



# HUMAN RIGHTS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS:

DECEMBER 2016

INFORMATOR:

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Illegal apprehensions and detentions

2.

Development of a parallel legal system, the Bar, notarial system, courts

In December 2016 new facts of human rights violations were detected in particular areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, controlled by armed formations “L/DPR”: illegal apprehensions of pro-Ukrainian citizens; use of pupils and students in propaganda meetings; development of a parallel legal system, combining human rights violations in the so called “republics”, which became a daily routine.

## 1. Illegal apprehensions and detentions

Several illegal detentions of pro-Ukrainian citizens took place on the territory of “LPR” and “DPR” in December.

“MSS LPR” reported on December 26, 2016, that it has identified the “Facebook” social network user, “who had distributed extremist materials, including negative information, degrading honour and dignity of citizens of the Republic, and also published offensive posts, insulting public organizations, state institutions and bodies of the LPR, in particular – the Head of the Republic”. The offender turned out to be a 53-years old Luhansk resident Gennadiy Benitskiy. The blogger was hold on farfetched charges – criticism of the life in “LPR” and its government.

Later we found out that Gennadiy Benitskiy was apprehended on December 1, 2016. A criminal proceeding was instituted upon evidence of the offence according to p.1 Article 343 of the “CC “LPR”: “actions aimed to incite hatred or animosity and degrade human dignity”.

Witnesses also reported that on December 28, 2016, a citizen of Ukraine had been apprehended when crossing the border between Russia and Ukraine via the check point on the territory, controlled by illegal armed formations. Since beginning of the conflict on the East of Ukraine the detainee has lived on the territory, controlled by Ukraine. He entered the PADLR territory from the Russian Federation to visit relatives. The man was transferred by Russian border guards to officers of the so-called “MSS LPR”. He is a public official what may have become the reason for detention. After two days he was released.

At the end of December so-called “MSS DPR” reported that they’ve apprehended Sychev Leonid Mihaylovitch on suspicion of espionage. Sychev L.M is a citizen of Ukraine, who was born in Antratsyt, Luhansk region, in 1984. “Law enforcement officers” reported that Sychev had served in the MIA of Ukraine and had been recruited by the SSU. He collected and transferred data on redeployment of “servicemen and equipment of the National Police on the territory of Donetsk People’s Republic”.

## 2. Development of a parallel legal system, the Bar, notarial system, courts

So-called “authorities” keep on informing local residents and the global public about work of their “state bodies” on the territory, controlled by illegal armed formations “LPR” and “DPR”.

Government of the Russian Federation “helps” to cover actions of the “LPR”. On December 20, 2016, the “Head of the Coordination, Development and Regulation Office on Foreign Economic Activities and State Target Programme of the Ministry of Economic Development of the LPR” Stanislav Duplenko reported that administrations and entrepreneurs of Donetsk, Rostov region of the Russian Federation, contributed to establishment of the “Trade center for producers of the Luhansk People’s



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Republic” on the territory of the city. Such step of the Russian authorities will make people believe in legalization of the smuggled goods flows, produced on the territory of unrecognized “republic”.

The “Ministry of Justice” reported on their work on the “Lawyers’ Day”, December 2. They reported that more than 60 private legal practitioners and government law officers worked that time in the “LPR”; officers of the “Ministry of Justice of the LPR” have registered 580 normative acts of the “government authority”; “bailiffs of the LPR” had opened almost a thousand enforcement proceedings during first three weeks (50 had been already enforced).

Same activities have been also recorded on the territory of Donetsk region, controlled by illegal armed formations “DPR”. Mass media of the “DPR” reports that “Notary publics of the DPR” have performed more than 93 thousands notarial actions. “Courts of the Donetsk People’s Republic” have considered about 65 thousand cases and materials. “Civil status acts registration bodies” have registered 2,2 thousand marriages and 6,6 thousand newborns since the beginning of 2016. It is noteworthy that those documents have no legal force.

### 3. Enforced membership in “public” organizations and participation in “patriotic” and “social” actions of the “L/DPR”

Establishment of “public organizations” that involve population, including children, in propaganda, is ongoing on territories, controlled by illegal armed formations.

“Authorities of the L/DPR” reported on outcomes of that “work”. Territorial centers of children’s and youth organization (CYO) the “Young Guard”, established under the public movement (PM) “Peace for Luhanshchyna”, work everywhere around the “republic”.

Last territorial centers of children’s and youth organization the “Young Guard”, established under the public movement (PM) “Peace for Luhanshchyna”, were created in Bryanka school, Zimogorie gymnasium, Pervomaysk high special school No.6 in 2016.

“Primary offices” of the youth public organization (YPO) “Youth for Peace” were established in Rovenki, Kirovsk, Anratsyt and Suhodolsk.

Mass media in “DPR” reported that the “Donetsk Republic” public movement had numbered 168 thousand by the end of 2016.

Mass meetings in December and previous months were initiated by heads of illegal armed formations. According to published photo and video materials, mostly pupils, students, pensioners, public officers participated in the mass meetings. “Authorities” use that meetings as a propaganda tool.

Mass media of the “DPR” reported that more that 10 thousand people had come to the meeting devoted to the “International Solidarity Day” in Donetsk on December 20, 2016.