

**CRIMEAN TATARS PROTEST AGAINST
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

**NON-VIOLENCE - AGAINST ARMED TERROR
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF CRIMEA STRUGGLES
FOR THEIR RIGHTS**

**The Mejlis of Crimean Tatar People
Department on Political and Legal Issues
Information Service**

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PREFACE

The Crimean Tatar People was exiled from the Crimea in May 18, 1944, half a century ago. Up to 1987 Crimean Tatars were deprived of a possibility to come back to their Motherland. Within the first years of the deportation 46% of the Crimean Tatars were died. In the former USSR the people was subject to total repressive mechanism of the Soviet Power. However, in spite of that the Crimean Tatars, beginning from the first exile's day, have started their struggle for survival and right to come back to the Crimea. It was a period when the their national movement of the Crimean Tatars just began. One of the culminations of the national movement was a mass meeting of the Crimean Tatars on the Red Square (Moscow) in 1987.

Since the moment, the Crimean Tatars, despite the obstacles that had been put by the authorities, have begun their way to the Crimea, in order to take lands and build houses at their own expenses.

Unfortunately, on their native land, the Crimean Tatars keep facing negative attitude to themselves not only from authorities, but also existing there inhabitants, stupefied with anti- Crimean Tatar propaganda. Nevertheless, those Crimean Tatars who have registered their return on that period, constitute the core of the nation. The number of the people increases due to repatriants from republics of the former USSR, particularly, from Uzbekistan.

Since the USSR has collapsed, the Crimean Tatars are separately settled on the territory of the successor-republics. At present the bulk of the people live in sovereign Ukraine (about 280,000) and Uzbekistan (about 250, 000). Had been violently exiled in 1944, being undergone physical and mutual genocide, the Crimean Tatars, who have returned to the Crimea, up to now are deprived of elementary rights.

One of those rights is the right to be a citizen of Ukraine. Unfortunately, of the estimated repatriants returned to Ukraine about 80,000 were deprived of the right. That's why, they are unable to realize many of their other rights, particularly, the right of participation in elections to organs of power, to have sufficient number of representatives in other state bodies. Regrettably, Ukraine unwillingly meets the Crimean Tatars' demands, even when it does not require any considerable material outlays. The matter of citizenship of Ukraine for deportees is a solid evidence for it. Unsettlement that and other issues caused mass protests of Crimean Tatars in the Crimea, in February – March, 1998. Illustration of the period's events is a goal of the bulletin.