



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine



“I knew, I believed.
Oh my God, son! “Mom ©”
(as of April 26, 2023, 2279 Ukrainians
were freed from Russian captivity)



**Ukrainians believe in returning home.
We are working on this!**

Human rights in Ukraine

since the beginning of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine

2,279

people released from Russian captivity

including →

142

civilians

≈

20,000

people have become civilian hostages of the Russian Federation, are missing or are in the temporary occupied territories*

*According to the information of the state bodies involved in this issue

8,534

killed civilians

14,373

injured civilians

471

dead children

949

injured children

406

missing children

19,393

children forcibly deported to Russia

1.4 million

people without access to water due to the destruction of the infrastructure

4.6 million

people have limited access to water

4.8 million

people became IDPs

8.2 million

people received the status of refugees abroad

3,172

destroyed educational institutions

909

destroyed kindergartens

1,216

destroyed health care facilities

494

destroyed religious buildings

1,322

destroyed cultural objects

153,860

destroyed houses

117

destroyed railway stations

344

destroyed bridges and bridge crossings

572

destroyed boiler houses

412

destroyed factories and businesses

*As of 27.04.23

Another brutal murder of a Ukrainian military officer

On April 12, the Russian military published a video on the Internet of a brutal murder, probably of a Ukrainian prisoner, whose head was cut off with a knife. Similar publications also appeared on CNN.

The Russians distributed this video on their channels, to which terrible comments were written with deep hatred for Ukraine and Ukrainians. Such a murder and the reaction of the Russians to it is yet another proof of the genocide of the Ukrainian people.

There are several reasons for the Russian side to carry out such executions and distribute video evidence of them. First, it is information for the internal audience to strengthen anti-Ukrainian narratives in society. Second, this is the so-called "baptism with blood." Most probably, Russian commanders give orders to their subordinates to do similar actions and film everything on cameras. Thirdly, this is an element of intimidation of their military, first of all, so that they do not surrender to Ukrainian captivity and think that they will also be treated like this. And also as incriminating evidence that there is no way back.



The public execution of a prisoner is another proof of the violation of the norms of the Geneva Conventions, International humanitarian law and the fundamental right to life!

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Dmytro Lubinets, addressed letters to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the UN Secretary General, and the International Committee of the Red Cross with a call to do everything possible so that the guilty are punished for every war crime. And also so that this case was separately recorded in all reports of international organizations. The Commissioner demands that the issue of indecent behavior towards a prisoner of war be separately considered by the UN Human Rights Committee.

He also sent this video to fellow Ombudsman of the world with a request that they continue lobbying in their countries to support Ukraine and that the Parliaments of their countries recognize Russia as a terrorist country and Russian aggression as genocide of the Ukrainian people.



Shelling by Russia is terrorism against the civilian population

The Russian army continues to shell peaceful cities of Ukraine. Civilians become the victims, because the aggressor country purposefully hits residential buildings, health care, educational and cultural institutions.

On the eve of Easter, on April 14, the Russians once again shelled the city of Sloviansk. As a result of this shelling, 13 people died, including a 2-year-old child.



The aggressor country leaves only death, pain and misery behind. For every crime – responsibility cannot be avoided. Those who are guilty must bear strict, but fair responsibility!

In addition, Russia is daily shelling the city of Kherson. As a result of shelling on the Central Market of the city on April 18, one person was killed and nine were injured.



And on Easter, April 16, the Russian army struck Zaporizhzhia City and the Region. In the city itself, there is a shot in the green zone. The local church and buildings around it were also damaged in Komysuvasi village. Snigurivka City, in Mykolaiv Region, was also shelled.

Other cities and towns in Zaporizhzhya, Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv and other Regions also suffer from shelling every day.



We are fighting for the return home of every Ukrainian!

As of April 24, Ukraine has returned **2,279 Ukrainian men and women** from Russian captivity since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. In particular, there were three exchanges of prisoners in April.

On April 3, 12 Ukrainians who were in Russian captivity were brought home. Five of them were seriously wounded. This took place in response to the repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously ill prisoners of the Russian military.



On April 10, another 100 Ukrainians returned home. The youngest of those freed is 19 years old.

Another large exchange took place on April 16 - 130 Ukrainian soldiers. 48 of the 130 released defenders were listed as missing during this exchange. Some of the rescued have injuries, contusions and lost limbs. The oldest of the released defenders is 58 years old, the youngest is 21 years old.

All Representatives of the Coordination Headquarters work to ensure that as many of our citizens as possible return to their native land. And this work will continue until the last Ukrainian comes back!





A traditional conversation with Russian military personnel who were illegally present in Ukraine. They don't have any complaints or suggestions to Ukraine. Another confirmation that Ukraine complies with the Geneva Conventions!

Meetings of Ukrainian military personnel held captive by the enemy with their relatives

During April, the Commissioner's Office held a number of meetings with family members of military personnel who are in Russian captivity. In particular, the 501st Separate Battalion of the Marines and the defenders of the Zmiiny Island. Meetings were also held with the relatives of civilians who are illegally detained by Russia.

Despite everything, Ukraine continues to work for the return of every citizen to their home!



A meeting was also held at the Commissioner's Office with the family members of the dead and wounded prisoners of war in Olenivka village, where more than 50 Ukrainian defenders were killed in the explosion.

In particular, the relatives expressed disappointment with the activities and non-fulfillment of their duties by representatives of the ICRC. Relatives reported that they could not provide information about the conditions of stay of Ukrainian prisoners and conducted questionnaires poorly during the withdrawal of the military from Azovstal.

According to the Representative of the Department for Combating Crimes Committed in Conditions of Armed Conflict, the Prosecutor General's Office is currently carrying out an examination that will allow us to establish what type of weaponry Ukrainian defenders who were in Russian captivity were killed by.

At the end of the meeting, the serviceman of the "Azov" regiment, who was previously captured and held in Olenivka, talked with his relatives. He debunked a lot of myths and fables that were heard in the mass media.

Mr. Dmytro Lubinets emphasized that he and his Human Rights Representative in the System of Bodies in Security and Defense Sector Oleksandr Kononenko are members of the Coordination Headquarters and work to ensure that every Ukrainian returns to the Motherland. At all international platforms, the Commissioner also draws attention to the tragedy in Olenivka village and suggests that an investigation should be conducted to find out all its circumstances.



We have found a way for additional verification of Ukrainian military personnel held captive by the Russian Federation

The Commissioner's Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Kyiv Research Institute of Forensic Expertise of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Dmytro Lubinets and the Director of the Institute Oleksandr Ruvyn agreed on cooperation in the field of state protection of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as in-depth cooperation in the field of technical and information support for conducting forensic examinations and expert research.

The institutions will jointly prepare the procedure for additional verification of Ukrainian military personnel held captive on the territory of the Russian Federation. The toolkit is as follows: relatives apply to the Office of the Commissioner, who in turn applies to the Kyiv Research Institute of Forensic Expertise of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. The institute makes an examination on the basis of photographs and gives the results of the examination. If it shows that it is the same person, it is a reason to additionally verify the soldier who is in captivity.

In addition to confirming the identity, the examination can provide conclusions regarding the moral damages of citizens who were in captivity.

This idea was supported by the Coordinating Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War.



Oleksandr Kononenko

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

✉ kononenkoov@ombudsman.gov.ua

Russian special services prevented the Ukrainian child from returning home

The Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova, who was "awarded" with a Hague arrest warrant for war crimes, said during her press conference for foreign media that the Russian special services prevented the Ukrainian child from returning home.

We are talking about a citizen of Ukraine, 17-year-old Bohdan Yermokhin, who was first taken by Russian soldiers from Mariupol City to Donetsk City, and then to the Russian Federation to a foster family. The young man has a sister in Ukraine and Ukrainian citizenship. Therefore, his forced transfer to the territory of the aggressor country is not a "rescue", as Lvova-Belova notes, but a crime.

Not only that - the boy tried to return to the Motherland on his own. In fact, he reached Belarus. However, in order to prevent Ukrainian children from returning home, special services are being brought in in Russia. Bohdan was detained and returned to the Russian Federation.

This story is another public confession of committed war crimes - kidnapping of Ukrainian children. There must be a fair punishment for this. The Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights will refer this fact and similar cases to the competent authorities.



An underage boy deported by Russia has returned home

It was possible to return a child deported to the Russian Federation from the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson Region.

At the beginning of the year, a grandmother appealed to Commissioner Mr. Dmytro Lubinets with a request to help return her grandson Artem, who was deported to the Russian Federation along with other pupils of the Oleshkiv Children's Boarding Home in the Kherson Region.

The woman reported that as soon as she found out that the pupils of this boarding house were being taken to the Russian Federation, she personally went to the institution to pick up her grandson. However, Artem, together with other pupils, had already been transported to the territory of the Russian Federation, from there to the temporarily occupied Crimea, and later to the Skadovsk City. The administration of the institution where Artem was staying refused to return the child.





"According to my appeal to the guardianship authority to take measures to protect the rights and interests of the child, in February the grandmother was appointed guardian of the grandson and other measures were taken to return the child to the territory controlled by Ukraine. I am grateful to the Children's Service of Kherson Regional State Administration, Dnipro District Council in Kherson, BO "SOS Children's Towns Ukraine" Charitable Foundation and "Posmishka UA" Charitable Foundation", noted Dmytro Lubinets.



Current data on the violation of children's rights as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation can be found on the **Children of War portal**.



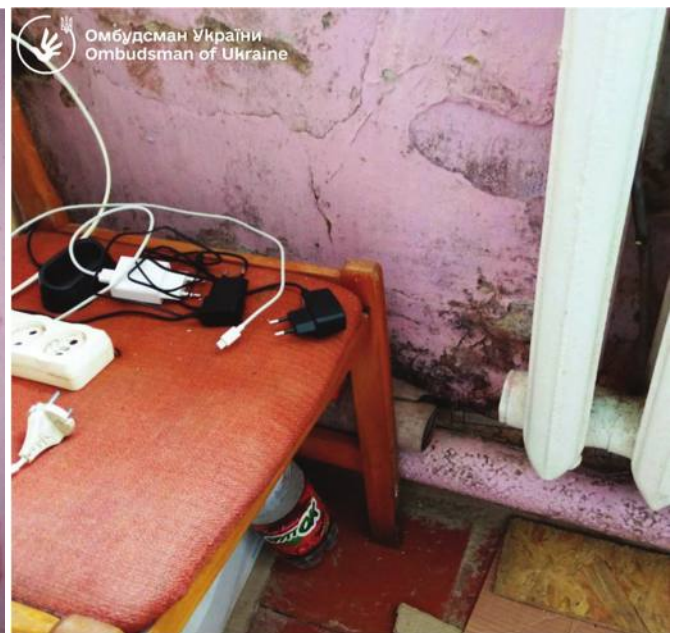
Anna Prykhodko

Head of the Department for Monitoring the Rights of Children, Family, Youth and Sports

✉ prykhodko@ombudsman.gov.ua

We record violations of IDPs' rights

During April, employees of the Office of the Commissioner made a number of monitoring visits to places of compact residence of internally displaced persons. In particular, they visited the **Dnipropetrovsk, Ternopil, and Poltava Regions**, where they recorded the unsatisfactory living conditions of the displaced people – unrepaired premises with mold and fungus.



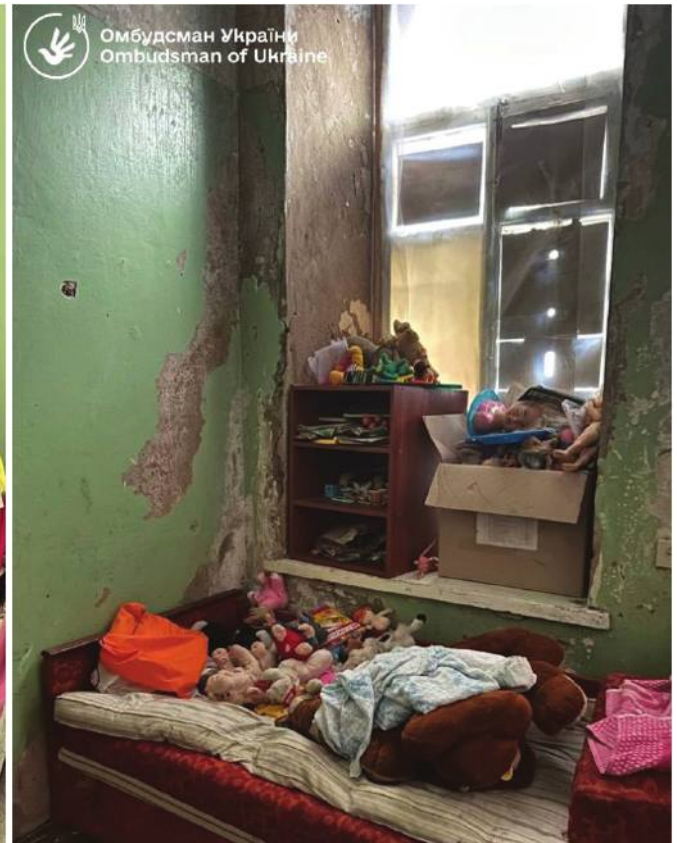
In addition, in places of compact living, there is not enough furniture for common areas.

In some premises, there are problems with shower rooms, and in one of the institutions, the displaced people pay for water supply in a manner that is not defined by the law.

Among other problems of compact living spaces are rooms in an unsatisfactory technical and sanitary-hygienic condition; products are stored in unsanitary conditions; separate accommodation for individual families, children, men and women is not provided. Sometimes there is an overestimated cost of renting rooms, which is beyond the reach of most IDPs.

Employees of the Commissioner's Office spoke with the displaced persons and explained to them the mechanism of obtaining medical, psychological and legal assistance. IDPs received instructions on how to act in case of violation of their rights.

Based on the results of the monitoring, the Office employees will compile reports, as well as provide recommendations to the central bodies of executive power and the regional military administration regarding assistance in eliminating the identified problems and ensuring the needs of IDPs.



Olga Altunina

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

✉ altuninaom@ombudsman.gov.ua

Fighting in the international arena

In April the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Ms. Tetyana Moskalkova was expelled from ENNHRI. Commissioner Mr. Dmytro Lubinets also took part in the voting process for the exclusion of the Russian institution from the ENNHRI membership.

Members of ENNHRI with A status also took part in the vote. The reason for the vote was that the Commissioner of the Russian Federation carried out her activities in a manner and contrary to the purpose defined by the ENNHRI Statute.



During her speech, the Commissioner of the Russian Federation announced her withdrawal from the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, probably anticipating the negative result of the vote for her institution. She also used narratives of Russian propaganda about US biolaboratories and "Nazis".

This is the first time in the association's history that one of its members has been expelled.



"Russia does not pay attention to violations of human rights on its part: it kills, shells peaceful cities, tortures, destroys homes, kidnaps Ukrainian children, holds the civilian population captive and does not comply with the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war. Russia commits genocide of our people and violates all norms of international humanitarian law, therefore it should be excluded from all international organizations. The world sees the truth and draws conclusions," said Dmytro Lubinets.

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Dmytro Lubinets is grateful to colleagues who voted for the exclusion of the Russian institution, which does not meet the purpose of the human rights institution as a whole and uses European platforms to express the political slogans of Russian propaganda.



Olga Strepochenko

Head of the Department of International Cooperation and European Integration

✉ strepochenko@ombudsman.gov.ua

Information rights protection

In April, citizens appealed to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the violation by the Supreme Court of the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public Information" in connection with the failure to provide information on the salary paid to one of the judges for a certain period in response to requests for information.

As part of parliamentary control, response acts were sent to the Court with the aim of renewing the applicants' right to information. In response, the Court informed that it was not possible to provide the requested information, since the applicants did not comply with the requirements of Art. 10 of the Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public Information", thus the legal requirements of the Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the re-examination of the request and provision of the requested information have not been fulfilled. However, in reality, citizens complied with all requirements.

Taking into account the above, two protocols on administrative offenses under Art. 188-40 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses, namely: failure to comply with the legal requirements of the Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights; and according to Part 2 of Art. 212-3 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses – failure to provide information. The protocols were sent to the local general court.



Yuliia Derkachenko

Representative of the Commissioner
for Information Rights

✉ derkachenko@ombudsman.gov.ua

Equality and non-discrimination are basic principles of International legal norms in the field of human rights

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Dmytro Lubinets spoke at the Conference in Warsaw "Ensuring the implementation of reforms in the field of combating discrimination in Ukraine, in accordance with European standards" on the topic: "Supporting equality and non-discrimination in Ukraine."



"Equality in all spheres is the key to the development of society. "Ukraine works to ensure that there are no privileges or restrictions on the basis of race, skin color, political, religious and other beliefs, gender, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, language or other characteristics," the Commissioner emphasized.

He spoke about the main areas of work of the Secretariat of the Commissioner for Support of Equality and Non-Discrimination in Ukraine. In particular, he spoke about ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in various spheres of social relations; protection of the rights of Representatives of the LGBTIQ community; protection against religious discrimination; fight against hate speech. He also emphasized the implementation of the National Strategy for the creation of a barrier-free space in Ukraine.



Dmytro Lubinets paid particular attention to monitoring visits to places of compact residence of national minorities. He noted that Ukraine is strengthening legislative regulation and state policy in matters of national minority protection.

In addition, he emphasized that the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine caused numerous violations of the religious rights of citizens, destroyed religious buildings - monuments of history and culture. However, Ukraine has always been open and tolerant to all world religions, and the rights of believers are protected by law.

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights invited Representatives of the Council of Europe to personally come to Ukraine, offered to jointly implement a number of projects, and also thanked for cooperation, constant support and communication with Ukraine, and, in particular, with the Commissioner's Office.

A visit to a place of compact residence of a national minority (community)

In April, monitoring visits were held to verify the observance of the rights and freedoms of Representatives of the Roma National Minority (community) in Zakarpattia Region under martial law.

The monitoring group visited places of its compact residence in the Mukachevo, Berehovo and Uzhhorod Cities.



After that, the members of the monitoring group met with Representatives of the International Foundation "NEEKA", which provides social, humanitarian and legal assistance. During this meeting, the issue of documenting stateless persons was discussed.

The monitoring group held working meetings with representatives of state institutions, during which the team of monitors discussed the issues of education, non-discrimination in the process of mobilization, and assistance in documenting the local population.



Mykhailo Spasov

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

✉ spasov@ombudsman.gov.ua

Rights of people in places of detention

In April, staff members of the Department for Implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism made more than 10 monitoring visits.

Staff members of the Commissioner's Office made a monitoring visit to the Police Department No. 3 of the Vinnytsia District Police Department of the Main Department of the National Police in Vinnytsia Region to study the response to reports of domestic violence by law enforcement officers.

According to Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence", detection of domestic violence and timely response to them, reception and consideration of statements and reports of domestic violence, as well as assistance to victims are assigned to the powers of the National Police of Ukraine.

During the monitoring visit, reports on domestic violence received for 2023 were reviewed and the materials of the proceedings were studied.

As a result of the study of the materials containing the final conclusion of the inspection, it was established that the requirements of Part 36, Paragraph 4 of the Procedure for the interaction of entities implementing measures in the field of prevention and counteraction of domestic violence and gender-based violence, which was approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine from 22.08.2018, No. 658, was not observed. According to this document, an official of the National Police unit must inform the relevant service for children's affairs by telephone or e-mail no later than within one day, in the event that the victim of violence or the perpetrator is a child or the affected person has applied together with the child.



In addition, the materials do not contain the provisions of Paragraph 5 of the Procedure for explaining to the injured person the rights to receive complete and comprehensive information about his/her rights, including the right to social services, medical, social, psychological assistance, which he/she can use accordingly to the law and according to her/his needs; the right to free legal aid, etc.

According to Art. 71 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Prevention and Counteraction of Domestic Violence", the subjects implementing measures in the field of prevention and counteraction of gender-based violence are the units of the National Police, services for children, education management bodies, health protection bodies, and therefore, police officers must cooperate with these services.

During the visit, the monitors noted that some of the inspection materials, reports on possible domestic violence, which is provided for in Art. 173-2 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses, contain only a report with a plot of circumstances, which was recorded when receiving a call to the "hotline" 102, and the results of working on this call, without receiving written explanations of possible victims, offenders and explanations of witnesses.

Based on the monitoring results, a report is prepared with the necessary recommendations.



Vitalii Nikulin

Representative of the Commissioner
for Human Rights in Places of Detention

✉ nikulin@ombudsman.gov.ua

Environmental threats due to shelling

Currently, almost 450,000 hectares of Ukrainian forests are under Russian occupation, and military operations were conducted on 3 million hectares of forest land. According to the information of the Ministry of Environment, 20% of nature conservation areas of Ukraine are affected by the war. Almost a million hectares of protected areas are affected by armed conflict.

Due to the full-scale invasion, 16 Ramsar wetlands of international importance with an area of about 600 thousand hectares, 160 territories of the Emerald network with a total area of 2.9 million hectares and 2 biosphere reserves were threatened with destruction in Ukraine.



The total emission into the atmosphere from destroyed objects and fires has already exceeded 40 million tons of pollutants.

In addition, due to the damage to buildings as a result of hostilities, huge volumes of construction waste are generated, the management of which requires resources. According to approximate data, there are already about 1.4 billion tons of construction waste generated as a result of military operations in Ukraine.



Soil pollution makes it impossible to grow agricultural crops, and toxic substances provoke diseases in whole generations, emissions of greenhouse gases accelerate the climate crisis, that is, they are part of a global threat, and not only a problem of Ukraine.

The security situation in the environment and provision of the population requires further monitoring and timely response.

Pensions and cash assistance for Ukrainians are available abroad:

Cabinet of Ministers took into account the Commissioner's recommendations

Ukrainian citizens who got temporary protection or refugee status can receive pension payments and cash assistance directly in their host country.

Resolution of the Government of Ukraine No. 328 provides, in particular, the possibility of receiving pension payments by international transfers through Ukrposhta (Ukrainian Post), provided that it has the technical capability for that. This is especially relevant for pensioners who do not have current accounts opened in Ukrainian banks.

An application for the payment of a pension or cash assistance can also be accepted by the Pension Fund of Ukraine or the social protection body through the institutions of an authorized bank, in particular in electronic form using an electronic signature based on a qualified electronic signature certificate of the recipient and an authorized bank employee.



"I support the approved changes to the legislation, because they regulate the issue of payment of pensions and cash assistance for citizens of Ukraine who, as a result of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, were forced to leave their homes and seek protection abroad, in accordance with the recommendations I provided in this regard to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine," noted Dmytro Lubinets.

For Ukrainian citizens who have received temporary protection or refugee status in other countries, the mechanism of receiving pension payments and cash assistance without leaving the territory of Ukraine has been simplified. **The adopted changes will contribute to the realization of the right of Ukrainian citizens to state pension provision and cash assistance.**



Olena Kolobrodova

Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights

✉ kolobrodova@ombudsman.gov.ua

At the initiative of the Commissioner, a gap in the legislation regarding ensuring the right of convicts to pension was eliminated

Within the scope of parliamentary control over the observance of the constitutional rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, the Commissioner identified a gap in the legislation in terms of the lack of definition of the obligation to notify and the period during which the administration of correctional institutions must notify the relevant territorial body of the pension fund about the arrival of a convicted pensioner to such an institution. In case of transfer of a convicted pensioner from one correctional institution to another, in particular, in the case of transfer to a correctional institution located on the territory of another administrative-territorial unit, due to the absence of a clearly defined term and the obligation to notify the relevant territorial body of the pension fund about the arrival of a convicted pensioner, correctional institutions carried out such notification at their own discretion.

In order to prevent further violations of the rights of convicted pensioners, on the initiative of the Commissioner, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issued order No. 631/5 on February 16, 2023 "On Approval of Amendments to Certain Regulatory Legal Acts of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine". This act amended Chapter V of the Rules of Internal Procedure of Penitentiary Institutions, approved by order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine dated August 28, 2018 No. 2823/5. Paragraph 4 of this document now establishes that within 10 days from the date of the convict pensioner's arrival at the penal institution (appointment of the convict to work in the economic maintenance of the remand prison) the administration of the penal institution (remand prison) for the purpose of transferring the convict's pension payment to the place of his/her serving the sentence reports on this the territorial body of the Pension Fund of Ukraine.

Such changes will contribute to the observance of the right of convicted pensioners to social protection.



Olena Frolova

Representative of the Commissioner
in the Courts System and Rights to Fair Trial and
Representation in the Constitution Court of Ukraine

✉ frolova@ombudsman.gov.ua

Operation of regional networks

In April, two Consultation Centers of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights became operational in Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk Regions.

Residents of the Regions will be able to receive offline and online consultations there on issues related to human rights violations: ways to return a child or families with children from temporarily occupied territories; obtaining a child's birth certificate or its legalization under martial law, if the document was issued in the temporarily occupied territory; clarification of how to establish contact with a child who was taken abroad by one of the parents. Visitors will be able to fill out forms for tracing a child or applications for assistance to children who have been injured and traumatized as a result of the war, and other issues related to human rights violations.

Employees of the Commissioner's Office, partners of the Government of Canada project "Supporting Governmental Reforms in Ukraine" (SURGe), Representatives of state authorities and public organizations took part in the opening ceremonies of the centers.



Personal reception of citizens by the Commissioner

Every first Thursday of the month, the Commissioner of Ukraine conducts a personal reception of citizens.

This time, Dmytro Lubinets talked with the applicants about their issues and discussed ways to solve them. He was assisted by Mr. Oleksandr Kononenko, the Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the System of Bodies in Security and Defense Sector.



"I understand how important it is for people to be heard and helped in solving problems. I also understand that support is important to citizens, because sometimes appeals are emotional. I am always open and do everything that my powers provide for the restoration of citizens' rights!" said the Commissioner of Ukraine.

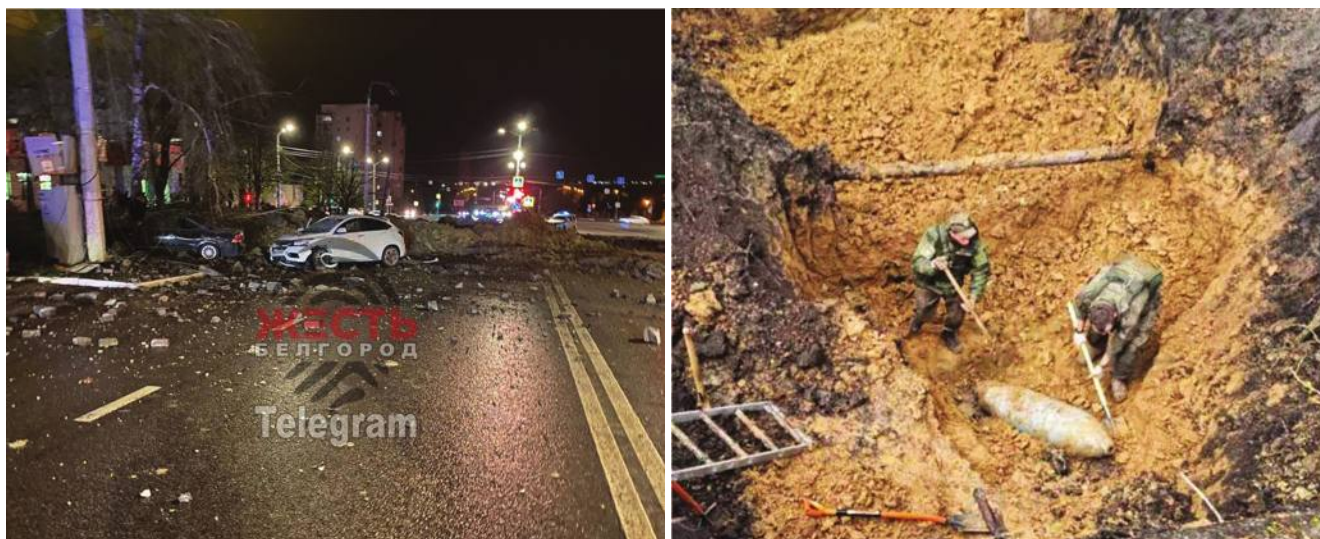


Everyone has to talk about weapons, including the Commissioner

When we talk about protecting human rights, the most important is the human right to life. However, when this right is neglected by another state, firing missiles at civilians, everyone, including the Commissioner, is forced to talk about weapons.

According to a spokesperson for the Ukrainian Air Force, instead of missiles, Russians are launching about 20 bombs daily at a large part of Ukraine's Regions. One bomb weighs up to 500 kilograms! From the area of Belgorod, Russian aircraft often bomb neighboring Ukrainian border towns with such bombs.

On the evening of April 20, residents of Belgorod learned what a 500-kilogram bomb is when a Russian Su-34 bomber dropped one on a residential area. The Russian Ministry of Defense dryly described the cause as "abnormal munition discharge." The consequences were a car on the roof of a store, a sinkhole in the middle of the road, significant damage to the road surface and nearby buildings, and most likely injured citizens (but they won't say so in Russia). No sooner had they recovered from one incident than a new unexploded bomb was found on the street where the explosion took place. Because of this, about 3,000 Russians were evacuated.



Here is the story of TWO Russian bombs that, targeting Ukraine, fell where they were launched due to a mistake or malfunction. But, unfortunately, thousands of them are flying into Ukraine every month. And their stories begin where human lives end. The fates of Ukrainian children, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and grandparents can be cut short at any moment because a 500-kilogram bomb from a Russian aircraft fell in their backyard.

The world needs to realize the extent of Russian cynicism and Ukrainian pain. It is important to understand that Ukrainians are still defending themselves and still need help because evil has overflowed its banks and wants to drown as many territories as possible.

We are fighting for the right to live, so missiles and bombs are not something Ukraine would like to be remembered for!



Ukrainian photographer Yevhen Malolietka has won one of the most prestigious photo contests in the world, World Press Photo. He won with the photo "Air strike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol".

"The photo shows Irina Kalinina, she is 32 years old. This picture was taken 30 minutes after the strike on maternity hospital #3 in Mariupol City. We see Irina being evacuated to an ambulance. Then she was taken to the second regional hospital in the city. Unfortunately, the child was already born dead, and Irina could not be saved," the photographer said.



"Hotline" for appeals:



0800-50-17-20
(free of charge)

044-299-74-08



hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua



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



Dmytro LUBINETTS

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
(from July 1, 2022)

✉ lubinets@ombudsman.gov.ua



Hotline of the Ukrainian Parliament
Commissioner for Human Rights 0 800 50 17 20
or by e-mail hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua



#StandWithUkraine

Human rights in Ukraine



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine