



UN rights expert urges Ukraine to step up aid for displaced people

25 September 2014. Kyiv – UN News Centre

The Ukrainian Government must intensify its efforts to meet the needs and protect the rights of the hundreds of thousands of people internally displaced by the country's ongoing conflict, an independent United Nations human rights expert affirmed. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), Chaloka Beyani made his comments at the end of a ten-day visit to Ukraine, during which he monitored the situations in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Mr. Beyani warned that with winter fast approaching, the rapidly falling temperatures were imposing "increasing hardship" for the many IDPs currently housed in temporary facilities. In addition, many of those displaced had "quickly exhausted" their financial resources and were completely reliant on support for shelter, food and other essential needs.

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EU steps up humanitarian assistance for conflict-affected population in Ukraine

16 September 2014 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

The European Union has earmarked EUR 22 million to assist regions suffering from the consequences of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The European Commission's humanitarian package of EUR 5 million humanitarian aid and EUR 17 million development aid will help address "the basic needs of the population in the areas directly affected by the conflict, the internally displaced and refugees who have fled the conflict areas, and the returnees who are going back home to areas recovered by the Ukrainian government forces," a press release said.

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IOM supports conflict-affected people in Ukraine

23 September 2014 – IOM

As of mid-September, with the support of Norway and Switzerland IOM has provided non-food items, medicine and psycho-social support for approximately 1,500 of the most vulnerable amongst the internally displaced people in Ukraine. IOM coordinates its interventions with all UN partners and the government, both on the central and local levels, and provides direct assistance through its partner NGOs.

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UNHCR encourages swift adoption of legislation to protect internally displaced persons in Ukraine

15 September 2014. Kyiv – UNHCR

UNHCR welcomes that the Parliament of Ukraine is working urgently to adopt Ukraine's first legislation that would regulate rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons. According to Government sources, there are at least 310,000 IDPs from Crimea and Donbas today seeking assistance, including access to education, medical care, housing, jobs and even food and warm clothing amid the recent conflict.

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Control enhanced, trenches progress on Transnistrian stretch of Ukrainian-Moldovan border

2 September 2014– EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

The number of people turned back along the Transnistrian segment of the Ukrainian-Moldovan border has tripled since the Ukrainian authorities on 1 August introduced a new regime requiring male Russian citizens aged between 18 and 60 to undergo second-line checks. This is one of the observations quoted in a press release of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM).

In the course of August, Mission experts observed an increase in second-line controls and in refusals of entry based on interviews. Compared to July, the number of refusals along the Transnistrian segment of the border tripled to approximately 360. However, in percentage terms this corresponds only to slightly more than 0.1 per cent of overall crossings. EUBAM experts participating in second-line interviews confirmed their compliance with Ukrainian legislation and EU human rights standards.

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Ukraine may apply to become EU member - European Parliament resolution

18 September 2014– Ukrinform

The European Parliament has again recognized and reaffirmed the prospect of Ukraine as a European country to obtain membership of the European Union in the future, in accordance with Article 49 of the EU Treaty.

This is stated in a resolution titled, "On the situation in Ukraine and the state of play of EU-Russia relations," which was approved in Strasbourg on 18 September.

"[The EP] reiterates its view, in this respect, that this agreement does not constitute the final goal in EU-Ukraine relations; points out, furthermore, that pursuant to Article 49 TEU, Ukraine – like any other European state – has a European perspective and may apply to become a member of the European Union provided it adheres to the principles of democracy, respects fundamental freedoms and human and minority rights, and ensures the rule of law," reads the document.

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U.S. Embassy in Ukraine stops servicing clients in Crimea

15 September 2014– UNIAN

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine has stopped servicing clients in Crimea, the Embassy's press service informed.

"TNT visa and clients' identification document pass back services to and from Crimea have been suspended due to Russian activities in that portion of Ukraine's territory. The closest TNT service centre is in Kherson, though the Kyiv hub is always an option for passport pick-up," reads [the statement](#).

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First GRETA trafficking report on Ukraine

19 September 2014–Council of Europe

The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) has published its first [evaluation report](#) on Ukraine on 19 September.

In its report, GRETA welcomes the steps taken by Ukraine to develop the legal and institutional framework for combating trafficking in human beings, including the adoption of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, national anti-trafficking programmes and a formal procedure for the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking. The Ukrainian authorities have also set up anti-trafficking co-ordination structures at central and local level and specialized police units.

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IOM supports Ukrainian law enforcement combat modern-day slavery

2 September 2014– IOM

At the end of August, IOM organized a training workshop in Kyiv on the detection and investigation of crimes related to human trafficking and assisting its victims. The workshop targeted officials of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) from Kyiv and various regions of Ukraine. Representatives of prosecutor's offices and the courts experienced in dealing with such cases also attended the lectures and discussion panels.

The workshop was led by Mykhailo Andrienko, Head of the Department for Human Trafficking Crimes Combating at the MoI. The participants discussed the challenges of qualifying and taking procedural decisions concerning crimes related to human trafficking. They also reviewed successful cases where criminal proceedings were finalized, lawyers' representation of trafficked individuals in court, and learned how to best use the Internet to identify and document trafficking-related crimes.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team