



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
27 July 2023

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-seventh session
Agenda items 59 and 64

Security Council
Seventy-eighth year

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Letter dated 27 July 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing mass forceful removal of children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

As I mentioned in my statement at the Security Council meeting on 21 July 2023, officials of the Belarusian Red Cross have openly confessed their complicity in deporting children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

The crime of mass deportation of Ukrainian children was also emphasized by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, during the General Assembly debate under agenda item 59, “The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine”, on 18 July 2023. He provided appalling statistics: 19,474 children have been identified by the Ukrainian authorities as having been illegally deported. Ukraine has strong grounds to believe that several hundred thousand Ukrainian children were forcibly and unlawfully taken by Russia, with many still being held against their will. To date, only 383 children have been returned to their families in Ukraine.

These numbers are egregious and demand swift and decisive intervention to protect the children and facilitate their repatriation.

In the context of the recently surfaced information about the involvement of the Belarusian Red Cross in this grave violation against Ukrainian children, I would be grateful for your personal attention and full use of all existing instruments within the mandates of the relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Children’s Fund and the Office of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to properly monitor, report on and address the continued crimes of the Russian Federation and Belarus against Ukrainian children, as well as to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to facilitate the identification, tracing and reunification of Ukrainian children separated from their families.



I would also appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 59 and 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Serhiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
