

STATEMENT

Statement by the Spokesperson on the situation of Crimean Tatar leader and deputy Chair of the Mejlis Ilmi Umerov

27/08/2016

The forced psychiatric confinement and examination of the Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis, Ilmi Umerov, who was charged of "separatism" in May 2016, represents a clear violation of international human rights standards. We call for his immediate release and, given the serious concerns over his health, urgent and appropriate medical care must be ensured.

The European Union has repeatedly stressed the deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea and Sevastopol since the illegal annexation by the Russian Federation. The rights of the Crimean Tatars have been gravely attacked through the banning of the activities of the Mejlis, the self-governing body of Crimean Tatars, and by labelling it "an extremist organisation".

We reiterate our call for all Ukrainian citizens illegally detained by Russia, including Oleh Sentsov and Oleksander Kolchenko, who were sentenced one year ago in breach of international law and elementary standards of justice, to be guaranteed a safe return to Ukraine.

The European Union remains committed to fully implement its policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula.