

IDPs in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic

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HRWF (30.09.2016) - On 16-24 May and 3-9 June 2016, members of the well-known human rights organization *Memorial* visited the territories beyond the control of the Ukrainian authorities and collected some information about the situation of the local IDPs.

According to the Authorized official in charge of human rights in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), there were in June last 8404 officially registered IDPs,, including 1240 minors:

- 3253 living in temporary settlements, including 636 underage individuals
- 5151 people, including 1504 minors, living with relatives or friends

On the territories controlled by the DNR authorities, 86 temporary settlements had been created to accommodate IDPs: 60 of them were operational in Donetsk, Makeevka, Khartsizk, Zugres... and 26 settlements were in reserve with 2146 vacant places.

Members of the monitoring mission visited one of the settlements in Donetsk, House No 6 on Rozy Luxembourg ul, where 495 people were living: 120 of them had no homes on the territories controlled by DNR authorities, not even destroyed homes. They were inhabitants of the Donetsk region controlled by the Ukrainian authorities. Some of them had been actively organizing the unrecognized referendum in May 2014, some were combatants in the conflict, others used to be captured or arrested by the Ukrainian authorities and then exchanged with Ukrainian soldiers captured by DNR units.

Rooms were meant to accommodate 4 to 8 people. They were getting free food and did not pay for the premises and the utility services. There was water, electricity, a kitchen with an electrical stove on each floor. However, they often broke down because of overuse and IDPs had to pay for the repairs.

However, since June 2016, humanitarian aid from Russia, which used to be received every month, was only given to retirees with a small pension, families with children under 3 years, large families and disabled people of categories I and II.

Medical services are formally free of charge but in reality, according to the words of temporary settlements inhabitants, everything needs to be paid for. Even when the ambulance arrives on call, IDPs are often denied hospitalization.