



HUMAN RIGHTS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS:

OCTOBER 2016

INFORMATOR:

1.

Illegal arrests and detentions

2.

Problems with medical care, medical supplies and food

Observers registered increasing number of human rights violations in occupied areas of Luhansk and Donetsk regions: detentions of civilians; adoption of laws, that violate property rights; involvement of pupils and students into propaganda meetings – this is not a complete list of documented human rights violations.

1. Illegal arrests and detentions

October in “republics” was full of detentions of dissents and “sentences” on earlier detained citizens. So-called “Supreme Court of DPR” condemned three men suspected in pro-Ukrainian activities. “Republican” media reported that one detainee was a “DPR soldier”. They were charged with “espionage” and “sentenced” to imprisonment for 13, 15 and 18 years.

On October 26, 2016, “MSS DPR” reported about detention of 28 years old woman Liliya Kots, a native of Lviv region, in Donetsk. She was accused of a contact with the “Right Sector” and “Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists” and also of planning to kidnap a “DPR” fighter.

Fighters of “republics” keep on detaining people for violations of the so-called “curfew”. “MIA LPR” reported that fighters’ patrols have detained 127 people. Responsibility for such violations has increased in occupied areas of Luhansk region in October – now they are punished by a fine and forced labour or administrative arrest.

Pro-Ukrainian citizens, forced to live on occupied territory, are still been detained. “MGB LPR” detained 4 young people – “Zarya” football club fans, on October 10. There is information about only one detainee – 19 years old Vladislav Ovcharenko. Young people are accused of “espionage” and “treason against the Republic”: they are suspected in a photo shoot with Ukrainian flags in the center of occupied Luhansk, which was published in social networks at the end of August 2016.

“LPR authorities” keep on pressing pro-Ukrainian youth. Three students of a foreign languages department were evicted from the “Luhansk Pedagogical University” dormitory for singing Ukrainian songs and shouting “Glory to Ukraine!”. Students were 17 and 21 years old.

According to the SCU’s information, 109 citizens have been taken hostages by “L/DPR” fighters, 495 are missing. Places where 57 people have been kept are known. Ukrainian side is waiting for release of 47 hostages, whose identities are confirmed by representatives of the ORDLO.

2. Problems with medical care, medical supplies and food.

According to information received from residents of occupied territories of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, even simple medicines are difficult to buy in the most pharmacies, because they are absent or too expensive. Residents of occupied territories often ask friends and relatives, volunteer organizations on the territory, controlled by Ukraine, to buy medicines. Residents of occupied territories report lack of medical supplies in social networks.

There is also a lack of food on uncontrolled territories close to the demarcation line. Residents of Aleksandrovka in Donetsk region, report about the lack of food. Deterioration of the situation is caused by closeness to the war zone, what disrupted a crop and hampered food transportations.



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Military propaganda that targets children

“ 4.

Development of the so-called “legal field” and laws, that violate property and other rights of Ukrainian citizens

“ 5.

Primaries

3. Military propaganda that targets children

Children are actively involved into the military propaganda of occupation authorities on the territory of “republics”. In early October “Military Office of the LPR” organized a “day of patriotic education” for seniors of the school number 25.

“People’s police of the LPR” organized and carried out an “Open Day” for pupils of 5th and 6th grades from secondary schools number 10 and 21 in Krasnodon on October 11.

Firearms at disposal of the “people’s police” were shown to pupils during the meeting.

Officers of the “Special Unit of the Department of Corrections under the MIA of LPR” carried show-performances for children from the Luhansk orphanage number 1 on October 26.

4. Development of the so-called “legal field” and laws, that violate property and other rights of Ukrainian citizens

A moratorium on commercial real estate transactions still continues to operate in “LPR”. “State Unitary Enterprise “One-stop Registration Center”, which will be carrying out a technical inventory of real estate since November, 2016, has been established in the “republic”. A commission on legalizing real estate on occupied territories of the region, which have been registered according to the Ukrainian law after May 18, 2014, is going to be established in “LPR”. At the same time, current so-called “territorial offices of the Ministry of Justice of LPR” keep registering property rights to real estate situated on occupied territory. Relevant “state fee” is taken for this service.

A seminar for notary publics of the “republic” was conducted in Luhansk on October 7, 2016.

Also, “Council of Ministers of LPR” approved “normative acts in the field of enforcement of court decisions”. “Regulation of the Council of Ministers as on October 18 number 564 “On approval of normative acts in the field of enforcement of court decisions, legal regulations produced by other bodies and officials on the territory of LPR” came into force on October 25.

Moreover, “Code of Administrative Offence of LPR” came into force on October 1, 2016. Now “State Committee on Land Tenure of LPR” got the right to prosecute “citizens, officials and legal persons” for “violations of the LPR Code of Administrative Offence”.

Same situation regarding development of “parallel” legal system is in DPR. DPR media reports that courts of the “republic” had considered more than 16 thousand cases and materials during the third quarter of 2016.

5. Primaries

“Primaries” at all 80 polling stations in “LPR” were considered valid. “LPR” media reported about more than 61 thousand people, who had voted. Winners of “primaries” got more than 50% of votes and there will be no second round. Occupation authorities in Donetsk report about 370 thousand people, who have participated in elections.

But locals claim in social networks and personal contacts that pro-Russian fighters had really embellished rates. They say that streets of Donetsk and Luhansk have been half-empty. No one hurried to vote on “primaries”. Many sources have also admitted that employees of “state enterprises” and public sector agencies of Donetsk and Luhansk had been forced to vote to avoid “troubles at work”.