

Statement of the Riigikogu On recognising the mass deportation of Crimean Tatars in 1944 as an act of genocide

Recalling the Law of Ukraine on Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine, the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the recognition of the Crimean Tatar genocide and the related appeal to the national parliaments of the world on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Crimean Tatar genocide;

requesting the unconditional restoration of Ukraine's national sovereignty over the territory occupied by the Russian Federation during the armed aggression that began in 2014, and underlining that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine;

strongly condemning the extermination and the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars from their homeland on the Crimean Peninsula to the territories of Central Asia, which was planned and carried out by the totalitarian Soviet regime in 1944 and which resulted in the death of tens of thousands of Crimean Tatars as well as the entire nation losing their homeland and being subjected to brutal Russification for decades;

underlining that in Crimea, which was occupied in 2014, the Russian Federation is continuing the policy of genocide pursued by the Soviet Union against the Crimean Tatars, with the aim of destroying the identity and erasing the historical and cultural heritage of the Crimean Tatars;

based on the principles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the norms of customary international law;

taking into account the obligation of all states under international law to cooperate in order to put an end to genocide and the perpetration of crimes against humanity and war crimes;

affirming its active involvement in the international Crimea Platform at all levels, with the aim of restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders,

the Riigikogu:

- recognises the mass deportation of Crimean Tatars carried out by the Soviet Union in Crimea in 1944 as an act of genocide;
- condemns the continuation of the policy of genocide against Crimean Tatars in Crimea, occupied in 2014, by the Russian Federation through systematic detention, torture, kidnapping and the prohibition to learn and use their native language;
- calls on the international community to show solidarity with the Crimean Tatars and to continue to condemn the occupation and annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014.

Lauri Hussar
President of the Riigikogu

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