



# HUMAN RIGHTS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS:

NOVEMBER 2016

INFORMATOR:

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1.

Arbitrary arrests and detentions

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2.

Obstruction journalism

In November 2016, in the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions controlled by illegal armed groups, the so-called «Luhansk People's Republic» (“LPR”) and «Donetsk People's Republic» (“DPR”), there was a surge of human rights violations: regular arrests and “military sentencing”, obstructing the activities of international humanitarian organizations, violation of property rights, violation of freedom of assembly, enforcement to participate in «patriotic» and «social» promotions – it is an incomplete list of violations of citizens' rights and freedoms.

## 1. Arbitrary arrests and detentions

In November, several illegal detentions of pro-Ukrainian minded citizens were committed and «sentences» of earlier detained persons were issued in the «republics».

So, in early November in Donetsk the «Supreme Court of DPR» sentenced Maxym Teorenter to 14 years' imprisonment. The authorities of «DPR» consider him as the organizer of the assassination of Oleksandr Zakharchenko.

Fans of the movement «Ultras Black-and-white» of FC «Zarya», detained in October 2016 in Luhansk and accused of «undermining the constitutional order of the republic and the discrediting of state power of LPR», are still illegally hold. Dmytro Kramarenko and Viacheslav Ukrayinskyi have been «transferred to rehabilitation» to youth organizations of «LPR» with a travel lock from the uncontrolled territories. With respect to detainees Ovcharenko Vladyslav, born in 1996, and Artem Akhmerov, born in 1997, a criminal case under article 335 of the «Criminal Code of LPR» for «treason and espionage», and Part 1 of Article 338 of the «Criminal Code of LPR» for «public outrage over the national flag of LPR». The courts are held in secret, any communication with relatives is prohibited.

On November 29, 2016, the «Ministry of State Security of Luhansk People's Republic» («MGB of LPR») reported that a resident of Luhansk Eduard Nedieliayev (nickname «Edward Ned») was detained, who was accused of spreading social media materials that «law enforcement of LPR» qualified as extremist. Detained Eduard Nedieliayev was charged with treason. A criminal case under articles 335 (espionage), 343 «CC of LPR» (incitement of hatred or hostility and humiliation of human dignity).

On November 11, 2016 in the «MGB of DPR» in Donetsk detained six members of the Ukrainian organization «Misanthropic Division», who allegedly previously claimed responsibility for the killing of the leader of «Sparta» unit Arsen Pavlov, better known as «Motorola».

## 2. Obstruction journalism

On November 25 two journalists of TV channel «Dozhd» Sergey Yerzhenkov and Vasiliy Polonskiy were detained in Donetsk by officers of «MGB of DPR». Later, they were expelled from the territory controlled by illegal armed groups «DPR» to the territory of the Russian Federation - for alleged violation of legislation regulating journalistic activities. The «MGB of DPR» added that “reviewed video of «Dozhd» are provocative and aimed at distorting the socio-economic and political situation in the DPR».



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Obstructing the activities of international humanitarian organizations

### 3. Obstructing the activities of international humanitarian organizations

On November 25, 2016 «Inter-ministerial committee of DPR on Accreditation humanitarian missions» has withdrawn the accreditation of the Czech organization People in Need (PIN) allegedly «due to the systematic disregard of requirements» of Committee to “implemented programs on humanitarian aid for residents of DPR» and inconsistency of the organization «People in Need» to previously stated objectives. The organization also accused of «destructive work, which manifested itself in building a corruption schemes related to the distribution of humanitarian aid among the population».

4.

Enforcement to participate in «patriotic» and «social» «republics» promotions

### 4. Enforcement to participate in «patriotic» and «social» «republics» promotions

In November, as in previous months, «DPR» and «LPR» rallies and mass meetings took place at the initiative of the leaders of the illegal armed groups. According to published photos and videos, for mass meetings mostly schoolchildren, students, employees of budget organizations and enterprises were attracted. Hold events are used as a propaganda tool.

Thus, on November 4 in Lutuhyne more than two thousand people took part in the events dedicated to the Day of National Unity. The same day, about four thousand people from different cities of «DPR» gathered in Donetsk to mark the second anniversary of the inauguration of the «head of the republic».

On November 4 on the «Day of National Unity» youth In Luhansk was assembled to participate in the «Russian jog». In Krasnyi Luch on the same day they organized a «March of unity.»

On November 3 in Krasnodon on the initiative of the city «administration» and with support of the Public Movement «Peace to Luhanshchina» a flash mob dedicated to the «Day of National Unity» was held on the central square.

On November 11 «Peace to Luhanshina» in Zymohiria of Slovianoserbsk district events «No to fascism!» and «meeting-requiem» were held on the initiative of children and youth organization «Young Guard» public movement.

5.

Violation of property rights

### 5. Violation of property rights

In areas controlled by illegal armed groups there is a theft of property temporarily abandoned by the owners.

After the «law» term, if the owner of property is not coming the property is transferred under the control of the authorities, «D/L PR».

So, on the official website of the «State Committee for Taxes and Levies of LPR» on November 29 a report on the establishment of the owner of the elevator, located in: Lutuhyne, Railway Street, 2 was published. Previously, «LPR taxes service» announced searching of the owners of the railway line 126 meters long in Slovianoserbsk district, Zymohiria, Panfilova street, 2-b. In addition, an owner of 14 billboards in Luhansk has been established.