



# HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MONITORING IN THE NON-GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS OF THE LUHANSK AND DONETSK REGIONS

SEPTEMBER, 2017

INFORMATOR:

“ 1.

Illegal arrests,  
detentions and  
restriction of freedom  
of movement

In September 2017 in certain districts of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions, controlled by the armed groups of so-called “LNR” and “DNR” new facts of human rights violations were identified: illegal detentions, restrictions of freedom of movement of civilians, obstruction of the activities of international organizations, involvement of schoolchildren into the events with propagandistic aims, coercion of the residents of so-called “LNR and DNR” to join “civic society organizations”, development of parallel legal system and the 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

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that missed on August 24th 19 years old Ukrainian Pavlo Hryb is located in the pretrial detention center of the Russian city of Krasnodar. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he is accused of terrorism. The Consulate General of Ukraine in Rostov-on-Don received an official report from the FSB (Federal Security Service) on Hryb on September 7.

“It says that Hryb was detained on charges of committing a crime under part 1 of Art. 205 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (a terrorist act)”, – said Vasyl Kyrylych, the speaker of the Consular Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**On the 31st of August**, at the chek-point Stanytsya-Luganska district of illegal armed groups of “LNR” in the Luhansk region, Petukhov Nikolai, the resident of Verhnya Olkhova village of the Stanytsya Luhanska district, born in 1995, was detained. According to the employees of Kharkiv Human Rights Group, the man earned his living by helping people to carry bags from the check-point of government-controlled territory to the checkpoint of illegal armed formations “LNR”. As reported by the Luhansk Region Police Communication Department, this fact was registered to the unified register of pre-trial investigations (ERDR) and qualified under Art. 146 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Illegal imprisonment or abduction of a person”.

**On 11th of September**, it became known that Stanislav Dusiak, resident of Luhansk, was detained by so-called “Ministry of State Security of LNR”. It is reported that the man was detained as “the organizer of an unauthorized rally, who planned a mass protest rally in collusion with the representatives of Ukraine aiming at destabilizing socio-political situation in the republic.” According to representatives of the “Ministry of State Security of LNR” Stanislav Dusiak “called in social networks to hold an illegal rally in the city of Luhansk.”

**On the 21st of September**, the press service of the so-called “Ministry of State Security of LNR” reported that “an agent of the Head Intelligence Office of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine”, the resident of Pervomaysk, Anatoliy Tikhonovich Kostennikov, born in 1958, was detected and detained. The representatives of illegal armed groups of “LNR” accuse the man of “carrying out intelligence activities in the territory of the republic, namely, collecting and transmitting information of a military character to the detriment of the security of the LNR.” Kostennikov was detained on the fact of committing a crime under Article 335 of the Criminal Code of LNR (State Treason). The verdict of the so-called “military court of LNR” A. Kostennikov was found guilty and sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment.

**On the 15th of September**, at the briefing of so-called “Minister of the Interior Affairs” Ihor Kornet reported that “employees of Ministry of Interior Affairs of LNR and the General Prosecutor



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of parallel legal  
system, advocacy,  
notary, courts

Office detained five suspects in the terrorist attacks in Luhansk on July 7 of this year.” During the “investigative measures” it was established that “the immediate executors of the terrorist acts were the family with the name Slivka. These are Slivka Nikolai Dmitriyevich, Slivka Alexandr Dmitriyevich, Slivka Ivan Dmitriyevich, Slivka Sergey Vyacheslavovich, as well as their accomplices – Polshchikov Eduard Yuriyevich, Bereznichenko Vadim Vasyliyevich, Mikhailichenko Dmitriy Evgeniyevich and Yartsev Segey Anatoliyevich.” It is reported that Alexandr and Ivan Slivka, Polshchikov, Mikhailichenko and Yartsev were detained, who are in the “remand prison in the republic.” Igor Kornet suggested that “based on the character of the crimes”, detainees can be sentenced to life imprisonment.

In the town of Kadiyevka, the Luhansk region (former Stakhanov), the representatives of illegal armed groups of “LNR” detained the master of Sport in the polyathlon Viktor Stepanenko after he took the flag of Ukraine on and tore the honorary certificate of the “LuHansk People’s Republic”. According to the so-called “Ministry of State Security of LNR”, Viktor Stepanenko conducted the protest action under threats and blackmail from the Security Service of Ukraine.

**On the 5th of September**, the press service of the so-called “General Prosecutor’s Office of DNR” reported that “the military tribunal of DNR sentenced a resident of the Dnepropetrovsk region, a member of the radical group ‘Donbas’, to 15 years’ imprisonment.” It is reported that he was “found guilty of committing a crime under Art. 232 of the Criminal Code of DNR (training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities)”.

**On the 28th of September**, the press service of so-called “Ministry of State Security of LNR” reported that a fifteen-year-old teenager was detained in Luhansk, who informed by the e-mail of the technical support of the Internet provider “Luganskiye domashniye networks” about the mining of the building. “In the office of the Internet provider of LDS, at the address: Luhansk, Zhukova district, 4B / 1 THE BOMB IS PLACED !!! This is revenge for low quality of service and rudeness of operators!!!”, – wrote the teenager in the message.

During the inspection of the scene of accident explosives technicians, an explosive device was not found. At the same time, the employees of the so-called “Ministry of State Security of LNR” claim that the teenager acted according the instructions of the Ukrainian special services.

“Radical information, found on digital media of a young man, which demonstrates the systematic work of the SBU on the involvement of underage citizens in their provocative actions,” the press service of the MGB LNR said.

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

In the territory controlled by illegal armed groups of “LNR” and “DNR”, so-called “authorities” and controlled media continue to inform local people and world community on activity of their “state agencies” and results of their “work”. It should be noted that this activity has no legal force and is aimed only at demonstrating the so-called “statehood” in the “republics”.

**On the 13th of September**, the media controlled by the illegal armed groups of “LNR” reported that the “Expert Council of the State Religious Studies Examination” began its work in “LNR”. The representatives of so-called “Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of LNR”, say that the launch of the “expert council of the state religious studies examination will give an opportunity to receive opinions for religious organizations for further registration and entry into the state register as legal entities, which in turn will provide an opportunity to carry out legal activity of religious organizations in the existing legal field of Luhansk People’s Republic.”



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**On the 21st of September**, at the briefing “Deputy Chairman” of so-called “Supreme Court of DNR”, “Head of the Court Chamber for Arbitration” Natalia Mogutova reported that within eight months of 2017, “almost 680 cases and materials were considered by the arbitration court of the Donetsk People’s Republic.”

In “DNR” it was reported on the work of the Civil Registry Authority offices. So, since the beginning of this year, over 11.5 thousand certificates of birth of a child and marriage registration have been issued. This was reported on the 25th of September in the press service of so-called “Ministry of Justice”.

### **3. Coercion for membership in “civil society” organizations and participation in “patriotic” and “social” actions of “LNR” and “DNR”. Involvement of children in propaganda**

In territories controlled by members of illegal armed groups of “LNR” and “DNR”, military-patriotic propaganda among children, teenagers and youth is actively conducted, involving them in membership in “civil” organizations.

Thus, in September, in Pervomaisk College, the “primary branch of the youth civil organization ‘Youth for Peace’ of the civil movement” Peace for Luhansk region “was created.

After the creation of the Seventh Detachment of children and youth organization “Young Guard” of the civil movement “Peace for Luhansk region”, the Slavyanoserbksk district, by the number of detachments of the children and youth organization, became the second in the LNR after Krasnodon, where there are 11 such detachments.

### **4. Violation of property rights**

In September 2017, in the territories of “DNR” and “LNR”, the process of so-called “nationalization” of enterprises that had previously operated under the jurisdiction of Ukraine or belonged to citizens of Ukraine, living in the territory controlled by Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, continued. The process of “searching for owners” is widespread.

Thus, in “LNR” in September the so-called “state committee of taxes and fees” placed 35 announcements about the search for owners of different property.

It should be noted that applications from owners are accepted within 60 days from the date of the announcement published. After the expiration of this period, the enterprises pass under the control of the “republic”.

In the so-called “DNR” in September, the “state property fund” introduced “state management” at 28 real estate objects.

The leader of “LNR” Ihor Plotnytsky stated that after the “inventory of housing census” was found about a thousand empty apartments, in which the head of the “republic” ordered to settle people who “require housing.” It should be noted that this housing is private property of residents of Luhansk who were forced to leave the territory of Luhansk due to hostilities and illegal armed groups of “LNR”: taking control of the city.

“ 3.

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“ 4.

Thus, so-called “State committee for taxes and fees” posted 57 advertisements about the search for the owner of two various properties in “LNR”



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“ 5.

Violation of the right  
to freedom of religion  
or belief

## 5. Violation of the right to privacy

**On the 21st of September 2017**, so-called “Ministry of Communications of DNR” issued a letter of recommendation to operators providing Internet services concerning the collection and storage of subscriber credentials.

The document recommends to make collection and storage of subscriber credentials, data on their Internet access sessions, as well as other information that allows you to associate the requested IP-address with a specific physical or legal person. It is reported that “the letter of recommendation was issued taking into account the considerable number of requests to the Ministry of Communications of DNR from the law enforcement agencies of the republic.”

“We recommend keeping the minimum information for six months. This is the last name, first name, middle name, e-mail address and contact phone number”, – the message says.

## 6. Activities of international organizations

**On 24th of September 2017**, the representatives of illegal armed groups of “DNR” stopped guarding the vanguard patrol base of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (OSCE SMM) in Horlivka.