

Nina Karpachova: “I believe that the Ukrainian people have enough wisdom and fortitude to stop the fratricidal confrontation and preserve the integrity of Ukraine”

APPEAL

OF THE FIRST UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT COMMISSIONER

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

It is with deep sorrow and pain in my heart that I have been following the situation in the East of the country and in the city of Odessa. As a woman and mother, I sincerely sympathize and share the great tragedy that befell the families and friends of those who were killed and injured in recent times in Kharkov, Donetsk, Slavyansk, Kramatorsk, Odessa and other Ukrainian cities as a result of the civil confrontation, as well as the anti-terrorist operation.

It seemed that the massacre of hundreds of civilians at the Independence Square in February this year, caused by the anti-terrorist operation of the regime of Yanukovich, would become a tragic lesson for the society and authorities and show that the life and human dignity must be respected in the first place. Today, however, the political discord and geopolitical interests again brought the country to the extreme features: there are dozens killed people in the peacetime, alternative views of our countrymen cause a reaction of hatred and aggression.

Today news lines in the media mostly resemble reports from the war. The country is being pushed to a full-scale civil war. Only stopped violent confrontation and shifting of the conflict from the military dimension to the public dialogue can prevent it.

I call on the authorities, politicians, business elite and public activists of goodwill in the West and East of the country to immediately start building a common ground between themselves, and help to find a compromise in the society.

Terrible tragedy that occurred in Odessa on the second of May must stop all parties of the confrontation and lead them to discontinuation of the use of violent methods for achieving their goals at the cost of human life. After all, we know from history that any confrontation always ends with reconciliation, but the loss of human life is irreparable and leaves deep scars in the hearts and minds of the people! Therefore, the government, politicians and society must stop the fratricidal confrontation now and start looking for the ways for such reconciliation.

Only recognition of the opposite side as the subject of the negotiation process, and not as an enemy, can be the first step towards reconciliation. The unconditional guarantee of human rights, human dignity and personal integrity to all citizens of Ukraine must form the basis for reconciliation and solution of the current crisis. All

the hostages and arbitrarily detained persons must be unconditionally released! Every crime that led to the loss of life must be investigated, with the arguments of all parties to the conflict thoroughly studied.

I fully support the suggestions of the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and call on the Ukrainian authorities to make the maximum use of the negotiation instruments of the OSCE as the platform for searching compromise and building a dialogue of trust between the authorities and the whole society. In my capacity as a Board Member of the European Ombudsman Institute I stand ready to facilitate this process of the peaceful resolution of the civil conflict.

I urge the authorities to undertake comprehensive steps for the full implementation of the Geneva Agreements of 17 April 2014, in particular with regard to the disarmament of all illegal armed groups.

I believe that the Ukrainian people have enough wisdom and fortitude to stop the fratricidal confrontation and preserve the integrity of Ukraine