

**Statement**  
**by the Deputy Chief of the Headquarters of the Antiterrorist Centre**  
**at the Security Service of Ukraine, Mr. Maksym Yurchyshen**  
**at the Breakout Session 6 A “Children and youth – victims of terrorism”**

**UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism**  
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**Madam Moderator,**  
**Dear colleagues,**

I would like to draw your attention to another **aspect of Russian terror** in Ukraine – **crimes against children**.

**Every day Russia steals** the most valuable thing from our children – **their future in Ukraine**.

**Russia’s crimes should be assessed** not only in terms of danger from shelling and rockets to the child's life and health, but also of the **psychological traumas** and the **lost opportunities** for education and development.

According to the data from the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine, **361 children have been killed and 711 injured in my country** since the beginning of the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Another **3,182 children have been left without parental care. 541 children have lost their parents** or have no contact with them. Thereby, **Russian’s terror is the direct cause of the suffering and losses** of these children.

**And these numbers are growing every day** - with every strike of a Russian missile on Mariupol, Kramatorsk, Chaplyne or Odesa...

**Only 5.5% of Russian strikes hit military targets. But the rest of missiles (almost 95%) is aimed at civilian targets and at our children. For example, at little girl Liza, who was going to a developmental class with her mother in Vinnytsia, or at Dmytro, who was waiting for the bus with his father at a bus stop in Kharkiv.**

Moreover, it is not only the **killings of our children** that the terrorist state is responsible for.

For them **it is not just a humanitarian crisis**. It is an **atmosphere of ultimate horror**, fear and terror, where you are happy not because of new toys, but because you got out of the basement, you sleep without air-raid siren and your parents are alive.

**Since February 24th, almost 1,500 criminal proceedings regarding war crimes against children have been registered**, among them:

- **sexual abuse** in the temporarily occupied territories. Many of those cases went public only after the deoccupation of Kyiv region and shocked the world.
- **forced and illegal deportation** of Ukrainian citizens to the Russian Federation. We are talking about approximately 3.5 million people, **including up to 600,000 children**.

Their fate is unknown. But **the aggressive terminology of the Russian Federation about "filtration camps" and "denazification"** does not give any chance of hope that they are safe. On the contrary, the **risks of such international crimes as human trafficking are increasing**.

Today, the **unified state portal "Children of War"** is operating in Ukraine. This is a collaborative platform for parents and law enforcement bodies aimed at collecting data on children who have been reported missing or deported in order to find them.

And now we have **new signs of terror from occupied Mariupol**: the occupiers are forcing children to attend captured and russified schools. Otherwise, they threaten to send them to boarding schools, and to deprive their parents of their parental rights. Under these circumstances no education is involved here at all. The Russian Federation seeks to fill children's consciousness with its propaganda.

**The Russian Federation acts cynically and insidiously towards its own minor citizens. Children are either used to propagate murders and justify aggression** or they are taught in cadet and junior army classes for active participation in the war. This is despite the fact that in **2014 the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended Russia to stop the practice of military training of children in camps. But international law does not work here**.

As you can see, Russia commits systematic crimes against children. We realize that **only a terrorist state can act like this. And the world must put an end to it**.

**Thank you**