



REVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN OCCUPIED DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS

JANUARY, 2019

INFORMATOR:

“ 1.

Illegal arrests, detentions and restriction of freedom of movement

“ 2.

Development of parallel legal system, advocacy, notary, courts

In **January, 2019**, the new facts of human rights violations were identified in certain districts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, controlled by the armed groups of so-called “LPR” and “DPR”: illegal detentions, restrictions of freedom of movement of civilians, involvement of schoolchildren into the events with propagandistic aims, development of parallel legal system and violation of property rights. Unfortunately, all these human rights violations have become a “norm” for residents of the territories of so-called “people’s republics”.

1. Illegal arrests, detentions and restriction of freedom of movement

Press-service of the so-called “Ministry of internal affairs of Donetsk people’s republic (MIA of DPR): more than 50 “operational-preventive operation “Night City”” were organized since the beginning of 2018. About 34000 people were detained for violating the curfew during i 2018.

From **January 12 to 14, 2019**, 330 people were detained by the police for violating the curfew during the “Night City” “operational-preventive operation”, and 320 people were detained from January 18 to January 20, 2019.

On **January 8, 2019**, it was reported by Radio Liberty that Dmitry Avtonomov was arrested in the occupied part of the Donetsk region, controlled by the occupation administration of the Russian Federation. This person is one of the confidance of Alexander Timofeev, ex-”Minister of Income and Fees” (“Tashkent”), who had escaped to Russia. It was reported by the occupation administrations of the Russian Federation’s media, that the businessman Avtonomov and about 10 directors of his enterprises were detained without charges on December 28, 2018.

On **January 10, 2019**, the “Media Initiative for Human Rights” reported about the disappearance of Elena Sorokina, owner of a pet grocery store in the city of Pervomaysk, Luhansk region. Elena disappeared on October 30, 2018. Later, it was discovered that she was captured by the representatives of the so-called “Ministry of State Security of Luhansk People’s Republic (MGB of LPR)”.

2. Development of parallel legal system, advocacy, notary, courts

Russian occupation administrations and controlled media continue to inform local residents of the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as the world public, about the “state bodies” activities and the results of such “work”. It should be noted that this activity has no legal basis and the main aim is to demonstrate the so-called “sovereignty” of the “republics”.

On **January 4, 2019**, the press service of the so-called “Ministry of Justice of DPR” reported that 25 lawyers got certificates of the right to practice law in the territory of DPR in 2018.

On **January 21, 2019**, the law “On Amendments to Article 2 of the Law of Luhansk People’s Republic “On anti-corruption expertise of legal acts and draft laws” and the law “On documents of civil statuses” were adopted by the “MPs” of the so-called People’s Council of LPR. On the same day the law “On seed farming” was adopted.

3. Violation of property rights

In **January, 2019**, the process of so-called “nationalization” of enterprises that had previously operated under the jurisdiction of Ukraine or belonged to the citizens of Ukraine, who live in the



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territory controlled by Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, continued on the occupied areas of Luhansk and Donetsk regions under the control of Russian occupation administration. The process of “searching for the owners” is widespread.

A few months ago, the decline of the “search of owners of “ownerless property” became noticeable. The sale announcements about the “ownerless property” started to appear on the web-site of the so-called “State Revenue Committee of LPR”.

Thus, in **January 2019**, 8 announcements on the sale of various movable and immovable property, namely, household appliances, ATMs, cars, spare car parts, railroad platforms, etc. were posted by the so-called “State Revenue Committee of LPR”.

4. Religious Freedom Violations

On **January 5, 2019**, it was reported by the press service of the so-called “Supreme Court of DPR” that 6 organizations, 49 publications and books were banned as extremist on the territory of DPR since 2016.

At the **end of December 2018**, it was reported on the website of the Jehovah’s Witnesses religious organization that on November 30, 2018, a 22-year-old man was arrested in Luhansk. He was subjected to searches and beatings because he had a business card of the Jehovah’s Witnesses.