

DON'T LET THEM KILL ATR

ATRni OLDURTMENIZ!

First they illegally occupied our ancestral homeland, and promised to restore our human and national rights (blatantly violated by the people who made these promises) if we accept their illegal act. Once they were convinced that Crimean Tatars could not be bought, they began kidnapping, torturing and murdering our innocent young people. We still don't know whereabouts of these kidnap victims. Our schools, libraries and mosques were forcibly entered, searched for illegal whatever literature they were looking for, for weapons, etc. Then they prevented our political leaders from entering Crimea. their ancestral homeland, even it meant separation of families.

Crimean News Agency was their next target, they exerted and continue to exert great deal of pressure to silence the voice of the Crimean Tatar people. The lights of the only Crimean Tatar language television station ATR may be turned off as of April 1, 2015. That means the tongue of the indigenous Crimean Tatar in Crimea may be cut if the Russian and Crimean authorities have their way.

Then they decided to unite all 330 mosques in Crimea under their own Muftiate in order to control our religion. Now they threaten the indigenous Crimean Tatar people with deportation to Far East as they sent the Soviet Jews to Far East by establishing Birobidzhan Autonomous Republic. The simple question is "who is going to stop them?" Who has the political will to prevent these crimes perpetrated against a small, peaceful, but powerless people, the Crimean Tatars?

A group of extraordinarily courageous, dedicated young journalist have launched a tele-campaign to keep these lights of the only Crimean Tatar language television station, ATR, on. I called ATR TV in Crimea today and talked to a young and upbeat, not at all discouraged ATR journalist named Gulsum to extend my full support as a Crimean Tatar-American. I repeated their battle cry ("*Don't Kill ATR! ATR ni oldurmeniz!*") and promised to help them in whatever way I can to stop this crime! I promised her that I will spread the word about their campaign to stay alive. The ATR staff, every single one of them, has a simple demand from world public:

"Don't let the Russian authorities close ATR TV! Let us continue to be the 'tongue of our people!"

I am calling on the Crimean Tatar Diaspora as well as the world public to call this # +7 (978) 077 9595 to extend your support to these courageous TV journalist!

Time is running out, the deadline is 3/31/2015! Please call! Crimean Tatar journalists need your help now!

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