

I am writing to express my grave concern on two alleged rapists whose fate has been decided by the first people's court in Novorossia" and the residents invited. A separatist armed group fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine published a YouTube video on 30 October labelled "the first people's court in Novorossia". A public gathering in Alchevsk, west of Luhansk, presided over by a separatist commander of the Prizrak Battalion was held to vote by show of hands to put to death one alleged rapist and sent another one to fight against the pro-Kyiv forces.

I am urging the Prizrak Battalion and other armed groups that are *de facto* in control of the Luhansk and Donetsk Regions of Ukraine to abstain from any further proceedings against those accused of crimes, and in particular, that they not to carry out any execution-style killings of individuals they are holding captive.

I am also calling on you to ensure that any captives are treated humanely and not subjected to cruel treatment or torture or other violence.

Lastly I need to remind you of your obligation to comply at all times with Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and in particular that sentencing or executing people without a judgment of a regularly constituted court affording all fair trial guarantees is a war crime.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,