



Russian Media: Ukraine Considering Legislation Enabling Forced Relocation of Russians

OE Watch Commentary: According to the accompanying article from the Russian centrist source, *Gazeta.ru*, the government of Ukraine has submitted a bill to their parliament which would allow for the forcible resettlement of Russian people living in Ukraine during the current period of hostilities. If passed, this would make it the duty of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to ensure “the protection, collection, escort, and maintenance of prisoners of war and internees,” the latter of which, for the purposes of this law, are defined as “those who were forcibly resettled to places designated by the state.” Such foreign or stateless persons, if ordered to resettle, would not be allowed to leave the country until their internment is ended.

This proposed law comes at a time of increased tensions and hostilities between Ukraine and Russia. The article notes that Serhiy Krivonos, Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, predicted that an armed conflict with Russia would result in huge losses for Moscow, and the parliament has also recently registered another proposed bill prohibiting the denial of “the fact of Russia’s military aggression toward Ukraine.” Against Russian objections, the Ukrainian government maintains that Russia is an aggressor because of its involvement in the conflict in the Donbass and the seizure of the Crimean Peninsula.

For its part, Russia has returned the aggressive rhetoric. The article points out that Andrey Krasnov, First Deputy Head of the State Duma Defense Committee, has said that Ukraine’s military is not ready for hostilities with Russia. If Ukraine attempts to provoke hostilities, he said, “everything could end very badly for Ukraine.” In the midst of this rhetoric, this bill being proposed to the Ukrainian parliament could give the national government permission to gather up ethnic Russians and forcibly relocate them to state-designated locations. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rodger)**



Verkhonva Rada (Ukrainian Parliament).

Source: Vadim Chuprina. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3_PARLIAMENT_OF_UKRAINE_2017_Vadim_Chuprina.jpg, CCA 4.0 Intl

“We are talking about persons who threaten to attack or carry out aggression against Ukraine, and Kiev considers Russia to be the aggressor country. Such persons, as the document suggests, will be evicted if the need arises to ensure national security.”

Source: “Отселение на время войны: в Киеве создали законопроект о россиянах (Resettlement During the War: In Kiev a Bill on Russians was Created),” *Gazeta.ru*, 11 October 2020. <https://www.gazeta.ru/army/2020/11/10/13354771.shtml>

The Ukrainian government has submitted a bill to the Verkhovna Rada, which allows, for the period of hostilities, to forcibly resettle Russian citizens to certain places. The text of the document was posted on the website of the country’s parliament.

The draft law “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Streamlining of Issues Related to Prisoners of War and Internees in a Special Period,” sets for the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AF), law enforcement agencies, and local authorities the task of ensuring the protection, collection, escort, and maintenance of prisoners of war and internees.

The latter, as emphasized in the draft law, are those who were forcibly resettled to places designated by the state.

This refers to persons who threaten to attack or carry out aggression against Ukraine, and Kiev considers Russia to be the aggressor country. Such persons, as the document suggests, will be relocated if the need arises to ensure national security.