

**Presentation by Expert on Legal Issues of Public Organization
"Antifascist Human Rights League" SVETLANA NOVITSKA
At the Plenary Session**

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 (10 am - 1 pm)

(SUBJECT: Closing Plenary Session in Expanded Format)

My appreciation and gratitude to the organizers of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

As an advice to the ODIHR – once again I would like to draw attention to your practice of double standards as the OSCE body responsible for monitoring of observance of rights and freedoms of citizens during elections.

The ODIHR leadership - in violation of the international law – fails to respond to the unprecedented, brutal, discriminatory infringement of rights of citizens of Ukraine who are forced (due to economic and political situation in Ukraine) to temporarily reside at the territory of Russian Federation. They are stripped off the right to participate in presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine. And number of these people well exceeds 3 million.

The same situation will occur in Ukraine during election campaign to the local self-government bodies, as the newly formed government want to conduct snap elections, for example, in Kiev - on December 8. At the same time, according to the current law, all temporarily displaced persons - i.e. forced migrants from Donbass and Crimea - will be deprived of their right to participate in elections.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR previously failed to react to such violations of voters' rights in Ukraine despite the negative opinion on this violation drafted by the Venice Commission.

Please note that the ODIHR is the OSCE body funded by the OSCE member-states (in particular, by Ukraine). That means money are taken from my pocket and pockets of all voters - citizens of Ukraine. Then we have a question – why shall we fund structures that do not want to notice and respond to grave discrimination of a certain group of Ukrainian citizens, who are deprived of their right to participate in elections?

My suggestion is – upon completion of this Meeting - to oblige the state of Ukraine to ensure the right to participate in elections for all citizens of Ukraine, as well as to reopen all polling stations in Russian Federation.

As well as:

- to resolutely condemn any manifestations of national-radical, neo-Nazi ideology in all its forms and shapes, in the past and present; cancel all legislative acts and by-laws dedicated to glorification and perpetuation of memory of OUN-UPA collaborators (Bandera, Shukhevych, the SS Galicia division servicemen) who are responsible for organizing and carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- to fire officials from the state authorities who are members of radical nationalistic parties and organizations;
- to dissolve military formations and other state-sponsored structures employing Nazi symbols;
- to verify statutory activities of political parties and public associations with a radical nationalistic orientation;
- to foster the process of return of all seized temples and church buildings to the religious communities of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church.
- We consider it necessary to invite the ODIHR to prepare the standalone independent report on violations of rights and freedoms in Ukraine with a prospect of considering this report at a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OSCE Member-States.
- To address the leadership of the European Parliament with a proposal to use the offered recommendations while adopting the 2019 Resolution on the state of Ukraine's progress of implementation of terms and conditions of the Association agreement with the European Union.