



## **The appeal of the Executive Committee of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars to the Congress of United States**

### **to be applied for honoring the victims of the genocides of the Crimean Tatar People and the violation of the fundamental rights and freedom of the Crimean Tatar People by the Russian Federation**

In May 1944, upon the decisions of the USSR State Security Committee, Crimean Tatars were by brutal force deported from their own native land, Crimea. Eventually, all the indigenous people of Crimea were under horrible cruelty expelled from their historical homeland to places that were not prepared and sometimes not suitable for living. The deportation was executed with seizure of property, oppression and extortion. According to various estimations, 46% of those deported died during the deportation and following months even though the exact number of victims is uncertain. In other words, half of the nation was exterminated as a result of the deportation.

As known, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as *“any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:*

- a) *killing members of the group;*
- b) *causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;*
- c) *deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;*
- d) *imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and]*
- e) *forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”*

Thus, the forced eviction of Crimean Tatars from places where they lived in 1944 and the following years and restricting them from basic means of subsistence satisfy all signs of genocide by virtue of both international law and the UN Convention.

The above-mentioned crime was proven by the Resolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine (*Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*) on “the recognition of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar People” adopted on 12 November 2015. (News of the Verkhovna Rada, 2015, No. 49-50, Article 469, <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/792-19>).

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Furthermore, on 11 May 2016, the Supreme Rada of Ukraine adopted the Resolution No. 1348-VIII “On appeal of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, world leaders and all members of the international community to honor the victims of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people and condemnation of violations of the Russian Federation against the rights and freedoms of Crimean Tatar people” (<http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/rada/show/1348-19>).

Unfortunately, today we cannot see the official recognition of the holocaust of our nation by international organizations and their strong and clear concerns on this matter.

Such lack of concern of international communities and governments of developed democratic states over this subject makes us worry. By the common decision of their representatives, genocide has been recognized as an international crime against the peace and security of mankind in the United Nations since 1948. Moreover, it is obvious that, not punishing and condemning such crimes, the world community would be at risk of encountering new crazy and bloodthirsty sources in their own lands.

It is also important that the insertion of the following text into the content of the decision of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine “on recognition of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people”:

“The Supreme Rada of Ukraine declares that there is a conscious policy of ethnocide of the Crimean Tatar people by the state authorities of the Russian Federation by means of the systematic pressure on the Crimean Tatar people, persecution of citizens of Ukraine on ethnic grounds, organization of ethnically and politically motivated prosecutions of the Crimean Tatars, their bodies such as the Crimean Tatar Mejlis and Kurultai in the temporarily occupied territory of the Ukraine, starting from the date of temporary occupation.”

In pursuant to the decision taken during its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Executive Committee of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars (WCCT) appeals to the legislative bodies of the countries of the world community to contemplate the mentioned declaration and in all countries to recognize the deportation of the Crimean Tatars from their historical homeland in 1944 and restricting them from means of subsistence as genocide.

To fulfill the above-mentioned decision of the WCCT:

- In the circumstances in which the annexation of the Crimea by a foreign state constitutes a real threat to the security and freedom of the Crimean Tatars - Crimean residents,
- Taking into consideration the magnitude of the consequences are inevitable as a result of military intervention,
- Continuing to struggle for their rights through non-violent methods,

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-Based on the universally recognized norms of international instruments guaranteeing the right to self-determination - the UN Charter, the resolution number 1514 (XV) of the UN General Assembly of 14 December 1960; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966; the Declaration on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter, adopted on 24 October 1970, and the other,

- Relying on the UN Declaration “On the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” of 13 September 2007 - the right of indigenous people to have access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the settlement of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties (Article 40),

- Taking into account the fact that the Supreme Rada of Ukraine adopted the Resolution “On the recognition of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people” on 12 November 2015,

We hereby appeal to you;

1) to recognize the deportation of the Crimean Tatars from the Crimea in 1944 as the genocide committed against the Crimean Tatar People, and

2) to strengthen the mentioned situation by laws and other international legal rights.

Respectfully,

**Av.Namık Kemal BAYAR**  
**Secretary General of WCCT**

23 January 2017

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