy-based LAC helped an IDP-family from Donetsk oblast: this time the case concerned retrieving suspended survivor benefits (pension) payable to a minor child – [details](#).

- **Other successful cases**

- ✓ Mariupol-based LAC lawyers helped one more child to become a Ukrainian citizen: a man whose grandson had been born in non-government-controlled territory came to the LAC for assistance. Lawyers [helped](#) him prepare procedural documents and represented him in court to establish the fact of birth.
- ✓ To cross the demarcation in Donbas with a child, you need to have a consent of both parents. However, UHHRU is often contacted by people, who find it difficult to secure such consent. [Here is](#) how the Pokrovsk-based LAC handled a typical case like that.



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HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

UHHRU keeps on organizing human rights training events as well as formulating a comprehensive national human rights education policy. This activity is implemented under Ukraine-wide Educational Program “[We Understand Human Rights](#)” (WUHR)⁸, which is being the only informal educational system that has the material basis for its activities – Educational Human Rights House-Chernihiv.

Formal human rights education

Access to education for conflict-affected audiences requires Program’s close attention

On July 13, amid a sitting of the Parliament’s Committee on family matters, youth policy, sports and tourism, our expert enhanced UHHRU/Program’s voice on the issue of assuring full-fledged access to higher education of IDPs (in particular, law education), other conflict-affected persons, as well as young people from the Kremlin-controlled territories of Ukraine – [link in Ukrainian](#). The advocacy work proceeds.

Overall, the Program pays considerable attention as regards access to all levels of education for all conflict-affected individuals. Among the nearest plans is to put on domestic agenda the issue of educational certification for secondary-level graduates from occupied territories of Ukraine, whose number exceeds 300,000 and only less than 10,000 of whom are certified by Ukraine’s Ministry of Education.

Informal human rights education

Just-in guidebook on international humanitarian law strengthens USAID-supported work to empower those dealing with conflict-affected people (*links are in Ukrainian*)

The Program is pleased to announce the availability of [a guidebook on international humanitarian law fundamentals](#), giving all interested stakeholders a much-needed practical advice on IHL application that suit Ukraine’s current armed conflict context.

Just reminding that earlier the Program released [infographic posters](#), [first](#) and [second](#) video clips that altogether will help not just professionals but the average people to understand how to deal with conflict consequences with or without mentorship guidance.

Other related activities by UHHRU in brief

- **Transitional justice principles were presented to law students in course of a two-week marathon**

The awareness-raising marathon on transitional justice was launched ([link in Ukrainian](#)) for students of the Military Institute of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Our experts presented activities of various NGOs conducted to overcome the consequences of military conflict and gave an overview of a draft transitional justice model, as well as free legal assistance to victims of the armed conflict.

⁸ Launched since 2007, WUHR Program envisages development of informal human rights education, contributing to cultivating a human rights culture, strengthening respect for the rule of law in Ukraine, promoting intercultural understanding and principles of peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Program currently counts more than 3,500 alumni from all regions of Ukraine.



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MAIN EVENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA

Continuous politically motivated persecutions against Ukrainian nationals in Crimea

- On July 5, pro-Ukrainian activist Volodymyr Balukh was sentenced by Russia's occupational authorities for 5 years in a general regime colony and obliged to pay a 10,000 rubles fine. This is the third fabricated criminal case against Balukh who has been on a hunger strike since mid-March already in the protest of persecution.

Public address of UHHRU and ally organizations which calls the international community and the Government of Ukraine to apply all possible measures for liberating the political prisoner is available in [English](#) and in [Ukrainian](#).

- The so-called "Supreme Court of Crimea" sentenced Ukrainian national Yevhen Panov to eight years in a maximum-security penal colony for "preparing acts of sabotage" in Crimea in summer 2016 ([link in Ukrainian](#)).

Subject-matter open address of UHHRU and partners – link in [Ukrainian](#) and in [English](#).

- A house of activist of "Crimean solidarity" movement Gulsum Alieva, a daughter of political prisoner Muslim Aliev, has been illegally searched on August 11.

UHHRU's public statement is available on our website in [Ukrainian](#) and in [English](#).

- Another victim of Kremlin's regime is Olga Pavlenko, Ukrainian Cultural Center activist, whose premises were searched by the occupational authorities on August 29.

UHHRU together with ally human rights organizations strongly condemns these illegal actions – a corresponding open statement is available from the link in [English](#) and in [Ukrainian](#).

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine passed law on legal status of missing persons

On July 12, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the draft law No. 5435 "On the legal status of missing persons", which was co-authored by a cohort of MPs, international organizations and domestic human rights groups, including UHHRU (now it became [the Law No. 2505-VII](#), [link in Ukrainian](#)). This is a first step in creation of the national search mechanism, which allows to properly regulate the legal status of the missing persons and the process of their search as well as to ensure due legal protection of such persons and their relatives in line with IHL, international human rights law and recommendations of the Council of Europe and International Committee of the Red Cross.

Government of Ukraine goes to all length to bring Russia liable for violating human rights of Ukrainian nationals

- **New interstate lawsuit on Kremlin's political prisoners is submitted⁹**

This is being the 6th interstate application against the RF with the European Court of Human Rights which describes practice of the systematic, large scale and illegal politically motivated

⁹ Just reminding that in late June 2018 the European Court of Human Rights decided to unite four 'Ukraine vs Russia' interstate cases into two large proceedings concerning Crimea and Donbas, while an application on illegal transfer of three groups of orphan children from Donbas to the RF remained in a separate proceeding. In late May 2018, the ECtHR has relinquished jurisdiction over these four cases in favor of its Grand Chamber, which deals with applications raising serious questions affecting the Convention's interpretation/application or serious issues of general importance.



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persecution of the Ukrainian citizens in the territory of Russia and occupied Crimea. The Government claims violation of the rights of the Ukrainian citizens under the ECtHR (as for prohibition of torture, personal freedom, fair trial, respect for personal and family life, freedom of expression, right to an effective remedy, limitation on use of restrictions on rights) and provides solid evidence as regard 71 persecuted individuals both in the territory of Crimea and the RF. A separate request has been sent to apply Rule 39 (interim measures) with respect to Stanislav Klykh, Volodymyr Balukh, Emir-Usein Kuku and Serhiy Litvinov, to ensure that they are provided with adequate medical assistance and that information about their health is released.

- **Ukraine provided the International Criminal Court in The Hague with lists of mercenaries fighting in eastern Ukraine**

Chief Military Prosecutor Anatolii Matios says ([link in Ukrainian](#)) there are hundreds of foreign mercenaries fighting side-by-side with the Russia-led forces against Ukraine's army.

In light of this, it is worth reminding of a related Program [analytical account](#) "Price of war. The ways of bringing foreigners to justice for crimes committed during the armed conflict in Ukraine".

- **Ukraine plans to prepare consolidated claim against RF for reimbursement of losses**

President Poroshenko [has ordered](#) the creation of an interagency coordinating body to prepare a lawsuit against Russia for damages caused in the east Ukraine and Crimea (as envisaged by the so-called "reintegration and de-occupation law" № 2268-VIII adopted in January 2018).

OHCHR report on human rights abuse and war crimes committed during Ilovaik events in Donbas

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [has published its report](#), which covers the multifaceted, interrelated and mutually reinforcing human rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations, committed against civilians and persons *hors de combat* during the Ilovaik events in August 2014. In particular, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine documented numerous violations and abuses of the rights to life, liberty, security and physical integrity during these events.

UHHRU's comments on this report can be found [here](#) (in Ukrainian).

Following the 20th EU-Ukraine Summit

Released in Brussels, on 9 July 2018, a joint [statement](#) by involved parties reaffirmed their continuous commitment to strengthening the association and integration of Ukraine with the EU, on the basis of the Association Agreement and common values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Among other things, the EU reiterated its unwavering support and commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly passed draft resolution on human rights abuses in Crimea

The [document](#) "Ongoing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)", among other things, calls Russia "to immediately and unconditionally release Crimean activists Oleg Sentsov, Olexander Kolchenko, Olexsiy Cherniy, Remzi Memetov, Seyran Seliyev, Volodymyr Balukh, Olexsandr Kostenko, Muslim Aliev, Emir Usein Kuku, Vadym Siruk, Arsen Dzhepparov, Refat Alimov and other



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Ukrainian citizens, who have been unlawfully detained or imprisoned under the fabricated charges by the de facto authorities in the occupied Crimea”.

ECtHR decided on medical care interim measure for Oleg Sentsov, calls on him to end hunger strike

On July 25, the ECtHR [decided](#) on an interim measure in the case of imprisoned Ukrainian film director Sentsov, calling on Russia to provide him with appropriate treatment in an institutionalized medical setting as well as invited Mr. Sentsov to end his hunger strike and to accept any life-saving treatment offered.

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For additional information about USAID programs in Ukraine, please visit our website: <http://ukraine.usaid.gov> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/USAIDUkraine>.

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