

UNHighCommissioner
for Human Rights

Ms. Michelle Bachelet Heria

Dear Ms. Bachelet,

We, representatives of civil society more than countries of the world, members of the International Association of Friends of Crimea clubs, address you as the High Commissioner coordinating the UN efforts in the field of human rights.

The unlawful sanctions, bypassed the UN Security Council against the entire population of Crimea in 2014 became a factor contributing to the humanitarian blockade of Crimea and led to massive violations of human rights in the region, by the Ukraine and a number of Western countries. They deprived the population of the peninsula of access to heat, electricity, water and communications, they limited freedom of movement of citizens, freedom of communication with families and relatives of the diaspora communities of Crimea. They became an obstacle to cooperate in educational and other fields and, ultimately, violate its right to develop, contrary to existing conventions.

In particular, there is an evidence of the data of the UN Special Speaker on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the rights and freedoms of Idris Jazairi, published in 2017.

Meanwhile, the sanctions were prolonged for a year by the European Union in summer in 2019.

We see this as a serious violation of generally accepted democratic and civilizational rights.

Like most sane people in the world, we are convinced that the policy of sanctions is confrontational and dangerous. The ending this flagrant injustice of

human rights and lifting of the total sanctions imposed on all residents of the Crimea is necessary, foremost, for the international security and stability.

In this regard, we call on you, as the head of the UN Office for Human Rights, to conduct a special consideration of this issue at the beginning of the next 2020 and invite representatives directly from Crimea, so that they can objectively speak out in **cases** of continuing flagrant violations of human rights against the residents of the peninsula.

Kindly ask you to give an official response to our appeal to the address of the International Association “Friends of Crimea” – iafc.forum@gmail.com.

