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## **РОЛЬ МІЖНАРОДНИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ ІЗ ЗАХИСТУ ПРАВ ЛЮДИНИ В УМОВАХ КОНФЛІКТУ НА СХОДІ УКРАЇНИ**

**Анотація.** В даному науковому дослідженні поставлено завдання вивчення ролі міжнародних організацій із захисту прав людини в умовах конфлікту, викликаного на території сходу України. Підставою для проведення наукового дослідження служать останні доповіді Управління Верховного комісара ООН з прав людини, а також ОБСЄ по Україні. Актуальність заявленої тематики дослідження обумовлюється гостротою проблеми порушення прав людини в ході збройного конфлікту на території України і значною роллю міжнародних організацій із захисту прав людини, що роблять активні зусилля щодо його вирішення. Метою даного наукового дослідження виступає визначення основних аспектів ролі, яку відіграють міжнародні організації у врегулюванні даного спектра питань, а також позначення потенційних можливостей врегулювання ситуації з порушенням прав людини на українських територіях. Провідним підходом в даній науково-дослідній роботі стало поєднання кількісного і якісного методів дослідження всього спектра питань, винесених у тематику даного наукового дослідження. Основними результатами, отриманими в ході виконання даної науково-дослідної роботи, стали: аналіз ролі і місця міжнародних організацій із захисту прав людини в оцінці ситуації щодо конфлікту на українських територіях і отримання статистичної інформації щодо реального стану справ з порушенням прав людини на даних територіях. Цінність даної наукової роботи полягає в отриманні практичних рекомендацій з пошуку шляхів мирного врегулювання конфлікту на Сході України і здійснення комплексних заходів щодо створення реальних умов для захисту прав людини в зазначеному регіоні

**Ключові слова:** конфлікт на Сході України, жертви конфлікту, бойові дії, протидія сторони, міжнародні правозахисні організації

## THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE

**Abstract.** *The task of this paper is to study the role of international human rights organizations in response to the conflict taking place in eastern Ukraine. The study is based on recent reports from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OSCE on Ukraine. The relevance of the stated topic is determined by the situation with human rights violations in the armed conflict in Ukraine and the significant role of international human rights organizations, making active efforts to resolve it. The purpose of this study is to determine the main aspects of the role that international organizations play in resolving this range of issues. This will help to identify potential opportunities to tackle the problem with human rights violations in the Ukrainian territories. The study combines quantitative and qualitative research of the entire spectrum of issues brought into the subject. The main results obtained are: analysis of the role and place of international human rights organizations in assessing the situation with the conflict in the Ukrainian territories and obtaining statistical information on the current status of human rights violations in these territories. The value of this paper lies in obtaining practical recommendations for finding ways to peacefully resolve the conflict in the East of Ukraine and implementing comprehensive measures to create conditions for the protection of human rights in this region*

**Keywords:** *conflict in eastern Ukraine, victims of the conflict, hostilities, warring parties, international human rights organizations*

### INTRODUCTION

The armed conflict in the east of Ukraine is taking place against the background of numerous violations of human rights in the involved territories. In this context, the role of international human rights organizations plays a decisive role in the peaceful settlement of the conflict and the search for ways to normalize relations between the warring parties. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its report dated 16.05.-15.08.2019, states “The ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine continued to adversely affect the lives and well-being of civilians living near the contact line, in particular, due to damage to critical civilian infrastructure and schools”<sup>1</sup>. This report notes that 68 civilian casualties were recorded during this period, which is 51.1% more than in the previous reporting period. At the same time, the losses incurred as a result of the conduct of military operations, account for 56 people. Such statistics testify to the escalation of tension in the conflict-ridden territories and the unwillingness of the opposing sides to seek its gradual settlement. It follows from the same report that violations of the right to liberty and security continued during the reporting period. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to receive reports that the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) was responsible for the arbitrary detention, torture, and intimidation of individuals who, according to the SSU, were associated with armed groups 1. The report notes that during the reporting period, the Office of the UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights officially documented numerous cases of arbitrary detention of citizens for no apparent reason in cities bordering the conflict zone, in particular in Kharkiv, under the pretext of being forcibly sent for military service to the Ukrainian armed forces. OHCHR officials express deep concern about the continued practice of using “administrative arrests” and “preventive arrests” in areas under the control of the armed forces of the DPR and LPR. All such cases can legally qualify as arbitrary and incommunicado detention.

Currently, the ceasefire agreements reached between the leaderships of the opposing sides in eastern Ukraine are violated. Despite the fact that the Minsk agreements prohibited the use of weapons in the conflict zone, the conflict itself has not yet been resolved, and practically no progress has been observed on this issue. According to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary Dicarolo “The conflict in eastern Ukraine has been going on for the fifth year. And although it no longer appears in the headlines of major international news outlets, this conflict has not turned into “dormant” or “frozen”. It is still in an active stage and requires our attention, especially when it comes to preventing loss of life” [1]. The UN spokesman emphasizes that the repeated promises of the warring parties to abide by the provisions of the ceasefire agreements are usually not kept, which does not contribute to the cessation of hostilities. Despite the fact

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1. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16.05.-15.08.2019, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2019). Retrieved from [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/ReportUkraine16May-15Aug2019\\_RU.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/ReportUkraine16May-15Aug2019_RU.pdf).

that, compared with the first years of the conflict, there has been a decrease in the total number of murders and looting, the situation remains critical. According to Rosemary Dicarolo and her colleague Ursula Müller, over two and a half thousand people were killed and over nine thousand civilians were injured during several years of conflict in eastern Ukraine [1]. At the same time, representatives of OHCHR note the presence of numerous facts of violation of the rights and freedoms of citizens in the conflict zone. In the government-controlled areas, OHCHR notes cases of criminal prosecution of perpetrators of crimes related to the conflict. During the period from April 2019 to April 2020, the detention of such persons was carried out without a preliminary court decision, which is a gross violation of the current legislation. Contrary to the provisions of the international human rights law they were often subjected to a preventive measure in the form of detention<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, today there are numerous cases of human rights violations in the area of combat operations in eastern Ukraine. The situation is practically uncontrollable due to systematic deviations from the peace agreements reached during the previous negotiations. The role of international human rights organizations, by their actions contributing to the settlement of the conflict and the creation of optimal conditions for maintaining peace and stability in the region of hostilities, is the most important prerequisite for the observance of human rights in the east of Ukraine. The author of this paper notes “The first step towards reconciliation could be the recognition of the opposite side as a subject of the negotiation process, and not as an enemy, that the basis for reconciliation and overcoming the current crisis should have been the unconditional guarantee of respect for human rights, human dignity and personal integrity to all citizens of Ukraine.

After the outbreak of the conflict in the east of Ukraine, I publicly supported the proposals of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier and called on the Ukrainian authorities to make maximum use of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) negotiating tools as a platform for finding a compromise and establishing a trusting dialogue between the authorities and society. Unfortunately, this correct move was taken by the authorities only after three devastating months of the ATO and the deaths of thousands of Ukrainian citizens from both sides, including children. Ultimately, after the mass death of both the civilian population of Donbas and representatives of both warring parties, tens of thousands of disabled people, millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko was forced to negotiate and sign the Minsk agreements” [2].

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Materials of the report of OHCHR on the human rights situation in Ukraine for the period from 16.08. to 15.11.2019, testify to the numerous difficulties experienced by representatives of the local population due to the ongoing conflict in Donbas. In the course of preparing this report, representatives of the OHCHR visited 59 settlements along the line of military clashes, as well as over 20 places of deprivation of liberty in this territory. It explicitly states that “While political efforts to end the conflict continued, civilians living near the contact line experienced daily hardships due to ongoing hostilities, which further deteriorated their socio-economic rights. People living in remote communities near the contact line that are considered “isolated” due to disruption to road infrastructure, internal checkpoints, the contact line, and insecurity continued to experience difficulties in accessing social benefits and basic public services such as health care, medicines and education” . This report provides statistical data, according to which at the time of its preparation since the beginning of the conflict, the loss of civilians in it amounted to at least 3,047 people, including “1807 men, 1,055 women, 98 boys, 49 girls and 37 adults, whose gender is unknown, and also 298 people killed on board Malaysian Airlines flight MH17”<sup>2</sup>.

Materials of the report on the human rights situation in Ukraine for the period from 16.02.2020 to 31.07.2020, prepared by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, indicate: “As a result of several spikes in hostilities during the reporting period, most notably in March and May, the total civilian casualties in the first seven months of 2020 increased to 107 people (18 killed and 89 injured), which is ten percent less than in the same period in 2019”<sup>3</sup>. It is also noted that since the beginning of the armed conflict “There has been no tangible progress in creating a statutory remedy and redress for civilian victims of the conflict”<sup>3</sup>. At the same time, international organisations welcome the positive initiatives that take place in improving the current legislation of Ukraine. Thus, “OHCHR welcomes the decision of the Constitutional Court to declare unconstitutional Article 375 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, which provides for criminal liability of judges for making “knowingly unjust” decisions in relation to persons who have committed illegal actions in the conflict zone”<sup>4</sup>. But, it is also noted that against the general background of the development of events in the zone of hostilities, such facts are insignificant and do not have an impact on the situation in the region. Thus, the analysis of the materials presented in the study shows the complexity of the situation related to the violation of human rights in the conflict zone in Ukraine and the need to resolve it peacefully as soon as possible.

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3. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16.02.-31.07.2020, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2020). Retrieved from [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/30thReportUkraine\\_RU.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/30thReportUkraine_RU.pdf).

4. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16.08.-15.11.2019, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2019). Retrieved from [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/28thReportUkraine\\_RU.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/28thReportUkraine_RU.pdf).

### 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study sets the task to investigate the role of international human rights organisations in resolving issues of human rights protection in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine. The object of the study is the situation in the zone of military operations in the context of numerous violations of the rights and freedoms in this area through the prism of assessment of the situation by representatives of international human rights organisations. The study is based on the analysis of the latest reports from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as OSCE reports on the situation in eastern Ukraine.

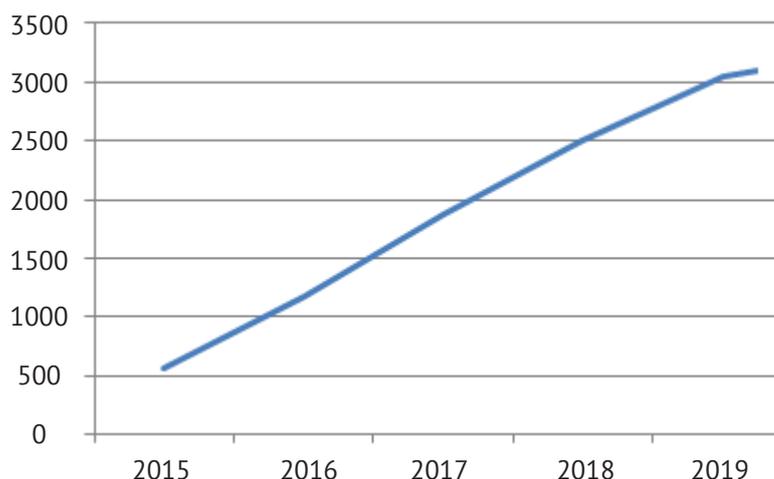
The methodology is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches to the study of the role of international organisations in the context of the conflict in the Ukraine. The chosen methodology in the context of the issues submitted for consideration seems to be optimal for conducting research in the chosen direction. A quantitative analysis of the information presented in the reports of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the OSCE mission in the east of Ukraine, creates the necessary basis for an in-depth study of the issues submitted for consideration and contributes to a qualitative analysis of the materials of this study with the formation of final conclusions. In the process of a qualitative analysis of the materials taken for research, the necessary structure of future conclusions is prepared and the main, necessary elements are identified on which these conclusions are subsequently based. The problem of human rights violations during the armed conflict in Ukraine and the role of international human rights organisations in its settlement requires in-depth study, which is broken down into a number of stages in order to form the necessary consistency of conclusions. The chosen methodology of research meets the assigned tasks and contributes to the creation of an optimal structure of conclusions obtained

in the course of the study. The problem of assessing the role that international organisations play in response to human rights violations in the conflict in Ukraine requires a comprehensive, qualitative research covering various aspects of this issue. The study of the materials that form the basis of research with the formation of final conclusions based on its results corresponds to the nature of the task and contributes to its qualitative and objective resolution.

A review of the available literature sources covering various aspects of the role of international organisations in the settlement of an armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, in general, and contributing to the peaceful resolution of issues of human rights observance, in particular, reveals the breadth of assessments and the variety of situations displayed. Sources covering the problem agree on one issue: a large-scale violation of human rights is taking place in the zone of hostilities due to the unwillingness of the warring parties to comply with their obligations for the peaceful settlement of conflict situations.

### 4. RESULTS

The assessment of the role of international human rights organisations in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine gave the following results. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have repeatedly sent missions to the war zone on Ukrainian territory to assess the current situation and the possibilities for its peaceful settlement. The OHCHR reports, formed on the basis of materials received during these missions, reflect the current state of affairs in the conflict zone and contain evidences of human rights violations in this area. The diagram below shows the increase in civilian casualties over the years since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Growth of civilian casualties over the years since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine

Source: [3]

The presented diagram clearly demonstrates the increase in civilian casualties on Ukrainian territory for the period from 2014 to 2019. At the moment, there are cases of violence against the local population, manifested in attacks on civilians, robberies, beatings, torture, and ill-treatment. Such facts are recorded in detail in the

reports of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and OSCE missions in Ukraine. The role of international organisations for the protection of human rights in the context of the conflict on Ukrainian territory lies in the following aspects:

1. Monitoring function, which consists in the presence

in the conflict zone and recording all the manifestations of human rights violations.

2. Documenting cases of casualties among the local population, death of civilians for reasons related to the conduct of hostilities and the situation in the conflict zone.

3. Development of practical recommendations for resolving issues of human rights observance in the territories involved in armed confrontation.

4. Evaluation of the effectiveness of work and compliance with the rule of law by law enforcement agencies in the zone adjacent to the area of hostilities, and fixing the identified violations.

5. Development of measures to suppress various types of discrimination against citizens affected by the conflict on the territory of Ukraine.

The reports provided by the OSCE mission and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights contain information on numerous violations of the rights of citizens to personal liberty and security. There is ample evidence of the responsibility assigned to the Security Service of Ukraine for numerous arrests and detention of persons allegedly involved in the conflict on the side of the anti-government coalition forces. In addition, representatives of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine and OHCHR identified many cases of arbitrary detention of male citizens, without sufficient grounds for sending them to the combat zone as part of the units of the Ukrainian army. Such a practice,

according to the norms of current international law, can be qualified as “illegal and incommunicado detention”<sup>1</sup>.

Representatives of international human rights organisations recorded massive cases of human rights violations in the indicated territories of Ukraine related to the need to resettle citizens from the combat zone to safe areas of the country. Representatives of international organisations kept such records often at risk to their lives, since in order to obtain objective, most reliable information, they were forced to be directly in the zone of hostilities. Also, representatives of international human rights organisations have identified cases of discrimination on ethnic grounds, expressed in the persecution of people who speak Russian. Such facts discredit the very idea of national self-determination, declared by the provisions of the current Constitution of Ukraine and the principles of equality and self-determination proclaimed by the UN Charter.

The reports of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine record cases of violation of ceasefire agreements between the warring parties, continuing at the time of preparation of this paper. The mission’s unmanned aerial vehicles record multiple cases of overcoming trenches on both sides of the contact line at its various sections in the Donetsk region. Below is a summary table of violations of the ceasefire agreement, compiled on the basis of data collected by representatives of the OSCE Mission as of 20 November 2020 (Table 1).

*Table 1. Ceasefire violations, compiled on the basis of data collected by representatives of the OSCE Mission as of 20 November 2020<sup>2</sup>*

Location of surveillance cameras	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Time
Avdiivka	3 km SE	Recorded	18	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	5:26.
Donetsk Filtration Station	3 km SE	Recorded	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7:36.
1 km SW of Shyrokyne	3 km SSW	Recorded	8	Muzzle flash	Undetermined	N/K	14:44.
1 km NW of Yasynuvata	2 km S	Heard	6	Burst	Undetermined	N/K	17:26.
Pervomaisk 58km W of Luhansk	1 km W	Heard	5	Burst	In vertical flight	Small arms	20:56.

Thus, representatives of international human rights organisations carried out a large-scale work to collect and process information concerning the facts of human rights violations in the context of the conflict in Ukraine. All conclusions are presented in special reports containing a detailed description of the situation in eastern Ukraine and a sample of statistical data. A thorough analysis of all the data presented contributes to a detailed understanding of the role of representatives of international missions monitoring the situation in the Ukrainian territories involved in the armed conflict in general and in the context of human rights violations in them in particular.

The author of this paper believes that “The military conflict in the east of Ukraine and the blockade of Donbas led to gross, massive, and systematic violations of human rights

on both sides: hostage taking, torture, rape and ill-treatment, killings and extrajudicial executions, forced labour, looting and robberies, trafficking in persons and weapons, lack of medical assistance and medicines, significant restrictions on the right to freedom of movement, economic blockade, as well as the termination of social payments for pensioners, disabled people, children, women. The listed infringements of rights have the signs of genocide” [2]. The author also notes: “According to Ukrainian sociologists, it will take at least 125 years to overcome the collective psychotrauma of Donbas residents. My personal communication with representatives of different parties to the conflict gives me the right to assert that all its participants received a deep psychological trauma, to overcome which hard work will have to be done in Ukraine for many years” [2].

1. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16.05-15.08.2017, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2020). Retrieved from [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20170912\\_ukraine\\_-\\_19th\\_hrmu\\_report\\_rus.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20170912_ukraine_-_19th_hrmu_report_rus.pdf).

2. OSCE Daily Report No. 277/2020. (2020, November). Retrieved from [https://www.osce.org/files/2020-11-20%20Daily%20Report\\_RUS.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/2020-11-20%20Daily%20Report_RUS.pdf).

## 5. DISCUSSION

The issues of human rights violations in the context of the conflict in the east of Ukraine are widely discussed in the press and specialised publications. The role of international human rights organisations in the settlement of this conflict and the restoration of violated law in the territories of armed confrontation is also widely discussed. Thus, the information agency RBC-Ukraine interviewed the Vice Prime Minister for the Reintegration of the Occupied Territories Oleksii Reznikov. He noted the need to introduce police units in the territory of conflict zone after the withdrawal of troops. In particular, the Deputy Prime Minister notes the role of the OSCE mission in this issue “My personal opinion is that the dominant feature should be the OSCE police mission with the involvement of the National Police, whose units will be formed according to a special criterion. The police mission in Donetsk and Luhansk regions is a new challenge for the OSCE. In our concept, it should ensure the protection of public order, be armed with small arms and special equipment” [4]. In the materials devoted to the settlement of the conflict in Donbas, RBC-Ukraine notes the importance of expanding the OSCE department in the context of the implementation of the Minsk agreements on ceasefire. The publication notes that one of the main points of the “action plan” should be considered: “an increase in the number of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) by four times (by 1500 people)” [5].

Consequently, an analysis of the OSCE’s work in resolving conflicts has shown that the organisation promptly responds to the emergence of conflicts and uses already developed methods for their solution. Despite that, the Russian-Ukrainian war is still the biggest political and operational challenge for the organisation, gradually turning into another ‘protracted’ conflict in the OSCE’s area of responsibility that cannot be resolved by this structure. It means that the OSCE, which orients on consensus in the decision-making process, will need the political will of all 57 Member States, which, in the light of decades of Russia’s rejection of Euro-Atlantic security architecture, cannot be achieved overnight. The activity of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine confirms the necessity to reform the structure and mechanisms of the organisation for preventing and resolving long-lasting conflicts. Such reform is especially necessary and urgent in the light of the resolution of the Ukrainian conflict and the effective resolution and prevention of upcoming regional and international crises [6; 7].

The activities of international human rights organisations contribute to a high-quality display of the situation in Donbas in the context of the armed confrontation taking place there. Thus, the report of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine dated July 21, 2020 states “The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons provided for in the Memorandum, as well as the Package of Measures and the Addendum to it. The SMM observed 11 weapons deployed

in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including at the training area”<sup>1</sup>. The report also notes that “the Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs of power and gas lines in Novozvanivka (government-controlled, 70km west of Luhansk) and Troitske (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk); an assessment and maintenance of power lines near Berezhivske; as well as vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); and demining activities near Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk)”<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the reports of the OSCE mission to Ukraine emphasise the positive role of its presence in the conflict zone in terms of overall stabilisation of the situation [8; 9].

The mission contributes to a reduction of tensions and maintenance of stability when the Ukrainian security forces cannot objectively control the border [10]. The role of the OSCE in the observance of the terms of the Minsk agreements is noted in the materials of the online media outlet “European Truth”. The outlet testifies “According to the fourth paragraph of the first Minsk agreements of September 2014, Ukraine, Russia, and the OSCE agreed “to ensure constant monitoring on the Russian-Ukrainian state border and verification by the OSCE with the creation of a security zone in the border regions of Ukraine and the Russian Federation” [11]. At the same time, it is noted that this point is violated at the current time. The reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights show violations of the current legislation in the context of the conflict in the Ukrainian territory. For example, the OHCHR report for the period 04.2014-04.2020 states “OHCHR noted that the pre-trial detention of persons accused of conflict-related crimes and the protracted nature of the relevant judicial proceedings, as mentioned above, often leads to confession of guilt by the accused. Some defendants complained to OHCHR that the prosecutor threatened further detention and continued pre-trial detention if they did not plead guilty, thus pushing them to conclude a plea agreement [12; 13].

Unsuccessful attempts to appeal the decisions of the courts regarding pre-trial detention, as well as the failure of the Government of Ukraine to take measures to properly investigate the allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the accused led to the loss of hope for a fair trial, and the accused considered it necessary to plead guilty” [3]. The same report deals with the problems with the observance of human rights in the non-government-controlled territories. “Taking into account the mandate of OHCHR to promote and protect the human rights of all people, everywhere, this report assesses the human rights impacts of those living in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed “republics” that result from the latter’s quasi-state functions. This assessment does not legitimise the self-proclaimed “republics”, their decisions and actions.

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2. *Ibidem*, 2020

Despite the restrictions imposed by both “republics” on access to places of detention and “court” hearings, the human rights violations described in this section have been confirmed in accordance with standard OHCHR methodology<sup>1</sup>.

In 2015, the European Ombudsman Institute presented the book “The European Heart of Human Rights” (presentations were held at the European Commission in Vienna; the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in Kyiv; at the office of the Ombudsman in the Russian Federation (Moscow)). The position of the First Ombudsman of Ukraine on the situation in the East of the country was brought up. Thus, we can state the existence of extensive materials on the role of international human rights organisations in the conflict zone on the territory of Ukraine. An objective study of them is necessary for a deep analysis of this topic and the formation of appropriate conclusions.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study of the role of international human rights organisations in the context of the conflict in the east of Ukraine gives grounds to draw the following conclusions. The OSCE Mission and representatives of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have been in the zone of hostilities in eastern Ukraine from the very beginning of the armed confrontation and are monitoring the current situation in the region on a daily basis. The reports of these organisations reflect the real situation in the territory of the conflict, and also testify to numerous facts of violation of human rights and international law in this area. In this context, several main aspects of the role played by international human rights organisations in the armed confrontation in eastern Ukraine should be highlighted. Firstly, international organisations carry out a monitoring function, controlling the course of events in the territories involved in the conflict, and registering cases of human rights violations. This contributes to the creation

of an objective picture of what is happening due to the fact that the representatives of these organisations do not belong to any of the opposing sides and are not interested parties in terms of placing the emphasis of the conflict. For the same reason, the facts of human rights violations in the territories of hostilities can be considered reflected with maximum objectivity. Secondly, representatives of international organisations are actively involved in the search for ways to peacefully resolve the conflict in Donbas. This is confirmed by the numerous facts of the development and adoption of fundamental documents designed to find ways to resolve it peacefully, such as the Donbas plan. In accordance with the provisions of this document, in order to create optimal conditions for a peaceful settlement of the issues of armed confrontation, it is planned to significantly increase the size of the OSCE mission (several times) in the conflict region. In addition, the OSCE is assigned a significant role in restoring control over certain sections of the Ukrainian-Russian border in the zone of military clashes. Thirdly, the role of the OHCHR and the OSCE in relation to the development of situations in the zone of the armed conflict and in the context of protecting human rights is to monitor compliance with the norms of the current legislation by representatives of the legitimate Ukrainian authorities in relation to representatives of the civilian population.

In general, the activities of international human rights organisations in the context of a conflict on the territory of Ukraine in some way contributes to the normalisation of the situation in the conflict zone and the gradual establishment of conditions necessary for the observance of human rights both in the conflict zone itself and in the territories adjacent to it. OHCHR reports and OSCE mission reports contain information that objectively reflects the current state of affairs in the region and act as a starting point for the development of the settlement process by the parties to the ongoing conflict and the return of peace to the eastern Ukraine.

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