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TO RETURN MEANS TO SAVE

Point 4 of the President of
Ukraine Peace Formula



DEPORTATION OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN IS GENOCIDE!

Since 2014, the Russian Federation has been deporting and forcibly transferring **Ukrainian children**. The goal is to change their identity and thus raise the next generation of Russian soldiers.



Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, according to the information platform “Children of War”, Ukraine **has verified about 20,000 cases of deportation and forcible transfer of children**. The actual number of such cases may reach hundreds of thousands!

We are out of time – children need to be returned now. Because they are growing up very quickly, and the Russian Federation is re-educating Ukrainians and imposing Russian narratives on them.

IF UKRAINE RETURNS AT LEAST ONE CHILD EVERY DAY, IT WILL TAKE 55 YEARS! WE NEED TO ACT TODAY!

To return means to save



In June 2023, the Child Rights Protection Center was opened at the initiative of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy to restore the rights of children returned home by Ukraine and to protect the best interests of children.





RUSSIA KEEPS UKRAINIAN CHILDREN IN CONSTANT FEAR!



Interrogations, electric shocks, torture – these are the horrors that the boy experienced on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine! He told his story to an international audience in Geneva at the side event “The End of ‘Whataboutism’: Unity for the Return of Ukrainians”.

The child **found himself under Russian occupation** after the full-scale invasion. On October 1, 2022, he and his grandparents were **placed in a temporary detention centre**. The boy was held there for over a month on charges of alleged sabotage!

He was constantly interrogated, electrocuted and tortured. He was forced to sign a confession to a crime he had nothing to do with.

On November 29, 2022, the child was released. The boy really wanted to go to his mother, but he could not do it on his own because it was dangerous.

Fortunately, with the assistance of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, he managed **to see his mother** on September 3, 2023 and **leave the occupation**.

To return means to save

STORIES OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN WHO RETURNED HOME





UKRAINE'S PEACE FORMULA

Just and lasting peace
for Ukraine and the world

Ukraine wants international partners to take concrete steps to bring home deported and forcibly transferred children.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

1. Active involvement in the work of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children. Currently, 37 countries are members of the Coalition.
2. Participation in the implementation of one of the 9 projects within the International Coalition.
3. Verification of the location of children deported to the territory of the Russian Federation and forcibly transferred within the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.
4. Monitoring, verification and updating of data and locations of children in the territory of the Russian Federation and temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine using the powers of international organisations (UN, ICRC and others) and partner countries.
5. Assistance in ensuring the best interests of the child upon return to Ukraine: funding rehabilitation projects.
6. Assistance in the provision of social and psychological support services to children who witnessed or suffered from the crimes of Russian armed aggression after their return to the territory controlled by Ukraine.
7. Assistance in the rehabilitation and socialisation of children who have returned from deportation/forcible transfer or left the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.
8. Supporting the activities of Child Rights Protection Centers in each region to coordinate state authorities to ensure the best interests of children who have witnessed and/or suffered as a result of Russia's war crimes in the event of their interviews.
9. Holding international events on an ongoing basis to continue the information (media) campaign to draw attention to the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children by the Russian authorities.



IN CAPTIVITY: RUSSIA UNLAWFULLY DETAINS UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS!

Currently, **more than 14,000 people are considered missing under special circumstances** and unlawfully deprived of their personal liberty as a result of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. And this number is growing every day!

According to official figures, almost 1700 civilians are held in Russian detention facilities. The real numbers may be much higher!

Many unlawfully detained civilians are held **incommunicado, in unofficial places of detention, in appalling conditions:** without sufficient food, water, or medical care. They are being tortured and subjected to torture!

The situation with the abduction of Ukrainian civilians by Russia requires the world's response!



To return means to save

RUSSIA UNLAWFULLY IMPRISONS AND CONVICTS CIVILIANS!

24-year-old Mariana Checheliuk was unlawfully detained by the occupiers as a police officer in 2022 in Mariupol.



The girl is not a combatant!



Mariana was imprisoned for more than two years. During this time, she was held in a colony in Donetsk, in Olenivka, in a prison in Mariupol, and finally in Taganrog.

She was held in inadequate conditions. According to her mother, in captivity, Mariana experienced a lot of torture – she was starved, beaten, and abused. She was also kept in complete information isolation.

Due to the conditions of her captivity, her health deteriorated and she lost weight.

Mariana returned home on May 31, 2024.





ANOTHER STORY OF A CIVILIAN WOMAN WHOSE LIFE WAS BROKEN BY RUSSIA



She was detained in October 2019, and lived in one of the temporarily occupied cities of Donetsk region. She helped orphans and half-orphans.

The Ukrainian was held in the 'Izoliatsiia' prison, where she was **subjected to severe torture**. During her detention, her health deteriorated significantly. **The conditions of detention were inadequate, and she was not provided with medical care.** She was later transferred to another detention facility on charges of 'espionage'. The Ukrainian woman's body was black from the beatings. Every day, she and other women were reminded that their bodies did not belong to them.

On October 17, 2022, the Ukrainian woman was released from detention as part of a 'women's exchange'. **She had been in captivity for over three years!**



THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW THE TRUTH AND HELP UKRAINE RELEASE UNLAWFULLY DETAINED CIVILIANS



UKRAINE'S PEACE FORMULA

Just and lasting peace
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Ukraine wants its international partners to take concrete steps to release civilians unlawfully detained by Russia.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

1. Active involvement in the work of the International Platform for the Release of Civilians Unlawfully Detained by the Russian Federation. The first meeting of the platform was attended by 32 countries and 3 international organisations.
2. Consolidation of efforts to establish the whereabouts of civilians.
3. Assistance in ensuring the ICRC's access to civilians unlawfully deprived of their liberty in the territory of the Russian Federation and the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.
4. Consolidate efforts to expand the mandate of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.
5. Conduct intergovernmental consultations to determine the format and mandate of an international oversight mechanism and measures to respond to the forcible transfer of civilians.
6. Identify countries and hold negotiations on advocating for the rights of civilians unlawfully deprived of their liberty and political prisoners held in the territory of the Russian Federation.
7. Involvement of embassies and missions of states in the Russian Federation to find ways to protect the rights of civilians unlawfully detained by Russia, as well as to obtain information about their whereabouts and health status.
8. Identify countries that can act as intermediaries for the release and be effective in negotiating with Russia for the release of civilians unlawfully deprived of their liberty.
9. Negotiating and ensuring the activities of third country protecting power for the safe release of Ukrainian citizens from Russian detention facilities, as well as providing consular services to Ukrainian citizens in Russia.
10. Opening humanitarian corridors for the return of civilians from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to the territory controlled by the Government of Ukraine.



UKRAINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ARE VICTIMS OF TORTURE!

Thousands of Ukrainian prisoners of war are held in Russian captivity. **Russia is violating international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.**

All Ukrainian **prisoners of war** are held in **appalling conditions**, subjected to **systematic torture, ill-treatment and sexual violence.**

Families are often deprived of any information about the whereabouts and health of their prisoners of war, and the UN and ICRC do not have unimpeded access to places of detention.

DOZENS OF KILOGRAMS LOST IS THE REALITY OF BEING A PRISONER OF WAR IN RUSSIA!

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The Mariupol defender spent 8 months in Russian captivity. Five of them were in Olenivka, where he survived a terrorist attack by the Russian Federation.

The Ukrainian says that every morning the prisoners of war were forced to sing the Russian anthem. After that, they were given a piece of bread and six spoons of porridge for breakfast.

Later, the guards would come and beat the prisoners in the corridor and force them to sing the Russian anthem again for 4 hours.

During the day, they were taken to the 'pain room', where they were **tortured with a taser and electric shocks to their private parts.**

He witnessed the death of his fellow prisoners of war due to severe beatings in prison. Five prisoners of war committed suicide in front of him.

A Ukrainian soldier lost 40 kilograms of weight in Russian captivity! Two years after his release, he is still undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. He was returned home in December 2022.



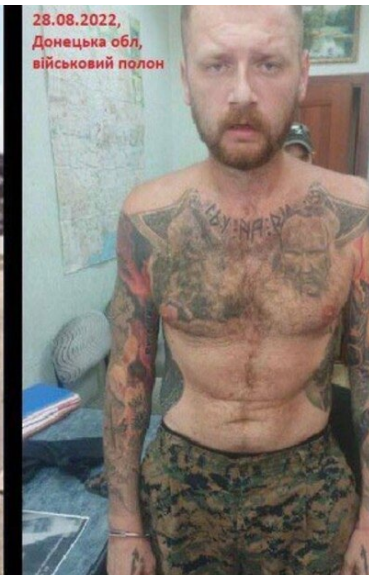
According to the UN Special Rapporteur,



90% OF UKRAINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ARE TORTURED WHILE IN RUSSIAN CAPTIVITY!



The photo shows Ukrainian soldiers released from Russian captivity. They all lost dozens of kilograms of weight and have health problems due to torture and inadequate conditions of detention!



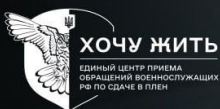


Photo of one of the Ukrainian soldiers released from Russian captivity on May 31, 2024.



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HELP US SAVE THE PRISONERS OF WAR!



UKRAINE'S PEACE FORMULA

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Ukraine needs its international partners to take concrete steps to return Ukrainian prisoners of war.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

1. International pressure on Russia to provide the UN and ICRC with access to Ukrainian prisoners of war, civilians unlawfully deprived of their liberty and political prisoners, and to stop criminal prosecution of prisoners of war.
2. Hold a high-level meeting with the ICRC leadership to initiate the involvement of the ICRC as a substitute for the protecting power in accordance with Article 5 of Additional Protocol I (Designation of the Protecting Power and its Substitute) to the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.
3. Public advocacy campaign with the use of mass media and international platforms.
4. Negotiations with the signatories to the Geneva Conventions to find practical steps to force Russia to comply with the Geneva Conventions.
5. Holding high-level meetings with intermediary states between Ukraine and Russia to resolve the problem of determining the protecting power.



WE ARE NOT STANDING STILL: STEPS TAKEN

The Ukraine's Peace Formula is a vision of how the international community should respond to the challenges that any country in the world may face. It contains 10 points.

In order to consolidate the efforts of states and international organisations, the Working Group on Point 4 of the Peace Formula was established.

Co-chairs: Ukraine, Canada and Norway.



Prior to the Peace Summit, on May 16, 2024, a regular meeting of the Working Group was held at the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in Kyiv, **with 49 participants:** representatives of different countries and international organisations (UN, ICRC, EU).

To return means to save

Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed that it is important that ambassadors of different countries convey to their governments that they need to work to:

- 1.** Return deported and forcibly transferred children to Ukraine, as well as to verify their data.
- 2.** Facilitate immediate access for the ICRC and the UN to places of detention of civilians and prisoners of war in order to stop the practice of torture.
- 3.** Unblock the exchanges to return prisoners of war and civilians to Ukraine.



**ONLY TOGETHER CAN
WE STOP THE AGGRESSOR!
HELP UKRAINE
BRING ITS
PEOPLE HOME!**



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