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**Materials for EMRIP in the framework of the call for submissions for the report on
“Repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains under the UN Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Crimean Tatars are the indigenous people of the Crimean peninsula, formed in the XIII – XV centuries. In May 1944, the Crimean Tatar people were subjected to total deportation from their homeland by the authorities of the former USSR. Crimean Tatars were deported in crowded wagons intended for livestock transportation, and were practically starved. People were deported to Central Asia, the Urals and Siberia, in places of deportation they lived in inhuman conditions. A part of the Crimean Tatars died on their way to the places of deportation, their families were not given the opportunity to bury them. Information about the death toll was carefully hidden, so the Crimean Tatars were forced to independently census their own people. According to the Crimean Tatar national movement, as a result of forced deportation and in the first years of residence in places of deportation, more than 46% of the total number of the deportees died. This crime is consistent with violations of Articles 7, 8 and 10 of the UNDRIP.

Crimean Tatars were forbidden to return to their homeland until 1989. Thus, representatives of the Crimean Tatar people were forced to be born, live and die in exile for about 45 years. On November 14, 1989, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the Declaration “On recognition of repressive acts against peoples subjected to forced resettlement as illegal and criminal...”. This document provided for the political rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatar people and the abolition of legal acts of the repressive and discriminatory nature, recognized the legal right of the Crimean Tatar people to return to Crimea, and to restore the autonomy of Crimea. To implement the approved proposals, a new commission of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was formed, however, the collapse of the USSR interrupted its work.

Since 1989, the Crimean Tatar people began to return en masse to their homeland. In Ukraine, there were state programs for the resettlement and accommodation of deported Crimean Tatars and individuals of other nationalities who returned to live in Ukraine, their adaptation and