

NEWS DIGEST OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION APRIL 27, 2022

The House of Human Rights hosted a roundtable "Human Rights and Sanctions" with the participation of representatives of Russian government agencies, NGOs, the expert community, and regional Commissioners for Human Rights.

Addressing the round table, the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatiana Moskalkova stressed that the sanctions aggression against Russia is an attempt to restrict human rights: the right to work, education, medical care, movement, and freedom of speech. "But as a result of this anti-human policy, not only Russia, but the whole world suffers - the destruction of global economic ties, the rollback of the civilized world is taking place. In Western countries, agriculture is suffering, energy prices are rising, and inflation is increasing".

Russia has its own powerful national system of human rights protection. The decision to leave the Council of Europe and the UN Human Rights Council only encourages us to strengthen human rights safeguards.

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Tatiana Moskalkova took part in a press conference on the occasion of summing up the interim results of the project of the Association of Lawyers of Russia to provide free legal assistance to citizens who were forced to leave the DNR and LNR, and to discuss the problems they face.

In her speech, the Commissioner noted close cooperation with the Association in the context of protecting the rights of people arriving in Russia from the LNR, DNR, and Ukraine.

According to the Federal Commissioner, a large category of applications is related to the provision of emergency psychological assistance.

In a stressful situation, it is important for people to keep in touch with their relatives, and in addition to free legal assistance, we need to find new tools to help them find their relatives and loved ones. Then come the issues of medical care, including to children with disabilities, and the continuation of education. In places of temporary accommodation, groups for children have been formed, and volunteers and teachers work with them. All university students can continue their studies in Russian universities.

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April 27 brought good news - thanks to the efforts of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the exchange of Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko for American student Trevor Reed (sentenced to 9 years for assaulting a law enforcement officer in 2019) took place as a result of lengthy negotiations.

Konstantin spent more than 11 years in American prisons at Fort Dix, New Jersey and Danbury, Connecticut.

For the past 6 years, the Commissioner has been doing everything possible to protect his rights. Tatiana Moskalkova addressed the US President Donald Trump, the US Attorney General William Barr, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons of the US Department of Justice Mr. Inch and other high-ranking officials.

With the Commissioner's participation, K. Yaroshenko was able to get an extended rendezvous with his wife in August 2018, receive qualified medical care, and be transferred to another prison.

On March 16, 2022, K. Yaroshenko's wife stated that he was subjected to attacks in connection with the special military operation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

The Commissioner wholeheartedly thanks all those involved in the release of Russian citizen Konstantin Yaroshenko and shares the joy of his wife, daughter, relatives and loved ones, all who believed in his return to his homeland. "Russia does not abandon its people!"

[Source](#)

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation