

Information and analytical review

**Violation of the rights of
national minorities in Ukraine
from May to August 2020**

2020

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Introduction

In April 2020, the Information and Analytical Review “Violation of the Rights of National Minorities in Ukraine” was prepared and disseminated. This review covered the period from May 2019 to April 2020. In connection with the continuing practice of violating the rights of national minorities in Ukraine, a new review was prepared on the same issue for the period from May 2020 to the end of August 2020.

The review addresses the following issues:

- violations of the rights of national minorities by representatives of state authorities and officials, problems of individual ethnic communities;
- violations of political and civil rights affecting the interests of national communities;
- cases of discrimination against Ukrainian citizens on the basis of language in various spheres of public life and in everyday life;
- incitement of interethnic hatred, use of hate speech, manifestations of xenophobia and anti-Semitism;
- restriction of freedom of speech, political censorship.

In addition to the analysis of information collected on the basis of a comprehensive monitoring of Ukrainian and foreign media and Internet publications, the review contains evaluative statements of well-known Ukrainian political experts, as well as author's comments on a number of the issues raised.

I. Violations of the rights of national minorities by representatives of state authorities and officials, problems of individual ethnic communities

1. Consideration in the Constitutional Court of Ukraine of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as a state language"

On July 7, 2020, the Grand Chamber of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (CCU), at a plenary session in the form of oral proceedings, began considering the case regarding the compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine (constitutionality) of the Law of Ukraine "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language" dated April 25, 2019.

On June 21, 2019, the Constitutional Court received a submission from 51 people's deputies, who asked to check the constitutionality of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language." The deputies ask to recognize the law "as it does not correspond to the Constitution of Ukraine". According to the deputies who applied to the CCU, the contested law violates constitutional rights and is aimed at discriminating against citizens on the basis of language, in particular, it significantly narrows the right to use and protect their native language, the right to develop the linguistic identity of all indigenous peoples and national minorities of Ukraine. The authors of the appeal to the KSU noted that the law "at the legislative level, the Russian language is completely excluded from labor relations, from the sphere of education, science, culture, television and radio broadcasting, the sphere of print media, the sphere of book publishing and book distribution, the sphere of user interfaces of computer programs and websites, public events, consumer services, sports, telecommunications and postal services, office work, document management, correspondence and other spheres of citizens' lives. "

The representatives of the group of deputies of the Verkhovna Rada who signed the submission were deputies from the "Opposition Bloc" Alexander Dolzhenkov and the co-chairman of the "Opposition Bloc" faction in the Ukrainian parliament Vadim Novinsky. The reporting judge in the case is Sergei Golovaty. (<https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-politics/3057613-konstitucionnyj-sud-vo-vtornik-vozmetsa-za-azykovoju-zakon.html>, <https://strana.ua/news/277245-zakon-ob-ukrainizatsii-7-ijulja-rassmatrivaet-konstitucionnyj-sud.html>)

Comment

It should be noted that the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language" almost immediately after its adoption caused serious criticism both inside Ukraine and abroad. Many of the provisions of this law are clearly discriminatory in relation to the Russian and other ethnic communities living on the territory of Ukraine. Critics of this law call it the law on total Ukrainianization.

On December 6, 2019, the report of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on this language law was adopted. The report says that the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language" does not

provide a balance regarding the preservation of the linguistic rights of national minorities.

On July 7, 2020, during a meeting of the Constitutional Court, considering the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language", the reporting judge Serhiy Holovatyy announced the conclusions of expert institutions on this issue. The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine noted that the Russian language is not disappearing and remains in fact the most frequently used language, which means that the adopted law on the state language does not contain signs of discrimination against the Russian language. Holovatyy also cited the conclusion of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Lyudmila Denisova, which says that the law "does not contain discriminatory norms on the basis of language, not only in relation to Russian-speaking citizens, but also in relation to other citizens of Ukraine from among national minorities." A number of expert opinions of higher educational institutions of Ukraine also emphasize the absence of discriminatory grounds in relation to the Russian language. (<https://vesti.ua/politika/ksu-nachal-rassmatrivat-delo-o-konstitutsionnosti-zakona-o-yazyke>)

At the consideration of the case in the Constitutional Court, the representative of the President of Ukraine in the Constitutional Court Fedor Venislavsky spoke. He immediately stressed that he represents the position of the President and, according to the position of V. Zelensky, there are no grounds for repealing this law. Venislavsky said that the Constitutional Court should not conduct proceedings under the law on the state language and called the appeal of the deputies to the court regarding the unconstitutionality of this law "artificial".

"This performance is artificial in many ways. The subject of legal regulation of the law is to ensure the functioning of the Ukrainian language. This is exclusively about the Ukrainian language. The subject of legal regulation of this law is not the status of other languages. There is no inequality in the status of the languages of national minorities in this law, and there cannot be," F. Venislavsky said. (<https://strana.ua/news/277298-zakon-ob-ukrainizatsii-rassmatrivaet-ksu-predstavitel-zelenskoho-vystupil-protiv-otmeny.html>)

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) of Ukraine took a similar position during the session of the Constitutional Court on the constitutionality of the law on the state language. According to the representative of the Ministry of Education and Science Alexander Sych (head of the expert group for policy support of the Directorate for Strategic Planning and European Integration), this law does not violate the rights of national minorities in any way and does not establish any privileges or restrictions on the basis of language.

"The Ministry of Education and Science believes that the law on ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as a state language in terms of provisions that relate to education and science, is constitutional and does not violate the rights of national minorities," said A. Sych.

(<https://strana.ua/news/277715-minobrazovaniya-ne-usmatrivaet-v-zakone-o-totalnoj-ukrainizatsii-narusheniya-prav-natsmenshinstv.html>)

In turn, one of the initiators of the appeal to the Constitutional Court, a deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, a member of the parliamentary committee on human rights Vadym Novinsky, said that the submission of a group of deputies to the Constitutional Court regarding the compliance of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as a state" Russian-speaking Ukrainians and national minorities living on the territory of Ukraine.

“We defend the rights of ethnic Ukrainians who speak Russian and consider it their native language, as well as the most numerous national minority - Russians, whose rights are significantly limited by the Law“ On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language ”. We ask the Constitutional Court to establish the constitutionality of this normative act and to protect the Constitution from gross violations, ”V. Novinsky said.

According to him, instead of regulating public relations in the field of language policy in a multinational state, the language law confronts and opposes Ukrainian citizens who speak Ukrainian and Russian.

“We believe that the law violates the rights of national minorities, the Constitution of Ukraine, the European Charter for Regional Languages, and the procedure for its adoption was directly violated. Cases of non-personal voting were recorded, deputies who were not in the hall voted for the law, and even those who were abroad. Therefore, this law should be canceled, ”- said V. Novinsky. (<https://vesti.ua/strana/obrashhenie-v-ksu-po-yazykovomu-zakonu-yavlyaetsya-zashhitoy-prav-russkoyazychnyh>, <https://strana.ua/articles/analysis/277345-pochemu-predstavitel-prezidenta-v-ks-zajavil-hto-ne-nuzhno-otmenjat-zakon-o-totalnoj-ukrainizatsii-.html>)

On July 7, 2020, during the consideration of the law on the state language in the CCU, the judge of the Constitutional Court Igor Slidenko stated that the term "Russian-speaking citizens" is "part of Putin's military doctrine." This is how the judge reacted to the speech of the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of the 8th convocation Alexander Dolzhenkov, who declared the need to protect the Russian-speaking population of Donbass.

"Do you know that the term 'Russian-speaking citizens' is part of Putin's military doctrine?" - the judge turned to Dolzhenkov. In response, Dolzhenkov said that he knew nothing about this, since in his claims he was guided only by Ukrainian legislation and the Constitution of Ukraine. (<https://klymenko-time.com/skandaly/sudya-ksu-nazval-russkoyazychnyh-ukrainczev-chastyu-doktriny-putina/>, <https://news24ua.com/sudya-ksu-igor-slidenko-zayavil-hto-termin-russkoyazychnye-grazhdane-eto-chast-doktriny-putina>)

Comment

The consideration in the Constitutional Court of Ukraine of the case regarding the constitutionality of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language" demonstrated an extremely biased, biased and biased position of the absolute majority of representatives of the highest state authorities of Ukraine on the need to observe the cultural and linguistic rights

of the Russian ethnic community and other national communities, living on the territory of Ukraine, as well as the demonstrative disregard of the relevant recommendations of the Venice Commission by the highest Ukrainian officials and state institutions.

In particular, the judge-rapporteur on this case, Sergei Golovaty, was a deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of six convocations before his appointment to the Constitutional Court and repeatedly came up with legislative initiatives aimed at strengthening the privileged position of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of public life, including personally participating in development of many provisions of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language."

The conclusions of expert institutions, announced by S. Golovaty, were reduced to an unfounded denial of all problematic aspects of the law on the state language, to which attention was drawn in the constitutional submission of the Verkhovna Rada deputies. It is worth noting that both the conclusions of Golovaty and the conclusions of state institutions involved in the examination and actually advocating this law are based on a purely formal statement of the fact that the law does not say anything about the Russian language and the languages of other non-Ukrainian-speaking ethnic communities. At the same time, the defenders of the law on the state language deliberately ignored the fact that the norm of compulsory use of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of public life, enshrined in the law, in practice restricts the rights of any national minorities to use their own languages.

Another judge of the CCU, Igor Slidenko, while considering this issue in court, instead of legal arguments, resorted to openly Russophobic propaganda rhetoric characteristic of Ukrainian nationalist parties in his speech, stating that the term "Russian-speaking citizens" is part of "Putin's doctrine."

One of the delegates from the group of deputies of the Verkhovna Rada who signed the submission, the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of the 8th convocation, Alexander Dolzhenkov, said that the issue was politicized in the expert opinions. According to him, the authors of the constitutional submission did not raise the issue of the value of the Ukrainian language. He added that the presentation was submitted not for the purpose of manipulation, but in connection with the artificially created conditions for the prohibition of the Russian language.

Commenting on the consideration of the case in the Constitutional Court, Dolzhenkov noted that "the position of some judges of the Constitutional Court is openly biased. So far, we see that there is more politics in this case than legal position."

According to representatives of the Ukrainian expert community, after the speech of the representative of the President F. Venislavsky at the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, the recognition of this law as unconstitutional now looks problematic. Political scientist Vadim Karasev believes that President V. Zelensky is in an information vacuum on this issue and does not know what specific problems people may face if the law continues to operate in its current form.

According to political expert Andrei Zolotarev, the course of the consideration of this case in the CCU and the position on the language law voiced by F. Venislavsky on behalf of President V. Zelensky is "a slap in the face of all Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine."

According to Ukrainian political scientist Konstantin Bondarenko, "the authors of the law on the state language did everything to discriminate against the Russian language. its use in the public sphere and social life".

2. The situation around the bill No. 2362 "On amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine regarding teaching in the state language in educational institutions" (M. Buzhansky's bill)

On June 17, 2020, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy recommended rejecting the revised version of the bill No. 2362 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning Education in the State Language in Educational Institutions." Earlier, on March 18 of this year, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy postponed the decision on bill # 2362 to the next meeting for additional consultations, and on April 30 - sent the document for revision.

The author of the bill is Verkhovna Rada deputy Maxim Buzhansky (faction of the Servant of the People party). This document was registered in the Ukrainian parliament on October 31, 2019. It provides for amendments to the laws "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as a state language" and "On education" and postpones the transition of Russian-speaking grades 5-11 to teaching in Ukrainian from 2020 to 2023.

If M. Buzhansky's bill is rejected, all Russian-language schools in Ukraine will switch to the Ukrainian language of instruction as early as September 1, 2020. At the same time, schools with the language of instruction of other national minorities, which are the official languages of the EU, will be able to teach in the languages of the respective national minorities for another 3 years. M. Buzhansky's bill proposes to eliminate this discrimination by establishing a unified approach for all national minorities, and to allow Russian schools to switch to the Ukrainian language of instruction from 2023. (<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-politics/3047246-radi-rekomenduut-vidhiliti-movnij-zakonoproekt-buzanskogo.html>)

Comment

Today, Ukrainian legislation on education actually presupposes the division of Ukrainian citizens into three groups. Each of them has its own language model.

Thus, the "indigenous" peoples of Ukraine (these include the Crimean Tatars) can study in their native language from grades 1 to 11 (12), along with the study of the Ukrainian language.

The second group consists of national minorities for whom one of the official languages of the European Union is their native language. There are 23 official languages in the EU, including Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak and others (there is no Russian among them). They can, along with studying

the state, study in the mother's language in primary school. From grade 5, at least 20% of the annual study time must be taught in Ukrainian with a gradual increase, so that in grade 9 at least 40% of subjects are taught in the state language. And in high school, at least 60% of the annual study time must be read in Ukrainian. Moreover, these norms for them will take effect from September 1, 2023.

The third group is all other national minorities, including Russians and Russian-speaking residents of Ukraine. In schools with Russian as the language of instruction, starting from September 1, 2020, children will be able to receive education in their native language only in elementary school, along with learning Ukrainian, and from grade 5 at least 80% of curricula will be read in the state language.

These discriminatory language norms are contained in the law "On complete general secondary education" adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on January 16, 2020, and are completely identical to the norms of the law "On education" adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on September 5, 2017 - even under President P. Poroshenko ... And it is precisely these norms that were criticized by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) back in December 2017.

"This clause does not provide for a solution for languages that are not the official languages of the EU, in particular for Russian, as the most widely used language in Ukraine after the state one. A less favorable attitude towards these languages is difficult to justify, and therefore it raises the question of the discriminatory nature of the norm. of these considerations, the correct solution would be to amend Article 7, which would replace this provision with a more balanced and clearly formulated one. The issue of discrimination against the languages of other minorities whose languages are not official in the EU should also be resolved during such a revision, " in the conclusions of the Venice Commission.

It should also be noted that the Main Scientific and Expert Directorate of the Verkhovna Rada (MSED), which analyzes all draft laws, gave a positive assessment to M. Buzhansky's bill.

As noted in the conclusion of the MSED, "the establishment of a single transitional period for pupils of all indigenous peoples or national minorities of Ukraine will comply with the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine regarding the proclamation of Ukraine as a legal state (Article 1), ensuring the compliance of laws with the Basic Law of Ukraine (Article 8), ensuring equality constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens of Ukraine (Art. 24) ".

Also, experts from the MSED recalled that the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) in its conclusions drew the attention of Ukraine to the fact that discrimination of national minorities is unacceptable depending on whether they are speakers of the official languages of the European Union or other languages that are not official languages. The European Union.

On June 23, 2020, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Humanitarian Policy Nikita Poturayev (the Servant of the People faction) submitted a draft resolution to the Rada, in which he proposed to reject the draft of his colleague

in the faction, Maxim Buzhansky, on the languages of instruction in educational institutions.

As stated in the draft resolution of Poturayev, it was recommended to reject the bill №2362 on the basis of the committee's conclusion. (<https://strana.ua/news/274689-poturaev-predlozhit-otklonit-proekt-buzhanskoho-ob-otsrochke-perekhoda-russkikh-shkol-na-ukrainskij-jazyk-.html>)

On July 13, 2020, the head of the Lviv Regional State Administration Maksym Kozitsky, who is called by the Ukrainian media a close ally of the current Prime Minister of Ukraine Denis Shmygal, opposed the bill of the deputy M. Buzhansky.

"This week, the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine will probably vote for changes to the laws on the language in educational institutions. They were initiated by the people's deputy Maxim Buzhansky. If these changes are adopted, then Russian-language schools will no longer switch to the Ukrainian language of instruction. According to the current legislation, they must do it from September 1 this year," Kozitsky wrote on his Facebook page.

The head of the Lviv regional administration called on the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada from the Lviv region "to make the right decision", and recommended to the deputy Buzhansky "to study history better and finally understand that the only state language in our country is Ukrainian." (<https://strana.ua/news/278502-hubernator-lvovskoj-oblasti-kozitskij-vystupil-protiv-zakonoproekta-o-russkikh-shkolakh.html>)

On July 14, 2020, a group of Verkhovna Rada deputies from the Servant of the People faction made a public statement about the "danger" of bill No. 2362 on the postponement of the closure of Russian schools, which was prepared by their fellow party member Maxim Buzhansky. Opponents of the bill stated that bill No. 2362 contradicts their beliefs and "it introduces a split in society, creates tension, complicates the solution of national tasks of social development in the future." The deputies urged not to vote for this bill.

The corresponding statement was published on her Facebook page by MP Anastasia Radina. (<https://strana.ua/news/278640-hruppa-sluh-naroda-reshila-ne-podderzhyvat-zakonoproekt-buzhanskoho-o-jazyke.html>)

On July 17, 2020, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine did not consider Bill No. 2362 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts on Teaching in the State Language in Educational Institutions."

Earlier it was reported that this bill was included in the agenda, but for some unknown reason, MPs did not consider it at a parliamentary session.

According to the author of the bill, Maxim Buzhansky, the bill was listed as 32nd on the agenda, and the deputies "did not have time to consider it." Buzhansky said that there is no information yet when the Verkhovna Rada will consider it. However, the VR session has already closed. (<https://strana.ua/news/279222-v-rade-ne-rassmatryvali-proekt-zakona-buzhanskoho-.html>)

Comment

As noted by the Ukrainian edition of Vesti, “Buzhansky's proposal in itself did not carry something radical and rather dealt with the problem of a fair attitude towards the languages of national minorities: the transition to the Ukrainian language in schools with teaching in the languages of the EU countries was postponed for three years, and the rest obliged to do this from September 1, 2020. Buzhansky suggested that these schools also be granted a delay until 2023.

However, the Verkhovna Rada did not even vote for this bill, and Ukrainian politicians, including the speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, Dmitry Razumkov, opposed the proposed amendment. It turns out that, on the one hand, there is obvious linguistic discrimination against people, including minors, on the other hand, even an attempt to put the Russian language on a par with the EU and Ukrainian languages turned into a scandal and a real destabilization of the situation in the country. (<https://vesti.ua/politika/obshhestvennaya-ekspertiza-za-movu-ili-protiv-yazyka>)

3. Activities of the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language

On July 8, 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine appointed Taras Kremin as Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language (Language Ombudsman). In this post, he replaced Tatyana Monakhova, who resigned in April this year.

In the Ukrainian media, Taras Kremin is called a figure close to the former Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Earlier, Kremin was elected a deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of the 8th convocation from the party of Arseniy Yatsenyuk "People's Front", was a member of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Science and Education, where he dealt with issues of education of immigrants and residents of the controlled Donbass. As noted by the Ukrainian media, it was during this period that the total Ukrainianization of local schools fell. Kremin was also one of the co-authors of two notorious laws - the law "On education" and the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language." Both laws have been heavily criticized by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) for violating the rights of linguistic minorities.

The position of the language ombudsman is provided for by the Law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language." (<https://strana.ua/news/277538-kabmin-naznachil-jazykovoho-ombudsmena-.html>)

On July 15, 2020, the newly appointed Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language Taras Kremin called on the Verkhovna Rada not to vote for the bill of the People's Deputy from the Servant of the People faction Maksim Buzhansky on the state language in the educational process.

"I appeal to the people's deputies of Ukraine not to support and withdraw from consideration the draft law" On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Teaching the State Language in Educational Institutions "(No. 2362)," Kremin wrote on his Facebook page.

According to T. Kremin, Buzhansky's bill proposes "to disrupt the transition to the Ukrainian language of instruction from September 1, 2020, students in grades 5-11 who still studied in Russian, postponing this transition until 2023." (<https://strana.ua/news/278784-taras-kremin-protiv-zakonoproekta-nardepa-buzhanskoho-po-hosudarstvennomu-jazyku.html>)

On July 16, 2020, Ombudsman for the Protection of the State Language Taras Kremin spoke at a rally near the walls of the Verkhovna Rada, which was organized by Petro Poroshenko's party European Solidarity in protest against the consideration of the Ukrainian parliament of the draft law by Maxim Buzhansky.

During his speech, the video of which was posted on Facebook, Kremin called the bill on the postponement for three years of the Ukrainianization of Russian-speaking schools in the country "an attempt to ban children from speaking Ukrainian" and "a cynical and inhuman act."

"I have not seen a more cynical, inhuman and anti-Ukrainian act in the history of modern Ukraine and the history of Europe in general. It seems to me that together with this action, which is taking place in support of the law on the Ukrainian language, which we support, and the key positions of the law on education, we must say categorically there are no such legislative initiatives that have nothing to do with either Ukraine, or education, or the future," Kremin said.

He also called on the deputies not to pass bill # 2362 on the postponement of the Ukrainianization of Russian-language schools. (<https://strana.ua/news/278995->

[na-mitinhe-poroshenko-protiv-otsrochki-ukrainizatsii-shkol-vystupil-taras-kremin.html](#))

Comment

The first public statements and actions of T. Kremin as the commissioner for the protection of the state language showed that his position on the language issue boils down to a demonstrative disregard for the cultural and linguistic rights and needs of the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine - and in this sense it completely coincides with the position of the previous Ukrainian government. This attitude towards the rights of the Russian-speaking population is partly due to the basic functions of the institution of the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language, created with the aim of strengthening the privileged position of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of public life. We should also not forget about the political views of T. Kremin himself, who during the presidency of P. Poroshenko was part of the then ruling coalition and, as a deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, took an active part in the development of key legislative acts that were openly discriminatory against those living in Ukraine national minorities.

4. Deprivation of the Russian language of the regional status in Odessa

The Odessa District Administrative Court overturned the decision of the Odessa City Council to give the Russian language a regional status in the city. This was announced on August 30, 2020 by the Lviv nationalist activist Svyatoslav Litinsky, who went to court with a corresponding claim.

As Litinsky himself explained, at first he wrote an appeal to the Odessa City Council, but they refused to cancel their decision to give the Russian language regional status. Then he wrote a statement to the prosecutor's office of the Odessa region, and when they refused to file a lawsuit there, he filed a claim with the Lviv Regional Administrative Court against the prosecutor's office of the Odessa region in connection with the failure to consider his appeal. In October 2019, Litinsky won a court case against the prosecutor's office of the Odessa region, forcing him to consider his appeal. After that, the deputy prosecutor of the Odessa region filed a lawsuit against the Odessa City Council, and in August 2020, the Odessa District Administrative Court recognized the decision of the City Council to give the Russian language the status of a regional language illegal and invalid.

According to Ukrainian media reports, representatives of the Odessa City Council tried to challenge the demands of the Deputy Regional Prosecutor, insisting that the claim was a direct intervention of the Prosecutor in power and management functions. However, the Administrative Court rejected these requests from the City Hall's Legal Department.

Litinsky also thanked the Ukrainian Galician Party for legal assistance. Now Litinsky plans to achieve the abolition of the regional status of the Russian language in Kharkov. Earlier, Litinsky managed to deprive the Russian language of the regional status in Kherson, Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov and Donetsk regions in the same way. (<https://dumskaya.net/news/lvovskiy-aktivist-dobilsya-otmeny-v-odesse-regio-124118/>, <https://www.facebook.com/svyatoslav.litynskyyy/posts/10158355953185617>,

[http://timer-](http://timer-odessa.net/news/lvovskiy_aktivist_lishil_russkiy_yazik_v_odesse_statusa_regionalnogo_441.html)

[odessa.net/news/lvovskiy_aktivist_lishil_russkiy_yazik_v_odesse_statusa_regionalnogo_441.html,](http://timer-odessa.net/news/lvovskiy_aktivist_lishil_russkiy_yazik_v_odesse_statusa_regionalnogo_441.html)

[https://zaxid.net/lvivskiy_aktivist_svyatoslav_litinskiy_domigsya_skasuvannya_regionalnoyi_movi_v_odesi_n1506992\)](https://zaxid.net/lvivskiy_aktivist_svyatoslav_litinskiy_domigsya_skasuvannya_regionalnoyi_movi_v_odesi_n1506992)

Comment

The Odessa City Council granted the Russian language the status of a regional language on the territory of Odessa in 2012. The text of the decision of the City Council indicated that it was adopted on the basis of data from the 2001 All-Ukrainian Population Census, according to which the share of ethnic Russians is almost 30% of the population of Odessa (292 thousand people), and more than 90% of the townspeople use Russian as their native language.

The decision of the Odessa City Council was based on the Law of Ukraine "On the Foundations of State Language Policy", which entered into force on August 10, 2012 (in the media, this law was often referred to as the "Kivalov-Kolesnichenko law"; on February 28, 2018, the law was declared unconstitutional and lost force). Also, this decision fully meets the norms of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, according to which a language acquires the status of a regional language if it is used by 2% to 10% of native speakers in a particular region.

Various sociological polls that have been conducted in Odessa in recent years have shown that over 88% of Odessa residents use Russian in informal communication.

5. Statements of the highest officials of Ukraine on the language problem

In an interview with the online edition *Ukrainskaya Pravda*, published on July 6, 2020, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (NSDC) Oleksiy Danilov said that the only state language in Ukraine should be Ukrainian. Danilov also categorically opposed giving the Russian language the status of a second state language. At the same time, in his opinion, citizens of Ukraine from kindergarten should also learn English, which could become the second in the country.

"The question of language is a very important, fundamental question for the state. There can be no second, Russian, we can have ... If we are talking about Ukraine, it should only be the state Ukrainian language. Should there be a second language in Ukraine? Of course, there should be But it should be English, which should be studied starting from kindergarten. All citizens of Ukraine, if we want to be in a civilized world, should know and use English. This is a mandatory thing," Danilov said. ([https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-society/3057615-vtorym-azykom-v-ukraine-dolzen-byt-anglijskij-a-ne-russkij-danilov.html/](https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-society/3057615-vtorym-azykom-v-ukraine-dolzen-byt-anglijskij-a-ne-russkij-danilov.html), <https://strana.ua/news/277065-sekretar-snbo-danilov-prizval-ukraintsev-s-detskoho-sada-uchit-anhlijskij.html>)

Comment

A. Danilov's statement is yet another evidence of the demonstrative disregard by the state authorities of Ukraine and individual officials of the cultural and linguistic rights and interests of the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine. It is

worth recalling that in accordance with the last All-Ukrainian Population Census, held in 2001, over 14 million inhabitants of Ukraine (29.6% of the total population) named Russian as their native language. Various sociological studies carried out in Ukraine over the past few years have shown that at least 35% of the respondents consider Russian to be their native language. According to a sociological survey conducted by the Kiev International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) at the end of April 2020, 48.8% of respondents believe that the Russian language is a historical heritage of Ukraine that is worth developing.

6. Problems of individual ethnic communities

1) Bulgarian community

On May 19, 2020, under the building of the Odessa Regional State Administration (RSA), representatives of the villages of the Bolgradsky District held a rally convened with the support of the President of the Association of Bulgarians of Ukraine, Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Anton Kisse, against the plans of the regional leadership to create five separate united territorial communities on the territory of the Bolgradsky District (ATCs). According to the plans of the Odessa Regional State Administration, agreed with the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine, on the territory of the current Bogradsky district, by the end of this year, it is planned to create five ATCs with centers in Kubei, Gorodny, Vasilyevka and Krinichny, and Bolgrad itself, in within the framework of "enlargement", to include in a new district with the center in Izmail.

On May 20, 2020, the National Assembly of Bulgaria voted in favor of a declaration on administrative-territorial reform in Ukraine and the protection of the rights and integrity of the Bulgarian community. The document was supported by 109 deputies with 19 abstaining. There were no votes against. The website of the country's parliament reports.

Bulgarian MPs expressed strong disagreement with the planned administrative changes in Ukraine and called on the Bulgarian government to take all possible measures to ensure the preservation of the integrity of the Bulgarian community in the Bolgradsky district of the Odessa region during the upcoming administrative-territorial reform.

The National Assembly demanded that the government propose to organize an urgent intergovernmental meeting to discuss measures to protect the rights and inviolability of the Bulgarian minority in Ukraine, including by updating the Protocol on Cooperation and consultations with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

The MPs insist that the solution of the problems of the Bulgarian community in Ukraine is a priority issue that must be resolved in accordance with European values.

An administrative reform planned by the Ukrainian government could divide the Bolgradskiy region into five communities, where ethnic Bulgarians will no longer be in the majority. According to Sofia, this will jeopardize the rights of the

Bulgarian minority. According to unofficial data, it numbers about 250-300 thousand people in the region. (<https://strana.ua/news/268409-parlament-bolharii-prinjal-deklaratsiju-protiv-razdela-bolhradskoho-rajona-odeschiny.html>, <https://parliament.bg/bg/news/ID/5078>)

2) *Hungarian community*

On July 8, 2020, the Democratic Union of Hungarians of Ukraine addressed the participants in the committee hearings held in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the topic "Problematic issues of legislative regulation and implementation of policy to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples and national minorities."

As noted in the Appeal, "over the past three years, or rather over the six-year post-Maid period of the history of our state, there has been a gross, unprecedented in Europe in terms of scale, deprivation of the rights of national minorities. The negative of these legislative innovations was most acutely felt by the representatives of our community - the Hungarians of Transcarpathia, because the laws of Ukraine "On education", "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as a state language", "On complete general secondary education" deprived us, in particular, of the right, which means, and opportunities:

- to receive education in their native language at all levels and forms of the educational process;
- to make records of the surname and first name according to the rules of spelling in the native language in the documents in which they are submitted in Latin script;
- to use our native language along with the Ukrainian language in the work of local government bodies;
- apply in writing and orally to public authorities and their officials in their native language and receive a response in that language;
- to use the native language in the process of elections and referenda;
- to carry out, along with the state language, also in the native language, the names of public authorities and local self-government enterprises, institutions and organizations on official letterheads and signs;
- to carry out, along with the state language, geographical names, inscriptions on road signs, street names, etc. also in their native language.

In addition to the aforementioned, the aforementioned laws significantly narrowed the possibilities of using the native language in the fields of science, culture, publishing, print and electronic media. "

As noted in the Appeal, "before the aforementioned legislative changes, our community was endowed not only theoretically, but exercised them, used them in practice in their daily life for the past 100 years in various state formations, in which during this period of time our native land, including in independent Ukraine".

According to the authors of the Appeal, "by such actions the Ukrainian legislator violated a number of articles of the Constitution of Ukraine and a number of international treaties. And this is not only our subjective opinion, this is stated in a number of documents of the competent bodies-organizations of the UN and the

Council of Europe. In particular, in the conclusions of the Venice Commission on these issues. "

The authors of the appeal indicate that the regulation and implementation of the policy to ensure the rights of national minorities should be directed, first of all, to the restoration of violated rights. From the point of view of legal technology, this cannot be done solely through the adoption of new laws (for example, the Law "On National Minorities"), because without making appropriate changes to the existing laws, internal contradictions will inevitably form in the legislative system of Ukraine.

(<https://goloskarpat.info/rus/boundless/5f0613ccdbc9f>,
<https://ua.kiszo.net/2020/07/08/звернення-демократичної-спілки-уго>)

On July 29, 2020, Hungarian Ambassador Istvan Idyarto said in an interview with the Interfax-Ukraine news agency about the problems of ethnic Hungarians living in Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, there are three reforms in Ukraine at the moment, which, incidentally, all three are very negative for Hungarians: education reform, language use and administrative reform. Somehow, these three reforms cause a permanent deterioration in the rights of minorities. the main problem, "Idyarto said.

According to the Hungarian diplomat, Hungary will maintain its veto at the ministerial-level meetings of the Ukraine-NATO commission until it sees progress on the Ukrainian side in securing minority rights.

"That is why we wanted to send a very serious signal that something is wrong with the rights of minorities in Ukraine, and Ukraine should return to the policy it pursued before the adoption of the Law on Education, the Law on Higher Education and the Law on ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language. "These are three laws that were sharply criticized by the Hungarian side," Idyarto said.

According to him, from the very beginning, during the adoption and immediately after the adoption of these laws, Ukraine began to use political arguments, and the situation with the protection of minority rights has become a highly politicized topic. (<https://strana.ua/news/281433-posol-venhrii-nazval-reformy-kotorye-meshajut-venhram-v-ukraine-.html>)

3) Romanian community

On July 16, 2020, the National Council of Romanians in Ukraine complained to the Romanian authorities about the violation of the rights of their community to education in their native language and administrative reform projects. The statement notes that Romanians are subject to systematic forced Ukrainization in all spheres of life. This was reported by the Romanian service of Radio Liberty with reference to the statement of the National Council of Romanians in Ukraine. (<https://romania.europalibera.org/a/rom%C3%A2nii-din-ucraina-ce-risc%C4%83-dup%C4%83-reforma-administrativ%C4%83/30710317.html>)

In May 2020, representatives of the Romanian community appealed to the Ukrainian authorities, and in June they wrote letters addressed to a number of state institutions and senior officials in Romania. In these letters, representatives of the

Romanian community reported a violation of the right to education in their native language and accused the Ukrainian authorities of "cultural and linguistic genocide."

The Romanian community said in a statement that the Romanians, who number about 500,000 in Ukraine and who are the second largest national minority in the country after the Russians, "are undergoing a well-organized systematic process of forced Ukrainization in all spheres of state policy."

In addition to the right to education in their native language, Romanians are worried about the administrative reform that the Ukrainian authorities are currently implementing under the slogan of decentralization. Currently, the Romanian community compactly lives in four of the 11 districts of the Chernivtsi region, and after the administrative reform there will be 3-4 districts, in which Romanians will make up about 10% of the population. Such actions will lead to the loss of representation in the Verkhovna Rada and insufficient representation in local councils, the authors of the statement believe. The National Council of Romanians in Ukraine also notes that "the artificial inclusion of a compactly populated territory by the Romanian minority into various macro-regions will lead to forced assimilation, which contradicts international obligations that Ukraine voluntarily assumed."

In the context of the unresolved problem of teaching ethnic minorities in schools in their native language, which was created by the previous government, instead of easing the conflict state, the emerging scenario may become a pretext for aggravating the interethnic situation in Ukraine.

It is reported that the National Council of Romanians asks Romania to reach agreements with Ukraine similar to those that already exist between Ukraine and Hungary (on the preservation of the mother tongue in the schools of the Hungarian community) and Bulgaria (on supporting the unity of the Bulgarian community in the territorial and administrative reform). (<https://strana.ua/news/278990-ukrainskie-rumyny-pozhalovalis-bukharestu-na-prinuditelnuju-ukrainizatsiju-i-adminreformu.html>, <https://www.unn.com.ua/ru/news/1880884-rumuni-v-ukrayini-skarzhatsya-bukharestu-na-porushennya-prava-na-osvitu-ridnoyu-movoyu>, <https://www.news.ro/politic-extern/romanii-ucraina-reclama-incalcarea-dreptului-educatie-limba-materna-acuza-genocid-cultural-lingvistic-actiunile-statului-roman-aceasta-perioada-au-mult-moderate-1922400816552020070819422263>)

II. Violations of political and civil rights affecting the interests of national communities

1. Intimidation and threats against politicians who defend the rights of the Russian-speaking population

On July 16, 2020 it became known that the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, the author of the bill on the postponement of the Ukrainization of Russian schools, Maxim Buzhansky, was added to the base of the site "Myrotvorets (Peacemaker)". On the website, he was accused of actions against the national security of Ukraine, as well as of allegedly carrying out "deliberate actions aimed at destabilizing the socio-political situation in Ukraine." Buzhansky was also called "a Ukrainophobe and a provocateur."

At the same time, the "Myrotvorets (Peacemaker)" confirms that the deputy was added to the database because of his language bill # 2362. In this regard, the site asks law enforcement agencies "to consider this publication as a statement about the committed by this citizen of deliberate acts against the national security of Ukraine, peace, security of humanity and international law and order, as well as other offenses."

Also, the website "Myrotvorets (Peacemaker)" published the home address and contact phone numbers of M. Buzhansky. (<https://strana.ua/news/279007-maksima-buzhanskoho-vnesli-v-bazu-mirotvortsya.html>, <https://myrotvorets.center/criminal/buzhanskij-maksim-arkadevich/>)

Comment

It is worth noting that during the presidency of P. Poroshenko, the Myrotvorets (Peacemaker) website took an active part in intimidating and harassing political opponents of the then Ukrainian government. For 6 years, the site has been collecting and publishing personal data of citizens without their consent, which is contrary to Ukrainian legislation and international legal norms. The illegal activity of the site "Peacemaker" has been repeatedly sharply criticized by the Ukrainian and international community, as well as a number of foreign countries. In October 2019, the UN monitoring mission in Ukraine called on the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada to initiate the closure of the Myrotvorets website. This was stated by the Deputy Chairman of the UN Monitoring Mission in Ukraine Benjamin Moro at a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Freedom of Expression. "The site contains personal data of individuals, including journalists, which violates national law and international norms. Those whose data is posted on the site are designated as terrorists, separatists and traitors. The disclosure of their data, in turn, poses a danger to such persons", - noted Moreau. (<https://www.dw.com/ru/миссия-оон-призвала-верховную-раду-закрыть-сайт-мироворец/a-50860395>)

2. Persecution of leaders and activists of national community organizations

On August 20, 2020, in Kherson, the Security Service of Ukraine detained Tatyana Kuzmich, head of the public organization Russian National Community "Rusich", on suspicion of high treason.

T. Kuzmich - candidate of pedagogical sciences, head of the educational and methodological laboratory for managing educational institutions of the communal higher educational institution "Kherson Academy of Continuing Education" of the Kherson Regional Council. From 1988 to 2007 she worked as a teacher of Russian language and literature in educational institutions of Kherson No. 24, UVK "School of Humanitarian Labor", No. 30, No. 15. (<https://kherson.net.ua/news/v-hersone-sbu-zaderzhala-tatjanu-kuzmich>)

On August 21, 2020, the Kherson City Court arrested until October 9, 2020 the head of the public organization "Russian National Community" "Rusich" and the teacher of the municipal higher educational institution "Kherson Academy of Continuing Education" of the Kherson Regional Council Tatyana Kuzmich. SSU suspects the woman of high treason.

The case was heard behind closed doors at the request of the prosecution, which referred to the impossibility of disclosing the case materials. According to the investigation, Kuzmich, during his stay in the annexed Crimea, "was involved by the Russian FSB (Federal Security Service) in espionage activities and transferred materials for subversive work in the Kherson region and throughout Ukraine."

After the announcement of the decision of Judge Oksana Chernysh, which the journalists were also not present, an officer of the judicial security service demanded that the media representatives leave the court building, explaining this by the end of the working day and the judge's request "to remove not the participants in the trial and not the court staff." Then he took the journalists out of the courthouse. (<https://nikcenter.org/newsItem/60119>)

3. Restriction of the electoral rights of citizens for political reasons

The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) proposes not to allow those who cooperate with Russia to participate in the elections. Such a proposal was made by the head of the SSU Ivan Bakanov at a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine on ensuring the security of the electoral process, which took place on August 27, 2020. He also proposed to exclude from the electoral lists those who have passports of other countries (dual citizenship).

"I. Bakanov noted the need to legislatively regulate the impossibility of including in the electoral lists of persons who cooperate with the aggressor state, as well as persons who have citizenship of other states," the press service of the National Security and Defense Council said.

According to the head of the SSU, all participants in the electoral process "within the framework of prevention" will be warned of criminal liability for violation of the electoral legislation of Ukraine. (<https://golos.ua/i/770223>, <https://www.rnbo.gov.ua/ua/Diialnist/4678.html>)

III. Cases of discrimination against citizens of Ukraine on the basis of language in various spheres of public life and in everyday life

On June 15, 2020, the Ukrainian Internet publication Strana reported on a language scandal in which the American company McDonald's fell after it refused to provide its services to clients in Russian. Only two languages are available in the electronic menu of the popular fast food restaurant chain: Ukrainian and English.

This angered many social media users, who considered it discrimination against the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine and even called for a boycott of McDonald's restaurants. (<https://strana.ua/news/273190-polzovateli-objavili-bojkot-mcdonalds-iz-za-otkaza-obsluzhivat-klientov-na-russkom-jazyke.html>)

On June 17, 2020, the Ukrainian Embassy in the United States supported McDonald's, which refused to provide its services to clients in Russian. Ukrainian diplomats said the names of dishes in Ukrainian sound tastier and called for learning Ukrainian with McDonald's.

"We fully understand McDonalds, the names of food in Ukrainian sound much tastier. Many thanks to the company for its firm position on the Ukrainian language in the menu of McDonald's stores in Ukraine. Now we can say:" Learn Ukrainian with McDonald's ", says the microblog of the Ukrainian Embassy in the US on Twitter. (<https://strana.ua/news/273586-posolstvo-ukrainy-v-ssha-podderzhal-mcdonalds-v-skandale-s-otsutstviem-russkoho-jazyka-v-menju.html>)

After the language scandal with the Ukrainian McDonald's chain, the Ukrainian restaurant chain "Lviv Croissants" announced its refusal to serve visitors in Russian. Representatives of the network said that the position of the Ukrainian language has always been fundamental for the company, and removed the Russian language from self-service terminals and menus. This "Lviv Croissants" reported on June 19 this year. on your Facebook page.

As follows from the press service of "Lviv Croissants", the restaurant was forced to install contactless terminals for serving guests. This is one of the government's requirements for the operation of catering establishments in the context of the coronavirus epidemic. At the same time, by default, 4 service languages are registered in the factory settings (English, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian). They did not hesitate to install the terminals and installed the terminals without changes, and after a while, changing the factory settings, they removed the Russian language from the menu.

"Further, everything is simple. There is no Russian in our self-service terminals," Lviv Croissants said in a message. At the same time, Polish and English remained in the terminals along with Ukrainian. At the same time, the company's website contains two languages - English and Ukrainian.. (<https://strana.ua/news/274277-lvovskie-kruassany-ne-budut-obsluzhivat-posetitelej-na-russkom.html>, <https://strana.ua/news/274458-lvovskie-kruassany-otkazalis-ot-russkoho-jazyka-v-obsluzhivanii.html>)

Comment

It should be noted that according to the KIIS sociological survey, which was published on June 29, 2020, the majority of respondents believe that the menu in public catering should be presented in two languages - Ukrainian and Russian. Thus, the respondents were asked in what language - Ukrainian and / or Russian - the menu (description of dishes) should be in canteens, snack bars, cafes and restaurants (except for languages such as English and others). 40% of respondents chose the answer "in Ukrainian and Russian throughout the country", 27% - "necessarily in Ukrainian and additionally in Russian, where the majority of the population wants it", 25% - "only in Ukrainian throughout the country". Thus, the majority of respondents (67%) believe that the menu should be in Ukrainian and Russian throughout the country or in separate (Russian-speaking) regions. (<https://strana.ua/news/275844-ukraintsy-khotjat-videt-menju-restoranov-na-dvukh-jazykakh-russkom-i-ukrainskom.html>).

On August 16, 2020, the public organization "Opora (support)" disseminated a message that billboards appeared in the town of Slavyansk, Donetsk region, on which the former city head of Slavyansk Nelia Shtepa and a text in Russian were depicted.

"In the Donetsk region, billboards appeared on the streets of Sloviansk, which depict the former city head of Sloviansk, Nelia Shtepa, and a text in Russian," the message says.

"Opora" said that the advertisement contains signs of violation of the laws "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language" and "On advertising", namely, provisions concerning the language of advertising. Therefore, "Opora" filed a complaint with the General Directorate of the State Food and Consumer Service in the Donetsk region and with a statement to the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language.

Nelia Shtepa herself in an interview on August 1 of this year said that she intended to take part in the local elections on October 25, 2020. Shtepa said that the political council of the political party "Party for Peace and Development" nominated her as a candidate for the post of mayor of Slavyansk. (<https://112.ua/politika/v-slavyanske-eks-glava-goroda-nelya-shtepa-razvesila-bordy-na-russkom-546915.html>, https://www.oporaua.org/news/vybory/mistsevi-vybory/mistsevi_2020/20286-u-sloviansku-na-donechchini-ziavilis-bilbordi-rosiiskoiu-movoiu)

Comment

It should be noted that Opora's complaint about the use of the Russian language in outdoor advertising by one of the candidates with reference to the norms of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language" is a direct consequence of the discriminatory norms laid down in this law in relation to Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine. At the same time, the claims contained in the Opora's complaint regarding the use of the Russian language in electoral advertising directly contradict Article 10 of the Constitution of Ukraine,

according to which “the free development, use and protection of Russian and other languages of national minorities of Ukraine are guaranteed in Ukraine”.

IV. Incitement of interethnic hatred, use of hate speech, manifestations of xenophobia and anti-Semitism

On April 20, 2020, an unknown attacker threw a bottle with a flammable mixture under the doors of the Kherson Jewish community. The explosion did not come out by pure chance. This was reported by the press service of the National Police in the Kherson region.

“Today, at about three o'clock in the morning, a resident of the regional center called the police of the Kherson region at the “United Center 102”. The applicant said that he saw an unknown man set fire to a bottle of flammable liquid, threw it on the threshold of the Jewish religious community building on Teatralnaya street and disappeared. The Khersonian said that the fire did not occur because the liquid did not ignite, “the message says. (<https://strana.ua/news/262509-antisemitizm-v-khersoni-neizvestnyj-brosil-butylku-s-lehkovosplamenjajushchejsja-smesju-v-iudejskuju-obshchinu.html>, <https://hr.npu.gov.ua/news/novini/v-xersoni-policziya-vstanovlyuje-osobu-pidpalyvacha-budivli-iudejskoji-religijnoji-obshhini/>)

On June 10, 2020, Taras Bilan, a deputy of the Ternopil City Council from Petro Poroshenko's party "European Solidarity", published on his Facebook page an appeal to V. Zelensky, in which he proposed to detonate nuclear bombs in Budapest, Moscow and St. Petersburg in order to "protect against attacks by Hungary and Russia".

The reason for the deputy's appeal was the plans for a new administrative division in Transcarpathia, where a large "Hungarian" region with the center in Beregovo is being formed.

"Today - Hungary. Tomorrow the same concessions will be demanded by Romania. And as regards Russia, the latter is openly preparing for an armed attack with the aim of seizing the Odessa, Kherson and Nikolaev regions," T. Bilan wrote.

Then he outlines in stages what Ukraine should do to prevent an "invasion".

"To instruct Energoatom, together with scientific research institutes of Ukraine, to urgently create 100-150 atomic charges and so-called "dirty" bombs as a means of deterring an external aggressor. Install nuclear warheads on RK-360MTS" Neptune "missiles with the introduction coordinates on the territory of the states: Hungary and the Russian Federation.

Create 50-100 sabotage and reconnaissance groups from the volunteers and volunteers of the "first wave of mobilization". To hand over to them the created "dirty bombs" with the order to install and put on alert near the military facilities of the cities: Budapest (Hungary), St. Petersburg and Moscow (Russian Federation), "Bilan wrote in his address to Zelensky.

In a comment to the Strana website, the deputy confirmed that this is indeed his appeal. (<https://strana.ua/news/272257-v-ternopole-deputat-ot-poroshenko-predlahaet-vzorvat-bomby-v-budapeshte-moskve-i-sankt-peterburhe.html>)

On July 15, 2020, a former deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, a member of the Popular Front party Leonid Yemets called the Russian language "the language of animals." So Yemets reacted to the possible consideration by the Verkhovna Rada

of M. Buzhansky's bill on postponing the Ukrainianization of Russian-language schools. Yemets posted the corresponding comment on his Facebook page.

In the publication, Leonid Yemets linked the postponement of the transfer of Russian-language schools to Ukrainian with the death of Ukrainian soldiers in eastern Ukraine. After which he called Russian "the language of animals" and "the language of the aggressor."

"Today for me it is not the language of Lermontov, Bulgakov and Vysotsky. It is the language of animals capable of shooting a doctor on the battlefield. The language of an aggressor who invaded our land, to kill our Ukrainian people," wrote Yemets. (<https://strana.ua/news/278802-leonid-emets-obozyal-russkij-jazykom-zhivotnykh.html>)

On July 16, 2020, a protest action "Hands off the tongue" organized by the European Solidarity party of Petro Poroshenko began near the building of the Verkhovna Rada. The organizers of the action protest against the bill No. 2362 by M. Buzhansky, which provides for the postponement of the transition of Russian-language schools to the Ukrainian language of instruction from September 1, 2020 to September 1, 2023.

Speaking at the rally, the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada from the European Solidarity party, Volodymyr Vyatrovich, said that on July 17, a protest action "Hands off the tongue" would be held near the Verkhovna Rada.

"Today they removed the Buzhansky law from the agenda, this is our small victory, but they must consider it tomorrow. Therefore, we must all get together tomorrow again," Vyatrovich urged.

Participants of the action held posters: "No language - no state! Ukraine is above all!", "Vile ZEidiot Buzhansky! Do you want" Russian world "? F@ck you - to Donetsk!" (<https://strana.ua/news/278962-pod-radoj-16-ijulja-protestujut-protiv-otsrochki-ukrainizatsii-shkol.html>)

On July 17, 2020, the Democratic Sokira (Democratic ax) party staged a performance in front of the Verkhovna Rada against M. Buzhansky's bill to postpone the Ukrainianization of Russian-language schools.

Participants of the action laid out pieces of wood in the form of a fire and lit smoke bombs. At the same time, the protesters banged on metal buckets with sticks. The action looked like an imitation of a scene from the life of primitive people. According to the organizers of the performance, this is a warning to the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada not to vote for Buzhansky's bill. If the deputies vote, they will light a fire.

"Such bonfires will start burning all over the country," the protester threatened. (<https://strana.ua/news/279223-demsokira-i-evrosolidarnost-mitinhovali-pod-radoj-protiv-zakonoproekta-buzhanskoho.html>)

On July 28, 2020, a synagogue in Mariupol (Donetsk region) was attacked. This was reported by the United Jewish Community of Ukraine with reference to the words of the leader of the Jewish community of Mariupol, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Cohen.

After the morning prayer, an unknown person broke into the synagogue building with an ax. The criminal attacked the guard, who came out to meet him, inflicting several blows on him. According to the rabbi, a fight broke out. As a result of the fight, the guard managed to disarm the attacker.

Video from surveillance cameras was also provided in the community. The video shows a young man attacking a security guard with an ax. Already fleeing from the synagogue, the attacker managed to throw bags and jars of feces, sand and an unknown substance towards the building. (<https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/neizvestnyij-vorvalsya-v-sinagogu-mariupolya-s-toporom>, <https://strana.ua/news/281203-na-sinahohu-v-mariupole-napal-neizvestnyj-s-toporom-.html>)

On August 24, 2020, the online publication Strana reported that the deputy chairman of the State Commission of Ukraine for Minerals, Ternopil Regional Council deputy Bohdan Yatsikovsky, had publicly performed an author's song with anti-Semitic and Russophobic lyrics, based on the popular Ukrainian song Cheremshina. The song is called "The Jew Before Hanging". The video of the deputy's speech was published on YouTube.

In this regard, the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada from the party "Opposition Platform - For Life" Renat Kuzmin sent an appeal to the National Police to prosecute B. Yatsinkovsky. R. Kuzmin wrote about this on his Facebook page.

During his public speech, Yatsikovsky B.I., who by virtue of membership in the political party "Oleg Lyashko's Radical Party" has well-established beliefs, political and social views, by performing the song openly incited national enmity and hatred towards citizens who consider themselves to the Russian and Jewish nations, at the same time humiliating and insulting the national honor, dignity and feelings of the named citizens in connection with their ethnic origin ", - R. Kuzmin noted in his statement.

B. Yatsikovsky is the Deputy Chairman of the State Commission on Mineral Reserves for Economic Development and International Activities, as well as the head of the Ternopil territorial organization "Oleg Lyashko's Radical Party". (<https://strana.ua/news/285781-deputat-v-ternopole-spel-antisemitskuju-pesnju-.html>)

V. Restrictions on freedom of speech, political censorship

On May 14, 2020, shortly before midnight, President Vladimir Zelensky signed a decree extending the ban on Russian social networks in Ukraine. The relevant document is published on the website of the head of state.

Thus, Odnoklassniki, VKontakte, Mail.ru, Yandex and many other popular Russian resources remain banned.

The day before, on May 13 this year, the National Security and Defense Council decided to extend the ban on Russian resources and submitted a draft presidential decree to the Zelensky Office. In addition, the Verkhovna Rada at an extraordinary meeting on May 13 this year, supported the appeal to extend sanctions against Russian sites.

The decree of former President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko on blocking Russian sites was signed on May 15, 2017. Its validity was to expire on May 15, 2020.

It is worth noting that former President Poroshenko supported the extension of the ban on Russian sites and social networks in Ukraine. (<https://strana.ua/news/267178-zelenskij-prodlil-zapret-na-rossijskie-sajty-i-sotsseti-v-ukraine.html>)

Along with the extension of the ban on Russian sites and social networks, Ukraine has imposed sanctions against museums, universities, research institutions and public organizations of the Russian Federation. This is stated in the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of May 14, 2020 "On the application, cancellation and amendment of personal special economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions)", enacted by decree of President Vladimir Zelensky.

According to the document, sanctions for a period of 3 years are imposed on the following institutions and organizations:

- Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan;
- All-Russian public organization "Russian Geographical Society";
- State Hermitage;
- State Museum of Fine Arts named after A. Pushkin;
- Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "Lomonosov Moscow State University";
- Tula State Pedagogical University. L. N. Tolstoy;
- Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve "Scythian Naples" (Simferopol);
- Black Sea Underwater Research Center (Simferopol);
- Crimean Regional Center for Archaeological Research (Simferopol);
- Research and Production Center "Crimean Archaeological Society" (Simferopol);
- Tauride Archaeological Society (Simferopol);
- Crimean Federal University named after V. I. Vernadsky (Simferopol);

- Institute of Archeology of Crimea RAS;
- autonomous non-profit organization Scientific and Educational Center for Paleoethnological Research;
- Scientific and educational center "Arkhe" (St. Petersburg);
- Southern Regional Center for Archaeological Research (Krasnodar);
- LLC "Terra" (engaged in the study of monuments of all archaeological periods);
- Autonomous non-profit organization "Underwater Cultural Heritage" (Sevastopol);
- Charitable Foundation (BF) "Demetra" (helps to preserve and popularize the cultural, historical and archaeological heritage of Kerch and Eastern Crimea);
- CF "Heritage of Millennia" (Simferopol).

Ukraine has introduced restrictive measures to the listed legal entities, among which are the following:

1. blocking of assets - a temporary limitation of the right of a person to use and dispose of his property;
2. preventing the withdrawal of capital from Ukraine;
3. suspension of performance of economic and financial obligations;
4. cancellation or suspension of licenses and other permits, the receipt (availability) of which is a condition for certain activities, in particular the use of subsoil;
5. termination of cultural exchanges, scientific cooperation, educational and sports contacts, entertainment programs with foreign states and foreign legal entities;
6. cancellation of official visits, meetings, negotiations on the conclusion of contracts or agreements.

<https://strana.ua/news/267509-ukraina-vvela-sanktsii-protiv-rossijskikh-muzeev-vedushchikh-vuzov-i-nauchnykh-uchrezhdenij.html>

Since November 2019, no books from Russia have been imported into Ukraine, and no licenses have been issued since then. This has provoked a big problem in the field of scientific literature, which is not produced or translated in the country. It used to be brought from the Russian Federation. This was reported to the online publication "Country" on July 8, 2020 by the director of the "Summit-Book" publishing house Ivan Stepurin.

Since January 2017, Ukraine has banned the free import of books from Russia: this requires special permits. But in practice, the licensing of books from Russia has led to the collapse of the book market in Ukraine and an acute shortage of specialized scientific literature.

“If last year the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting issued licenses for the import of 5-7 thousand titles, then this year not a single book

from the Russian Federation was licensed. Not a single book was imported in 2020. Regardless of their content. Ukraine is almost not produced - it is mostly transferable and is imported from Russia ", - said I. Stepurin.

This issue became especially acute during the quarantine, when doctors needed an up-to-date scientific literature on virology.

"During the quarantine, doctors asked me to urgently" get "new books on immunology and virology - but they are not there! The country has a catastrophic situation with access to special scientific literature, including medical literature. In Ukraine, they are neither produced nor translated. it is unprofitable from an economic point of view. Such highly specialized books are not in great demand. Previously, translated books were freely imported from Russia - one, two, ten pieces at a time. But now a scientific book is in short supply ", - said I. Stepurin.

It is worth recalling that in October 2019, the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine reported on the ban on the import of more than a million Russian books into Ukraine. (<https://strana.ua/news/277505-zapret-na-vvoz-knih-iz-rossii-sprovotsiroval-defitsit-na-rynke-nauchnoj-literatury-v-ukraine.html>)

VI. Assessment of the situation with the observance of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine by international human rights organizations and institutions

The United Nations called on Ukraine to develop a law on the implementation of the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples. This was reported on August 4, 2020 at the UN office in Ukraine.

As noted in the message of the UN office, the "Law of Ukraine on ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language", despite a number of positive developments, still has a number of problems with regard to human rights. "The law regulates the use of the Ukrainian language as the only state language in many spheres of public life, but does not regulate the use of minority languages. In the absence of updated legislation on minorities, a number of provisions of the law that are already being applied may jeopardize the rights of minorities," the office said UN.

Therefore, the UN calls on the Cabinet of Ministers and the Verkhovna Rada to develop a law on the implementation of the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples "without undue delay and through inclusive consultations with representatives of national minorities and indigenous peoples."

The UN recommendations state that the developed and adopted law should guarantee the use of any language in the field of private activity. Also, the government of Ukraine was advised to avoid unreasonable distinction between the official languages of the European Union and other languages of national minorities and to provide preferences to the first.

"The rules for conducting final examinations at the end of general secondary education and entrance examinations to state universities and other state educational institutions should take into account the use of minority languages as languages of instruction in the educational system," - said in the UN recommendations.

In addition, it is emphasized that the future "law on the procedure for the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples and national minorities of Ukraine" should ensure the observance of freedom of speech through the use of minority languages during cultural events. "Requirements for the level of language proficiency for civil servants should be commensurate with the objectives of the law. Their application should not impede the participation in public life of persons who are speakers of minority languages," the UN said.

At the same time, the UN recommends that the government of Ukraine take measures to facilitate the effective participation of minorities in public life, in particular, by using their languages, when appropriate, in electoral, consultation and other processes related to participation in public life. However, Ukraine is advised to ensure, where practicable, clear and easy access to the health care system, social and other administrative and public services in minority languages.

"In the state and communal media, minority languages should be provided with sufficient and proportional space. In private media, the free use of minority languages should be allowed," the UN recommendations noted.

It is also emphasized that the requirements for the use of languages in the commercial sphere, especially in advertising, must respect the right to freedom of expression. (<https://www.unian.net/society/v-oon-prizyvayut-ukrainu-zashchitit-prava-nacmenshin-i-korenyh-narodov-novosti-ukrainy-11100866.html>)

Conclusion

The situation with respect to the rights of national minorities living on the territory of Ukraine is still unsatisfactory. Numerous facts that took place in the period from the end of April 2020 to the present indicate the continuing disregard for the linguistic and cultural rights and needs of the Russian and Russian-speaking population, as well as other national communities and ethnic groups living in Ukraine. The negative trends noted in the previous review have not only not been eliminated, but have worsened in recent months.

Legislative norms that discriminate against national minorities have not yet been eliminated; numerous cases of violation of the cultural and linguistic rights of non-Ukrainian-speaking ethnic communities continue to be recorded. At the same time, in Ukraine, as in the days of the previous government, politicians and public figures advocating for the rights of the Russian-speaking population continue to face threats against them from nationalist forces, and are also subject to political repression. In the socio-political life of Ukraine, numerous facts have been recorded of inciting interethnic hatred, the use of hate speech, manifestations of xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

In this regard, it seems expedient to draw the closest attention of the international community to the situation in the field of observance of the rights of national minorities living in Ukraine. It seems appropriate to demand at the international level from the Ukrainian authorities an early end to the linguistic and cultural discrimination of national communities, as well as strict observance of human rights and freedoms in accordance with the international legal obligations undertaken by Ukraine in this area.