



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

A child's
view of war is
NOT CHILDISH
AT ALL



#RUSSIAISATERRORISTSTATE

Childhood shot

Why should children see the horrors of war with their own eyes in the 21st century? Why should innocent boys and girls die from indiscriminate missile attacks? Why should young Ukrainians leave their homes and run away? Why does the world allow a terrorist to destroy the blossom of the Ukrainian nation?



The aggressor country invaded the territory of an independent state and **already killed 511 Ukrainian children**. These scary numbers continue to grow. **Children die in their cribs while sleeping, in maternity homes, on playgrounds, in cars during evacuation, in hospitals from injuries. Both at home and on the street.**

The youngest victim was a 2-day-old boy in the Zaporizhzhia region.



Children die from missiles both in Vinnytsia and Odesa, as well as in Kharkiv and Kyiv. There are no safe regions in Ukraine, because Russian missiles do not know borders.

There are those who miraculously survive, but remain with marks on their bodies and deep scars in their souls after what they experienced. **Ukrainian children lose their limbs, but they do not lose their zest for life and love for Ukraine.**

The stories of indomitable Ukrainian children are amazing!

May. 2022. Odesa region.

A 7-year-old girl, Sasha, lost her leg due to the landing of a Russian missile. And a year later, she already took part in gymnastics competitions.

July. 2022. Vinnytsia.

An 8-year-old boy, Roman, suffered 45% burns on his body due to a Russian missile attack. In November 2023, he already takes part in dance competitions and continues to play the accordion.

April. 2022. Kramatorsk.

An 11-year-old girl, Yana, loses both legs due to a missile attack on the station. In September 2023, she will take part in a half-marathon with prostheses.



Russia has already **physically maimed 1,148 children**, and here the numbers are also growing daily.

In one place they give criminal orders, in another they launch deadly missiles and thereby **somewhere steal the inalienable right to life. Cynically, without compassion, because the goal is only one – to destroy the Ukrainian people!**

Russian soldiers rape and torture Ukrainian children, and these are not just words, this is a terrible reality, which has been confirmed with facts and evidence.

The General Prosecutor's Office recorded the facts of conflict-related sexual violence against **13 children. The youngest victim was a 4-year-old child.**



Regarding torture: Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets visited the Kherson region after the liberation and saw with his own eyes **torture chambers where children had been kept.** After some time, he talked with a 14-year-old boy who had been held there.

The Prosecutor General's Office established that **75 Ukrainian children suffered from torture by the Russian military.**

Due to Russia's creation of a humanitarian disaster in some regions, children also die from dehydration and lack of food, and with the onset of the autumn-winter period, from hypothermia.

After the Russian military blew up the Kakhovka HPP, the facts of the deaths of children on the water became known.



Another horrible war crime against children is deportation. Russia kidnaps Ukrainian children and takes them to the territory of the Russian Federation under the guise of rescuing or rehabilitating them. Later, they are placed in Russian families.

According to the information portal «Children of War», **19,546 Ukrainian children have already been deported.** These are the children that Ukraine managed to verify. And according to data from open sources published by the Russian Federation, there are many times more forcibly transferred children – **over 744,000.**

The difficulty in searching arises due to the fact that children are almost immediately issued with documents in which their data have been changed and which, accordingly, no longer exist in Ukrainian databases. Russia does not want to return our children, but wants to appropriate them.

Among these children: institutionalized children, children who were separated from their relatives during the filtration operations, children who have relatives in Ukraine, as well as those who were made orphans by the Russian military themselves, who killed their parents. **The situations and children are different, but they all became victims of deportation. And our goal is the same - to find and return everyone.**

Russia is destroying our homes, schools, kindergartens and hospitals

167 200 – destroyed or damaged buildings
3 915 – destroyed or damaged educational institutions
1 668 – destroyed or damaged healthcare facilities

The terrorist country encroaches on the fundamental rights of Ukrainians: the right to a safe life, to education, and to health care and medical assistance.



Russia also cripples our children psychologically. All Ukrainian children, without exception, are afraid of shelling, loud noises, loss of relatives and being alone with the enemy. And this fear will already remain a psychological trauma for them for the rest of their lives.

However, we adults are no longer afraid. There can be no fear in the eyes of those who have seen the death of our children. They want to destroy, intimidate, subjugate the Ukrainian people, but we are fighting for every piece of Ukrainian land, for every home and for every family at the cost of our lives, and we must return everything that rightfully belongs to us. We will not forgive the tears and pain in the eyes of our children. We will take revenge for every stolen life and return all our people to Ukraine.

All of the above are war crimes for which there must be responsibility according to the law. All recorded facts should become the evidence base for the International Criminal Court to punish all those involved in the aggression against Ukraine and the genocide of the Ukrainian people. From the soldier who kills, to the top political and military leadership who gave orders to destroy a nation of the unconquered.

The whole world should know about war crimes against Ukrainian children

In November Dmytro Lubinets held a series of bilateral meetings in Copenhagen:

- with **Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children Najat Maalla M'jid**;
- with the **Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard**;
- with the chairperson of **National Human Rights Commission of India Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Mishra**.

They discussed the return of Ukrainian children, prisoners of war and civilian hostages.



The Ombudsman of Ukraine talked about the implementation of the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and point 4 of the Formula – the return of deported children, prisoners of war and civilian hostages, for the implementation of which he is responsible.

He informed about the work of the Child Rights Protection Center, in particular, regarding the transfer of information that we record after the return of children to the investigative teams of the International Criminal Court, both in Kyiv and in The Hague.

We tell the whole world about Ukrainian children: how they experience the horrors of war, and how they become victims of the war crimes of the Russian Federation.

All in order to bring every Russian perpetrator to justice for war crimes!

Important meetings at the Child Rights Protection Center:

UNICEF is a reliable partner of the Ombudsman's Office!

The Ombudsman of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, met with the new head of the UNICEF office in Ukraine, Munir Mammadzade. Iryna Suslova, the Representative of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, also joined the meeting.

Dmytro Lubinets thanked UNICEF for systematic cooperation and assistance in opening the Child Rights Protection Center.

During the meeting, they discussed:

- creation of Child Rights Protection Centers in the regions;
- the implementation of a joint project on monitoring the observance of children’s rights throughout the territory of Ukraine and promoting the provision of the best interests of the child in conditions of martial law;
- joint efforts to carry out the deinstitutionalization reform and support the development of family forms of education.



Cooperation with UNICEF is not only a project, it develops at the level of common values – the value of life and the interests of every child!

Meeting with the President of the Republic of Latvia Edgars Rinkevičs

Iryna Suslova, Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child, spoke about the activities of the Child Rights Protection Center and the war crimes committed by Russia against Ukrainian children. She drew attention to the number of dead, injured, kidnapped and missing children. She told how the aggressor country, abducting Ukrainian children, tries to erase their identity by banning the use of their native language and references to Ukraine.





The President of the Republic of Latvia announced further support for Ukraine in its extremely difficult time.

Education at TOT: practicing pain techniques on children

The Russian policy of militarization of education, which is a crime under international humanitarian law, continues in the temporarily occupied territories.

Employees of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation visited the Genichesk sanatorium-boarding school. They wasted no time in telling the 9th-10th grade students about the Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They immediately began practicing «self-defense skills.» The investigator with the call sign «General» in a balaclava, after a short warm-up, repeatedly «laid on the shoulder blades» his minor rivals, visibly demonstrated painful and suffocating techniques on them. It is planned to conduct such classes repeatedly.



«Lessons on “patriotic education”, encouragement to join the “Youth army”, training in cadet corps – this is how the Russian system of “brainwashing” of Ukrainian children works. Russia will definitely be responsible for all crimes against Ukrainian children!», Dmytro Lubinets emphasized.



Iryna Suslova

Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Child

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Bringing Ukrainian children home

In November, **three more children who wanted to leave the territory of the Russian Federation and TOT were returned to Ukraine.** This was done as part of the implementation of the Bring Kids Back UA action plan initiated by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It was the employees of the Ombudsman's Office of Ukraine who took care of the safety, unhinderedness and observance of all the rights of children. We also involve public organizations and international partners in this process.

The grandmother is already at home with her grandchildren. After a series of measures and recommendations for crossing the border, the grandmother managed to leave with her minor grandchildren. And our support and assistance in this return operation has a good result.



Bohdan Yermokhin also returned to Ukraine on his birthday!



The return took place in cooperation with the State of Qatar, UNICEF, the Embassy of Ukraine in Belarus as a result of negotiations with the Russian side.

It was a thorny path. Bohdan went through a lot while in the Russian Federation, but despite everything, he wanted to be at home! His wish came true, we can safely assume that Bohdan will never forget his 18th birthday!

We continue to work to find and return all children. Ukraine thanks everyone who helps to do this.

Protection of defenders' rights is a priority

The Military Ombudsman is a Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the system of bodies of the security and defense sector.

Today, there is a discussion in society regarding the creation of the post of Military Ombudsman. That is why the Office of the Ombudsman organized a big event – «Rights of servicemen. Joint steps to victory». In particular, the issue of who should be involved in protecting the rights of defenders was raised at it.

One of the priority areas of work of the Ombudsman's Office in Ukraine is the protection of human rights in the defense sector, the rights of veterans and servicemen, prisoners and their family members.

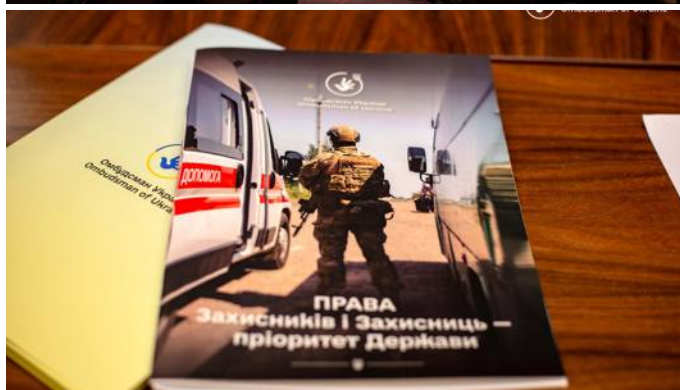
This year the department:

- received more than 14 thousand written appeals;
- conducted 900 monitoring visits. In particular, it carried out 100% of inspections of Military Medical Commissions;
- processed 410 normative legal acts, and also provided recommendations to the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers regarding them;
- held more than 50 meetings with family members of defenders. More than one and a half thousand native soldiers took part in them.

In addition, our Office works in the following areas:

- protection of the rights of prisoners of war;
- protection of the rights of children deported and forcibly transferred by Russia;
- protection of the rights of civilians who are illegally deprived of personal freedom.

The country's needs in protecting the rights of military personnel, veterans and their family members are huge. You don't need to invent new things when you already have what you need. The institution of the Ombudsman is ready to further protect human rights in this area and, together with other state bodies and the public, to increase these efforts.



We regularly hold meetings with families of the defenders

In November, 7 meetings were held with family members of captured and missing servicemen.

At one of the meetings, the authorities spoke with the families of the defenders of Zmiinyi Island. Among those present were: the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the National Information Bureau, the Security Service of Ukraine, the State Border Service, the ICRC and representatives of military units.

The families of defenders are concerned about the long pause in prisoner exchanges. The relatives also announced that they are ready to turn to any international organizations and third countries in order to move the issue of the return of defenders of Ukraine.

Oleksandr Kononenko told the audience that now Ukraine has formed mixed medical commissions, which aim to help in the release of Ukrainian prisoners. However, in order for this mechanism to work, they must be created by the enemy side as well.



The work continues and will continue until the return of all Ukrainian defenders to the Motherland.



Oleksandr Kononenko

Representative of the Commissioner in the System of Bodies in Security and Defense Sector

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Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

At the invitation of the Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons **Paula Gaviria Betancur** and an expert group on internal displacement visited Ukraine on a working visit.

During her stay in Ukraine, Paula Gaviria Betancur held a meeting with the Commissioner, during which the main priorities of the Commissioner's activities in 2023/24 and his role in the protection of internally displaced persons were discussed.

In addition, the Special Rapporteur met with the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, members of parliament and representatives of ministries, with whom she discussed the key areas of work with IDPs and persons who suffered as a result of the armed aggression against Ukraine, as well as the issue of reparations and compensation for war victims.

During her visit to Ukraine, the Special Rapporteur also visited destroyed objects of civil infrastructure in Kyiv region and places of residence of internally displaced persons in Lviv region.



The visit of the Special Rapporteur to Ukraine is of great importance, as it will help strengthen support for the affected population and provide an opportunity to demonstrate to high-level officials abroad the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Meeting with regional coordinators for the protection of the rights of citizens who are victims of armed aggression against Ukraine

Today, 14 regions of Ukraine already have regional coordinators of interaction with the public of the Ombudsman in the area of protection of the rights of citizens who suffered as a result of the armed aggression against Ukraine.

It should be noted that during the year, regional coordinators made 1,131 monitoring visits to places of temporary residence, as a result of which more than 1,500 recommendations were made to improve living conditions in places of temporary residence and 1,081 consultations were provided to citizens who needed it.



During the event, the representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens who are Victims of Armed Aggression against Ukraine, Olga Altunina, positively assessed the results of the work of the coordinators in 2023, and also thanked them for their professional approach, sensitive attitude to the needs of citizens who were forced to leave their homes and find shelter in places of temporary residence.

One of the stories of the restored right

An applicant addressed the Commissioner and reported that her daughter has the status of a child injured as a result of hostilities and armed conflicts. This status gives the right to free meals in educational institutions.

However, in one of the educational institutions of the city of Kyiv, the applicant's child was refused free meals, justifying the refusal by the fact that the status of a victim of hostilities and armed conflicts was granted to the applicant's daughter in another region.

As part of the response to the situation, the Commissioner sent necessary requests to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Kyiv City State Administration.

As a result of the measures taken and the assistance of the Commissioner, the applicant's daughter received a benefit for free meals in an educational institution.



Olga Altunina

Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens, who are Victims of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine

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The field of comprehensive rehabilitation in Ukraine needs reform

Olena Kolobrodova, Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights, took part in **the All-Ukrainian Conference «Development of Rehabilitation in Ukraine: Dialogue on Challenges and Innovations during the War.»**

«The war started by Russia has been going on since 2014, and since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the development of the rehabilitation of citizens (both military and civilian) has become more urgent. After all, there is no future without rehabilitation. More than 90% of Ukrainian citizens have at least one of the symptoms of anxiety disorders. 40-50% need psychological help and support after the end of the war,» Olena Kolobrodova emphasized in her speech.

The employees of the Ombudsman's Office **participated in the development of the Methodology for monitoring the provision of rehabilitation services, and during 2023, 14 monitoring visits** were made to different regions of Ukraine. They visited territorial communities, found out from the heads of local self-government bodies what practice has developed in the provision of rehabilitation services. **The work of 10 rehabilitation institutions of the social sphere and 13 health care institutions was checked.**



Olena Kolobrodova also spoke about the **«Concept of creating a system for the restoration of persons who were deprived of their personal freedom as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine.»** This system includes representatives of a number of ministries, as well as specialists of the Ombudsman's Office. Based on the results of the work, a draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has already been developed. Currently, the Ministry of Reintegration is finalizing it, considering the comments of the central executive authorities and other interested bodies, for submission to the Cabinet of Ministers.

To ensure citizens' right to rehabilitation for further integration into society and return to normal life, **the Office of the Ombudsman is always ready to continue its work in this direction**, including in cooperation with international institutions.

The impact of the war on the mental health of Ukrainians

The Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights, Olena Kolobrodova, **took part in a symposium and conference on the basics of protecting human dignity and freedom in the field of mental health care**, which took place in Riga under the chairmanship of Latvia in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.



Before the war, the prevalence rate of most mental disorders in Ukraine was similar to the average rate for the region of Eastern Europe. Currently, according to public opinion polls:

- **over 90% of Ukrainian citizens have at least one of the symptoms of anxiety disorders!**
- **40-50% will need psychological help and support after the end of the war.**

Members of the Ukrainian delegation discussed with their European colleagues the impact of the war on the mental health of Ukrainians and the implementation of best practices for the protection of patients' rights in the field of mental health.



Olena Kolobrodova

Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights

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Powerful work in the international arena

The Ombudsman of Ukraine constantly holds meetings with international partners. The main topics always concern the protection of human rights. At all meetings, Dmytro Lubinets raises the issue of the return home of Ukrainian children deported and illegally transferred by Russia, civilian hostages and prisoners of war.

He also emphasizes the need to punish all war crimes committed by the Russian Federation on Ukrainian soil.

The total number of international meetings in November was 23 and 2 foreign visits.

Meeting with members of the Bundestag



Meeting with representatives of the UN Commission of Enquiry Meeting with representatives of the Danish Parliament



The way to join the European Union despite the war



The Center for the Protection of Children's Rights held a meeting with the coordinator of the support group for Ukraine of the **European Commission's Directorate General for Neighborhood Affairs and EU Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) Martin Muehleck.**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the development of the institutional capacity of the Ombudsman's Office in accordance with the standards of the European Union, in particular in the light of the European Commission's report dated November 8, 2023.

Visit to Brussels

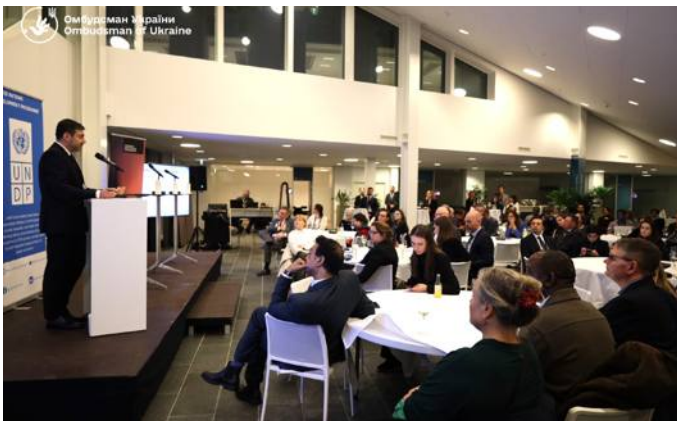
The Ombudsman of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, **took part in the Conference of the European Network of Ombudsmen.**



Side event «Resilience in conditions of armed conflict: the path of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for human rights»

This event was organized by the Ombudsman's Office together with partners in Copenhagen.

Russia is a cruel and cynical enemy that kills, maims, and rapes children and adults. It also destroys homes, schools and hospitals, wipes out entire cities. Violates human rights every day. **At this event, the Ombudsman of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, demonstrated specific cases of inhumane treatment of Ukrainians.**



The whole world should know about the cynical war crimes the Russian Federation is committing on Ukrainian soil and help punish criminals, because impunity will not stop CRIME!



Olga Strepochenko

Head of the Department of International Cooperation and European Integration

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Discussion of the draft Law of Ukraine

«On amendments to certain laws of Ukraine on taking into account the opinion of the Council of Europe and its bodies regarding the rights of national minorities (communities) in certain areas»

This draft Law was comprehensively processed, recommendations and comments were submitted to the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience.

The event chaired by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal, was joined online by the Ombudsman of Ukraine and his Representative for Equal Rights And Freedoms, the Rights of National Minorities, and Political and Religious Beliefs, Mykhailo Spasov.



Dmytro Lubinets emphasized that he will support the draft law and is confident that his remarks will be taken into account in the final version, because legal certainty is the key to the successful implementation of any legislative initiative.

Round table on the situation of the Roma community in Ukraine during martial law

As part of the cooperation of the Office of the Ombudsman with the Roma Women's Foundation «Chirikli», a round table was held during which the situation of the Roma community, in particular internally displaced persons during martial law, as well as current policy and legislative regulation to ensure the rights of national minorities (communities) in Ukraine was discussed.

The Representative of the Commissioner, Mykhailo Spasov, emphasized that the state should revise its policy towards the Roma, make it more accessible and meet the challenges caused by the war.



Combating human trafficking

In June 2023, a report was found in the media about the possible involvement of a child in a situation of human trafficking.

Investigators of the Main Directorate of the National Police in one of the regions exposed a man who tried to take a 1- or 2-year-old child abroad and sell there. The arrest took place on the border at one of the checkpoints.



As a result of the response of the Representative of the Commissioner, **the status of a victim of human trafficking was established for the affected child.**

A person now has the right to receive medical, psychological, social, and legal assistance free of charge, and also has the right to receive one-time cash assistance in the amount of three subsistence minimums for the relevant category of persons established at the time of application for financial assistance.

Ensuring equal rights and preventing discrimination

During November, the rights of 22 persons to protection against discrimination and equal treatment were renewed.



Mykhailo Spasov, Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Beliefs, also took part in a public discussion initiated by the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting to prevent hate speech and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the media.

This event is a continuation of the dialogue in the field of building a safe and tolerant information society in Ukraine, prevention of hate speech in the media.

Blocking checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Polish border: everyone must respect human rights

The Ombudsman of Ukraine received a large number of appeals from representatives of business entities engaged in international cargo transportation. They relate to the violation of the rights and freedoms of drivers in connection with the blocking by Polish carriers at checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Polish border of road transport carrying goods.

In the appeals, it is stated that at the checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Polish border, starting from November 3, **the movement of motor vehicles transporting cargo with various goods, including those necessary for the Armed Forces, has been blocked.**

According to the applicants, the places in which the drivers are located are not suitable for life support. There is no access to drinking water and food, which leads to a violation of the right to life guaranteed by Article 27 of the Constitution of Ukraine. Not only that – it is already known about two deaths of Ukrainian drivers who were standing in line.

It is also clear from the appeals that many drivers who are waiting in front of international checkpoints have deteriorated health conditions due to the impossibility of accessing medical care. The right to health care guaranteed by Article 49 of the Constitution of Ukraine is violated.

In addition, the terms of legal stay of drivers who transport goods by road on the territory of Poland expire. And this can lead to inevitable consequences, since the violation of the maximum period of stay abroad entails responsibility according to the legislation of Ukraine, which can lead to the violation of the right to work, provided for in Article 43 of the Constitution of Ukraine.



The Ombudsman of Ukraine appealed to the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Poland Professor Marcin Wiacek regarding the resolution of the situation at the border.

This issue is under the personal control of Dmytro Lubinets!



Mykhailo Spasov

Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Beliefs

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International conference on the prevention of torture

More than 300 participants from different countries of the world joined the 14th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions «**Torture and Other Inhuman Treatment: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions**», which started in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The high-level event was organized by the Office of the Ombudsman with the assistance of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, as well as GANHRI and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



«Russia brutally and cynically kills our people: it tortures Ukrainian prisoners of war, the civilian population and even children. Violates the norms of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War. 90% of Ukrainian prisoners of war are tortured during their stay in Russian captivity. And some of them, even after returning to the Motherland, die from the consequences of torture,» said the Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets in his speech.

The occupiers also torture the civilian population and children. As an example, during the occupation of the village of Biliaiivka in the Kherson Region, the Russian military illegally detained and tortured at least 20 Ukrainians for several months. Four of these people died: two in the torture chamber, two more after release. Among the children who were tortured by the Russians is 14-year-old Vitaly Mukharskyi. The boy spent 10 days in one of Kherson's torture chambers. He was held together with 13 other people.

At the Conference, the Ombudsman of Ukraine called for the development of effective mechanisms to prevent the torture of Ukrainians and once again draw the attention of the world community to the war in Ukraine!

The world cannot be indifferent. The world must act decisively! Every person has the right to respect for dignity!

We adopt best practices to improve the NPM of Ukraine!

The delegation of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine, led by the Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Places of Detention Vitalii Nikulin, took part in the Regional Meeting of National Preventive Mechanisms and Civil Society Organizations of the OSCE region on issues of mental health in places of deprivation of liberty in Copenhagen.

This event was a great opportunity to exchange experiences with representatives of NPMs from different countries and experts, to identify problems and best practices in monitoring mental health in various places of deprivation of liberty.



«Despite the war and the threat of shelling, the NPM team does not stop its work, because we well understand the needs of people who are held in places of detention. This year alone, we visited 49 medical units, 50 psychoneurological boarding houses, 18 psychiatric hospitals,» said the Representative of the Commissioner.

Results of monitoring visits

In November 2023, according to the results of the recommendation of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights with the aim of eliminating the shortcomings identified during the visit of the NPM, **2 persons were brought to administrative responsibility** with drawing up an administrative protocol on an administrative offense under Art. 188-40 of the Code of Administrative Offenses (a fine in the amount of 100 tax-free minimum incomes of citizens, i.e. in the amount of UAH 1,700 for the benefit of the state).

Visiting the Novo-Bilytskyi psychoneurological boarding house for men

The management of the psychoneurological house approved a detailed plan of measures for the implementation of the evacuation system in the conditions of martial law for employees and wards in the event of a threat/occurrence of emergency situations. At the same time, significant deficiencies were found in the operation of the institution, which lead to the violation of the rights of the wards, in particular: to life and safety; for decent living conditions; for health care and medical assistance; to a sufficient standard of living; to proper conditions of accessibility for persons with disabilities and low-mobility population groups, **with the aim of eliminating of which the relevant letters will be sent to the competent authorities.**



Also, based on the results of the intervention of the Ombudsman of Ukraine:

- in the Zhmerynka Psychoneurological Boarding House additional financing of the institution is provided in the total amount of UAH 869.7 thousand;
- in the Skvyra psychoneurological boarding house, a contract was concluded for the production of design and costing documentation for the construction of a new anti-radiation shelter on the territory of the boarding house.



Vitalii Nikulin

Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Places of Detention

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Fruitful work in the protection of information rights

In November, **60 proceedings** were opened regarding the violation of information rights based on citizens' appeals received by the Commissioner. **83 proceedings were completed and human rights were restored in 23 proceedings.**

Recommendations have been prepared for the protection of personal data when using the video surveillance system in schools and higher educational institutions. These recommendations have been submitted to the Education Ombudsman for their dissemination and ensuring the rights of personal data subjects.

Yuliia Derkachenko, Representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights, took part:

- at the 45th plenary meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Convention on the Protection of Individuals in Connection with Automated Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108).
- at the «Donbass Media Forum 2023», at which Yuliia Derkachenko emphasized the importance of practical implementation of the right to freedom of speech and the inviolability of journalists.



- in a joint presentation with UNDP experts in Ukraine of the report on the monitoring of the state of ensuring information rights under martial law in 2023.



The first special report of the Commissioner in the field of information rights in 25 years of the institution's activity

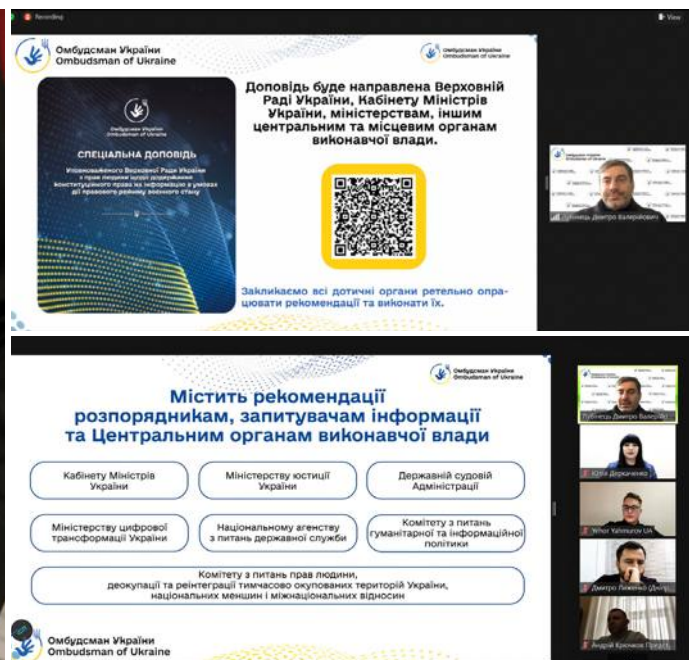
The presentation of the Special Report on the observance of the constitutional right to information in the conditions of the legal regime of martial law took place in the mode of video transmission.

The report covers the period **from the beginning of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine until September 30, 2023** and is based on the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman and analytical materials prepared by experts of the Human Rights for Ukraine Project, which is implemented by UNDP in Ukraine.

It contains 4 sections that relate to the provision of information rights during martial law, including access to public information. It will also help to understand the main challenges, problems and trends in the field of protection of information rights of citizens. Special attention is paid to legislative aspects on this topic.

The report contains recommendations for administrators, information requesters and Central executive bodies.

The special report will be sent to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, ministries, other central and local executive bodies. The Ombudsman of Ukraine called on all relevant bodies to carefully process the recommendations outlined in the Report and implement them. In turn, he will control this process.



Yuliia Derkachenko

Representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights

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Participation in the Working Group on increasing the effectiveness of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office

In October – November 2023, the Office of the Ombudsman was involved in the work of the Working Group on Strengthening the Efficiency and Independence of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAP), which was created on the basis of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Law Enforcement.



The subject of discussion was the proposals for draft laws on the register. No. 10060, 10060-1 and 10060-2 on amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as some other legislative acts in order to strengthen the effectiveness and independence of the SAP. The Commissioner gave the Committee his opinion with support for the specified draft laws, provided that his comments and suggestions are taken into account. The purpose of the work was to develop the most expedient, balanced and effective changes to the legislation that will regulate the activities of the SAP.

On November 21, the draft law with the register. No. 10060 was adopted by the parliament as a basis. Work is underway to prepare it for consideration in the second reading.

A gap in the legislation was identified and we contributed to its elimination

As part of parliamentary control over the observance of the constitutional rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, the Commissioner found a gap in the legislation in terms of the lack of determination of the period during which letters sent to the address of convicts who have been released from prisons are sent to the place of their release. This gap led to a violation of the right of such convicts to correspondence, since the institutions of execution of punishments could decide at their own discretion when to send a letter addressed to a convict who had been discharged to the place of his discharge. In order to prevent further violations of the rights of convicts, on the initiative of the Commissioner, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issued Order No. 3687/5 «On Amendments to Certain Regulatory Acts of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine» on October 19, 2023, registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on October 20, 2023 under No. 1838 /40894.

This order amends the Rules of Internal Procedures of Penitentiary Institutions, the Rules of Internal Procedures of Pretrial Detention Centers of the State Criminal Enforcement Service of Ukraine, and the Instructions for the Organization of Reviewing the Correspondence of Persons Detained in Penitentiary Institutions and Pretrial Detention Centers, which provide that letters received at the name of convicts (persons taken into custody) who have left the institution of execution of punishments (retention facilities), no later than three working days from the day of their receipt, is forwarded by the staff of the institution of execution of punishments (retention center), appointed by the order of the head of the institution of execution of punishments (investigation isolator), to the place of their release.



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The Ombudsman works in the regions

Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets visited **Kharkiv and Sumy regions**. He held a meeting with members of parliament, local heads of state institutions, enterprises and organizations.

He presented the Representatives of the Commissioner in the Kharkiv and Sumy regions. He emphasized that **the goal of our institution is to build a powerful, effective and useful network of regional offices**.

These are regions that, due to the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, faced many challenges.



He also paid an unplanned visit to the Dykaniv Penal Colony No. 12 in Kharkiv region.

Preliminary monitoring visits to this institution were already carried out by a group of the national preventive mechanism: employees of the Ombudsman's Office and representatives of the public. Then a number of violations were discovered, including those related to labor legislation. On the spot, the facts of the convicts receiving industrial injuries while performing work in the foundry shop of the institution were established.

Currently, this foundry has been closed. While in the institution, I visited several premises: workshops for the work of convicts, living quarters, a canteen, a medical center, and a shop.



Educational events in the regions on the topic «Children's Rights and Responsibilities»

On the eve of Children's Day, a joint project of the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of the Patrol Police of Ukraine was launched. The Patrol Police of Ukraine and representatives of the Commissioner in the regions tell school students about the rights of the child and who the Ombudsman is. I am sure that such joint classes will help the students to become aware of their rights and how to protect them.

Such events have already been held in Lutsk, Kharkiv, Poltava and Khmelnytskyi. We teach children to understand their rights and know how to protect them.



Human Rights in Ukraine

since the Beginning of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

2 598

people released
from Russian
captivity

including
→

144

civilians

≈ 30 000

persons missing under special circumstances
and illegally deprived of personal liberty as a result
of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine

*According to the information of the Director General
of the International Commission on Missing Persons

≈ 10 000

killed civilians

*According to the information of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

≈ 18 500

injured civilians

511

killed
children

1 152

injured
children

2 198

missing
children

19 546

children deported to the Russian
Federation and/or forcibly
transferred from the TOT

* According to the information platform «Children of War»

**1.4
million**

people without
access to water
due to the destruction
of infrastructure

**4.6
million**

people with
limited access
to water

506

children
Ukraine
returned

including
→

387

deported children,
according to the
information platform
«Children of War»

**4.9
million**

people now
identified
as IDPs

**8.2
million**

people receiving
temporary shelter
in other countries

**≈ 700
thousand**

people in Ukraine were left
without drinking water due to
the destruction of the Kakhovka
hydroelectric power station

3 951

destroyed
educational
institutions

including
→

1 275

destroyed
kindergartens

1 668

destroyed
healthcare
facilities

including
→

384

hospitals

352

ambulatories

499

destroyed
religious
buildings

1 711

destroyed
objects
of culture

≈ 167 200

destroyed or
damaged houses

126

destroyed
railway
stations

346

destroyed
bridges and
bridge crossings

576

destroyed
boiler
houses

426

destroyed
factories and
businesses

* As of November 30, 2023





«Ombudsman of Ukraine» chatbot is an opportunity to get answers to important questions quickly and conveniently. It contains important information divided into 17 categories.

In particular, servicemen, internally displaced persons, and families with children can receive answers about their rights here. There is also a category for people who are in the temporarily occupied territory or were forcibly deported.

The chatbot is available at [@ukraine_ombudsman_bot](https://t.me/ukraine_ombudsman_bot)



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

The Russian Federation and all the war criminals it sent to Ukraine will bear the most serious responsibility for the evil they committed.

Ukraine meticulously documents every crime and every brutality. All those who are guilty will undoubtedly be held accountable.

We will never forget or forgive. And so is the world.

#StandWithUkraine



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