



**ASSOCIATION
OF RELATIVES**
of Political Prisoners of
the Kremlin

Activity report for 2024

The NGO " Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners of the Kremlin" is a non-political public movement that has been fighting for the release of relatives who were imprisoned in Moscow for political reasons since 2016. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, we have been documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Armed Forces in the temporarily occupied areas of the Zaporizhia region.

We defend the rights and freedoms of political prisoners and civilians illegally imprisoned as a result of the Russian Federation's armed aggression, both in Ukraine and abroad. We strive to protect and release Ukrainian citizens who were illegally deprived of their liberty by the Kremlin regime, as well as to assist them in their rehabilitation and socialization after their release.

We cooperate with the Ukrainian authorities, international partners, and non-governmental organizations, organize public and non-public events in support of political prisoners, and consolidate the efforts of caring people and organizations to jointly protect the rights and seek the release of all political prisoners and civilian hostages.

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INTRODUCTION

The NGO "Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners of the Kremlin" (hereinafter referred to as the Association, NGO, organization) is a non-political public movement founded in 2017. We have united to fight for the release of relatives imprisoned in Moscow. We defend their rights and freedoms both in Ukraine and abroad. Our activities are aimed at:

- Cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities and international partners;
- Documentation of war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- Providing support to prisoners and their families;
- Organizing public events in support of the release of prisoners.

Mission of the Association. We fight for the life and freedom of those illegally imprisoned as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine, protecting their social rights.

Key areas of work

1. Documentation of war crimes and crimes against humanity;
2. Providing legal aid;
3. Advocacy (release, social protection);
4. Analytics (creation of analytical materials);
5. Policy and Normative Development;
6. Educational activities (for a wide audience);
7. Informing about war crimes (for international organizations);
8. Publicizing the problems of prisoners;
9. Working with war archives (and databases);
10. Influence on the ability of families to receive resource support in a broad sense (HAB)

In 2024, we defined a plan for our development and achievement of goals:

- **Conducted an assessment of organizational capacity, created a strategic plan for two years ahead 2025-2027.**

The strategic plan consists of 10 key areas. First of all, it is important to strengthen the documentation of war crimes for international recognition of the facts of aggression and justice for victims. It is also necessary to provide comprehensive legal assistance, helping people understand their rights and the institutions to which they can turn when they are violated. It is important to actively advocate for the issue of illegally imprisoned civilians with the aim of their release. To do this, it is necessary to develop an analytical department, support sanctions against the aggressor state and provide assistance to victims. The next area is changes at the state level aimed at improving legislation to better support victims. It is also planned to increase the legal literacy of the population through educational, media and mentoring activities. It is necessary to actively inform the international community about war crimes documented in the occupied territories of Ukraine. At the same time, it is important to draw the attention of Ukrainians to the problems of illegally imprisoned people. Another important area is work with archives, support for their filling and storage. The last task is to provide victims of war crimes and their families with proper assistance and support.

- **We released the documentary “Real Stories of Women” in two parts.**
- **We conducted a full financial audit for the first time.**
- **We became a member of the global initiative “Tribunal for Putin”.**

The initiative was created in response to the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation in February 2022. The participants of the initiative document events that are seen as signs of crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes) in all regions of the country that have become the object of attack.

1. ADVOCACY

Main areas of advocacy:

- Providing legal assistance in establishing legal status and social guarantees
- Protection of rights and interaction with state bodies
- International protection and compensation

This year, we have developed a number of recommended measures in connection with the requests and challenges we encountered:

Recommendations for improving legislation to expand the protection of civilians who have become victims of unlawful deprivation of liberty as a result of armed aggression, including extending the scope of the Law to such persons, simplifying the procedures for establishing the fact of captivity, identifying family members, improving access to registers, and updating the Regulations on the Commission, in particular by introducing a competition for the election of its members and organizing relevant training. It is also proposed to improve administrative services related to confirmation of captivity and family membership, provide released persons with state assistance regardless of the method of release, grant them the right to a deferral from mobilization from January 1, 2025, index payments, conduct an information campaign, and develop a comprehensive system of medical, psychological, and social adaptation with adequate funding, including the creation of a housing fund. During 2024, a number of advocacy meetings were held with representatives of state, law enforcement, and international organizations, including a human rights club to support persons who returned from captivity without an exchange, participation in meetings of the Working Group on the Protection of Civilians, the Expert Council under the Representation of the Commissioner for the Rights of Residents of Crimea, a meeting with representatives of Ukrzaliznytsia on legal assistance to their employees, and participation in conferences in Ukraine and abroad, where social and legal issues of protecting victims of illegal imprisonment were discussed.

An advocacy campaign plan has been developed to promote amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Social and Legal Protection of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine, and Their

Family Members.” As part of the implementation of this advocacy campaign plan, a number of communication, information and educational activities were carried out. In particular:

- organized a meeting of NGOs of families of illegally imprisoned people and those who care for them with the Deputy Minister of Social Policy Ulyana Tokareva;
- on June 20, 2024, they joined an informal meeting with representatives of the Embassy of Great Britain in Ukraine, in particular, the meeting was attended by Adrian Donford, Second Secretary for Political Affairs of the Embassy, and Yulia Kondrushenko, an expert on political affairs of the Department of Politics and Economics. The meeting was dedicated to human rights problems in Ukraine in the context of illegally imprisoned Ukrainian civilians as a result of armed Russian aggression, and the issues of documenting war crimes and advocating for the release, social and legal protection of illegally imprisoned civilians were also discussed;
- on July 19, 2024, the head of the Association Ihor Kotelyanets took part in a meeting at the Ministry of Reintegration. During it, the problem was solved in two areas: illegally imprisoned civilians who have not yet received recognition of their status from the state and problems related to legal assistance to families.
- In June 2024, a four-day training "Advocating for changes to state policy in Ukraine" was held, the main goal of which was to improve the skills of CSO representatives to build and conduct a successful advocacy campaign at the national level, create communication and social mobilization strategies to promote legislative changes. Participants practiced during business games, working on real advocacy cases: Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Social and Legal Protection of Persons in Respect of Whom the Fact of Deprivation of Personal Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression against Ukraine, and Their Family Members"; The Draft Law of Ukraine “On the Status of Persons Victims of Sexual Violence Associated with the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and Urgent Interim Reparations”; The Draft Law of Ukraine “On Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court”. The event was attended by heads of organizations, advocacy specialists, lawyers, communication managers, and representatives of CSOs who promote the release of Ukrainian citizens from illegal imprisonment in the Russian Federation and assist in obtaining state

services for families of persons illegally deprived of their liberty and families of prisoners - a total of 13 people, including 9 women and 4 men. 92% of participants noted that the topics discussed at the training are important for their work (score 10 - 75%, score 9-17%).

Thanks to participation in the training “Advocating for changes in state policy in Ukraine”, representatives of our organization, as well as partner organizations such as the NGO “Center for Law Enforcement Research”, NGO “SEMA Ukraine”, NGO “December 29”, NGO “Krymsos”, CF “Steel Ants Kherson”, were able to improve their capacity to conduct advocacy activities. The training also contributed to the networking of NGOs that promote the release of Ukrainian citizens from illegal imprisonment in the Russian Federation, assist in obtaining state services for families of persons illegally deprived of their liberty and families of prisoners.

In 2024, the Association signed Memorandums of Cooperation with the city military administrations of the city of Dniprorudne and the city of Energodar.

Also, during the year, cooperation with human rights organizations was organized to strengthen the influence on legislative changes. In the fall of 2024, the Association joined the Tribunal for Putin (T4P) Initiative, founded by the Kharkiv Human Rights Group (KHRG), the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union - UHHRU, and the Center for Civil Liberties. This will allow for more mechanisms of influence and advocacy, in particular at the international level, with the aim of punishing criminals.

2. DOCUMENTATION

During 2024, the Association's documenters documented 1,506 episodes of potential war crimes and crimes against humanity and interviewed 218 people who witnessed enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and crimes against civilians, including shelling of civilian infrastructure, appropriation of private property by the occupiers, and unlawful deprivation of liberty. We work mainly in the Zaporizhia region on the topic of enforced disappearances and detention of civilians.

The Association transmits information about documented war crimes to:

- UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine;
- UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances;
- UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry into Violations in Ukraine;
- UN Committee against Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- UN Human Rights Council;
- UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights;
- Ukrainian law enforcement agencies;
- Organizations for Security and Cooperation in Europe

In June 2024, the Association organized and conducted a one-day training “Documentation of War Crimes for Field Researchers”, the main goal of which was to improve the knowledge and skills of representatives of civil society organizations that contact witnesses and victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity, participate in field missions, prepare research, analytical materials, investigations for working with people who have become witnesses of war crimes. Thanks to participation in the training, representatives of our organization, as well as partner organizations that are part of the “Ukraine. 5Am” Coalition, namely the NGO “Media Initiative for Human Rights”, the Crimean Process, the NGO “Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group”, the Educational House of Human Rights (Chernihiv), were able to improve their qualifications and receive practical advice from trainers on the following issues:

- how to interview a witness without harming him, himself and the investigation;
- what, when and how to record when documenting war crimes;
- the nuances of the ethical side of documentation and the recipe for the perfect testimony.

A special component of the training was its focus on acquiring skills to work according to the principle of “do no harm”. Expert trainers from Truth Hounds developed, at the request of the training participants, a matrix of questions when interviewing employees of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, as well as when documenting attacks on civilians and civilian objects, unlawful deprivation of liberty, cases of torture, inhuman treatment and sexual violence related to the war. This matrix will be provided for general use in the work of all documentation specialists of the “Ukraine. 5Am” Coalition, which will allow to improve the consistency and quality of the work of documenters, and also bring them closer to a high common standard of documentation. The training was attended by 10 people, 8 of whom were women, 2 were men. According to the results of the analysis of the participants' questionnaires:

- 100% noted that the topics discussed at the training were important for their work (score 10 - 89%, score 9-11%);

- 100% noted the effectiveness of the knowledge and practical tools received (score 10 - 67%, score 9 - 34%).

During 2024, 256 consultations were provided to illegally imprisoned civilians and their family members, of which 140 were primary and 116 were secondary. 144 persons received legal consultations, of which 85 were women and 59 were men. The number of consultations provided exceeds the number of recipients of consultations by more than twice, since one person usually received 1-3 consultations, and some persons received 7-10 consultations.

The issues addressed by the applicants concerned, in particular:

- receiving social protection and material assistance from the state;
- procedures for confirming the fact of unlawful deprivation of personal liberty;
- the procedure for actions, forms of documents, a list of organizations to which it is necessary to apply regarding the disappearance of a family member under special circumstances (kidnapping in a temporarily occupied territory, missing servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine under special circumstances);

- appeals to the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and Arbitrary Detention, the ICRC, the personal office of the Coordination Headquarters, reports of a crime to the Joint Center of the SBU;
- appeals to the interdepartmental commission on establishing the fact of unlawful deprivation of a person of personal liberty;
- obtaining official status (at the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories);
- the procedure for actions in the event of a refusal from the Ministry of Reintegration to grant status;
- obtaining reimbursement of expenses for professional legal assistance;
- the procedure for compensation for destroyed and damaged property in the occupied territory;
- the procedure for compensation for losses and moral damage for torture;
- checking the inclusion of a person illegally deprived of liberty in all “exchange lists”;
- preparation of appeals to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine regarding the health status of a person illegally deprived of liberty;
- establishing the location of the kidnapped person;
- preparation of a package of documents for the interdepartmental commission; confirmation of the term of captivity;
- the procedure for action if a family member was kidnapped in the occupied territory.

Especially many consultations concerned the possibility of obtaining a deferral from mobilization for men released from illegal imprisonment/captivity, as well as the grounds for obtaining a deferral from mobilization.

According to the results of a survey conducted among recipients of legal aid, 90% of respondents rated the quality of the consultations received as “excellent”. The recipients highly appreciated the professionalism of our

lawyers, noted the accessibility of explanations and humanity in communication. They expressed special gratitude for the provision of written recommendations that help to better understand the information received.

As part of the implementation of the Advocacy Campaign Plan to promote amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Social and Legal Protection of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression against Ukraine, and Their Family Members”, **a training for interested parties on the topic “Legislation on Social and Legal Support for Hostages and Their Families: Practical Application”** was held in the city of Zaporizhzhia on May 31, 2024. The main goal of the event was to raise awareness among the target audience about the scope of the Law of Ukraine “On Social and Legal Protection of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression against Ukraine, and Their Family Members”, the list of social rights guaranteed by this law, and to provide practical recommendations on compiling a package of documents to receive assistance from the state. The training aroused great interest among residents of this frontline city - we received more than 40 registration forms for participation in the event. Instead of the planned 15 participants, 38 people, 27 of whom women, 11 men, 20 people have IDP status, 1 person with a disability. 90% of participants assessed the usefulness of the knowledge gained at the training as very good (80%) and good (10%). The event was also attended by representatives of law enforcement agencies, local and state authorities. The representative of the VRU Commissioner for Human Rights in Zaporizhia, Mykhailo Volkov, noted: “The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, as part of the working group that directly deals with civilians, not only updates this issue, but constantly returns it to the agenda. We constantly talk about the importance of involving international partners in these issues.”

An Algorithm of Actions for Establishing the Fact of Illegal Deprivation of Liberty for Civilians Who Were Released on Their Own, Outside the Exchange Procedure, Has Been Developed, Which Will Help Victims Prepare Appeals to State Bodies, in Particular, to the Commission on Establishing the Fact of Deprivation of Personal Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine, and Consultations on Its Use Were Provided.

Proposals for Amendments to the Legislation Were Developed, Which Were Submitted to the Relevant Authorities to Simplify the Process of Recognizing the Status of Illegal Prisoners.

In the Reporting Year, the Association Cooperated with Five Psychologists Who Provide Individual Consultations at the Request of Victims or Their Family Members. Consultations Were Provided in the Format of Online Individual Meetings (Sessions). Psychologists Conducted Systematic Work, Providing 1-2 Consultations a Week at the Request of Victims for 5 Months. Over the entire project period, five people (3 women and 2 men) received 131 individual consultations (5 hours of primary and 126 hours of secondary consultations).

3. INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

During 2024, the key communication channels of the Association were the Facebook page and the website. More than 430 publications were published on the Association's Facebook page, 213 materials were posted on the website, 14 of which were in the “Analytics” section, the rest were in the “News” section. Main topics:

- episodes of the “Free Our Relatives” program on Hromadske Radio. The project aimed to improve public awareness of war crimes committed by Russian troops on the territory of Ukraine, as well as provide clear algorithms for actions in critical situations related to military aggression, and social support for victims. During the entire project implementation period, we aired 59 radio programs, during which we discussed issues related to war crimes with our guests in the studio, considered ways to prevent the risk of becoming a victim of such crimes, invited experts provided specific advice for those whose relatives were captured, and talked about the possibilities of receiving social support from the state.
- stories of illegally imprisoned civilians as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine;

- information materials for illegally imprisoned civilians and their family members to explain their rights to receive state assistance;
- informational support for the advocacy goals of the Association;
- coverage of the key areas of activity of the Association.

In order to support advocacy activities during 2024, the Association's specialists developed and presented:

- an analytical monitoring report “Why are illegally imprisoned civilians left without comprehensive social protection from the state?”
- expert analytical review and recommendations on proving the fact of illegal deprivation of personal freedom of civilians of Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine
- algorithm of actions on establishing the fact of illegal deprivation of freedom for civilians who were released independently, outside the exchange procedure

The analytical monitoring report "Why illegally imprisoned civilians were left without comprehensive social protection from the state", as well as the collection "50 steps to help civilian hostages" developed on its basis, which contains 50 recommendations for the authorities to ensure comprehensive protection of civilians in illegal detention, was the result of the analytical work carried out by our lawyers, and combined the opinions, data, comments of 24 experts, 6 partner human rights organizations (including members of the Coalition "Ukraine. Fifth Morning") and 14 state institutions.

On October 30, 2024, in partnership with the Center for Civil Liberties, the Association held a Human Rights Club “Return without Exchange: How to Protect the Rights of Those Self-Released from Russian Captivity,” during which they discussed the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of the Law of Ukraine “On Social and Legal Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine, and Their Family Members.” In 2024, 53 episodes of the program “Free Our Relatives” were broadcast on “Hromadske Radio.” The project told the stories of Ukrainian civilians illegally deprived of their personal freedom and their conditions of detention. Recordings of the program were published on the Association’s Facebook page.

During the year, representatives of the Association actively participated in various forums, conferences and press conferences. In particular, the Chairman of the Association, Ihor Kotelyanets, took part in:

- a conference organized by the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine, within the framework of which he voiced acute issues of social protection of persons who have survived illegal imprisonment;
- Platforma's Cooperation Conference in Berlin, where he raised extremely important issues of protecting the rights of civilians illegally imprisoned due to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation;
- a press conference organized by the Crimean Tatar Resource Center on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, during which he voiced four key guidelines for relatives of illegally imprisoned civilians;
- the conference "Solidarity Talks", dedicated to the topic "Violations of the rights of people who have returned to freedom: how international solidarity can help".

In order to provide information support for the advocacy goals of the Association, a number of publications were published in various media outlets during the reporting year, which used comments from the Association's representatives, including:

- the article "Instruments of Fear: How the Occupation Authorities of Luhansk Region Persecute Ukrainian Citizens";
- stories on the air of the "Chas Novyn" program on Channel 5;
- a column by the Association's head, Ihor Kotelyanets, "Legal Hell: Why Civilians Released Outside of an Exchange Cannot Receive the Status of Deprived of Liberty" based on his speech during the human rights club "Return Outside of an Exchange";
- the article "Behind Closed Doors. How Relatives of Ukrainian Civilians Enslaved by Russia Fight for Their Return Home" on the "Radio Era" website;
- a story on the air of the "DNA. Their Own" program on the STB channel;

- Head of Legal Department Kateryna Levchenko gave an interview to journalists of the TV channel “Social Studio”, Radio Liberty’s project “News of the Azov Sea” and “Social Crimea”.
- Participation of the Association’s documentarian Alina Rodina on the air of RADIO NA DOTYK.

In order to implement the Advocacy Campaign Plan to promote amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Social and Legal Protection of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty as a Result of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine, and Their Family Members,” a series of communication activities were conducted, which included the development of video instructions for disseminating information through the media to explain, using real-life stories, the steps they need to take to establish status, receive assistance, etc., to show the shortcomings of the system through people’s stories, and to provide step-by-step instructions to victims and their family members on how to act in a given situation. Three episodes of the audiovisual media product (television series) on the social and legal protection of civilian hostages “Hostages Without Protection” were filmed. Its premiere took place on July 2, 2024, within the framework of the International Forum "Post-traumatic Growth of Women Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Conditions of Protracted War - Numo, Sisters!". The produced documentary film (series) "Hostages ~~bez~~ protection" (three episodes) was published on the Association's Facebook page and on the Association's Youtube channel.

4. Strategic Development of the Association

In 2024, the Strategic Plan for 2025–2027 and the Operational Plan for 2025 of the Association were developed and approved.

As part of the development of these documents, 4 facilitated sessions, trainings, and seminars were held with the participation of experts within the framework of the project “Development of the Organization’s Strategic Plan for

2025–2027”. The project is implemented within the framework of the “Sectoral Support Initiative for Civil Society of Ukraine” with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and ISAR “Unity”.

The approval of the Strategic Plan for 2025–2027 and the Operational Plan for 2025 is an important stage in planning the work of the organization, which is aimed at supporting illegally imprisoned civilians and their families and protecting their rights at the national and international levels.

Key areas of the 2025–2027 strategy

1. Strengthening legal protection for affected families

- Providing legal advice at the national and international levels.
- Promoting access to social, legal and medical assistance.
- Advocating for changes to legislation to improve the legal status of families of political prisoners.

2. Documenting human rights violations and advocacy

- Collecting and transferring evidence of crimes committed by the occupation authorities to international organizations.
- Preparing reports on illegal detention, torture and other human rights violations.
- Expanding cooperation with international institutions to strengthen influence.
- Developing and implementing a case documentation project

3. Development of organizational capacity

- Optimization of internal management processes.
- Conducting trainings on fundraising and working with donors.
- Attracting new members and regional representatives.

4. Information activities and raising awareness

- Information campaigns to highlight the issues of political prisoners.
- Development of information materials and organization of educational events.
- Active promotion of NGOs in social networks and the media.

5. Development of partnerships

- Creation of long-term partnerships with international and national organizations.
- Participation in thematic forums and conferences.
- Implementation of joint projects to protect the rights of political prisoners.

An Organizational Development Plan for the Association was also prepared, the implementation of which will result in:

- improving the overall effectiveness of the organization, the quality of projects and programs;
- increasing adaptation in a changing environment;
- formulating planned and desired changes;
- improving and systematizing policies and procedures;
- increasing the competencies of the organization's participants, which will be the key to the further development of the Association;
- strengthening the identified areas for building the Association's capacity;
- the opportunity to further strengthen its organizational capacity through strategic planning.

Effective and systematic work of the team will allow finding new approaches to providing assistance to the families of civilians who were illegally deprived of their freedom as a result of Russian military aggression in Ukraine.

5. Conclusions and plans for 2025

In 2024, the Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners of the Kremlin made a significant contribution to the struggle for the rights of illegally imprisoned civilians and their families. During the year, the organization systematically worked to strengthen advocacy, support the families of hostages, and involve the international community in resolving the problems of illegal deprivation of liberty of Ukrainian citizens.

One of the key achievements was the implementation of a broad advocacy campaign aimed at adopting legislative changes that provide social protection and legal support for persons who were illegally imprisoned as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine. Thanks to the efforts of the Association, initiatives were implemented to legally enshrine the deferral of mobilization for civilians released from illegal imprisonment. These changes were an important step in ensuring social justice for victims.

At the international level, the Association actively cooperated with international organizations and human rights institutions, in particular the UN Human Rights Council, the OSCE and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. The result of this work was the support of the international community in holding the Russian Federation accountable for the illegal detention of Ukrainian citizens and advocating for the creation of international compensation mechanisms for the victims of aggression.

The Association continued its work on an information campaign, which included, in particular, the release of more than 50 radio programs “Free Our Relatives” and the creation of analytical materials that highlighted the problems faced by illegally imprisoned civilians and their family members. This contributed not only to raising public awareness, but also to increasing pressure on state bodies to intensify their work towards the release of civilian prisoners.

A significant part of the organization’s activities was conducting research and preparing analytical documents, in particular the monitoring report “Why are illegally imprisoned civilians left without comprehensive social protection from the state?” This report contains specific recommendations for state bodies and became the basis for further advocacy initiatives of the Association.

During the year, the Association continued to support the families of illegally imprisoned people, providing them with consulting and informational assistance. A number of measures were implemented aimed at providing psychological support and legal assistance to families fighting for the release of their relatives.

An important result of the work was the adoption of the Association's Strategic Plan for 2025–2027, which establishes clear mechanisms for further activities. This document defines key priorities for the coming years and forms the basis for effective protection of the rights of illegally imprisoned civilians and their families.

The achievements of 2024 demonstrate that systematic advocacy, international cooperation and active support for the families of prisoners produce real results.

The implementation of the Operational Plan of the Association is planned for 2025, which includes a number of tasks that will allow systematizing and structuring the current activities of the organization and strengthening its influence in the field of protecting the rights of illegally imprisoned civilians and their families, namely:

- standardization of business processes in each area of the Association's activity;
- - involvement of AI technologies for the prompt processing of standardized requests;
- systematic advocacy of legislative changes to eliminate the discriminatory approach to determining the category of civilians who may be recognized as illegally imprisoned;
- strengthening the presence of the Association in the domestic media field by expanding cooperation with national and regional media, organizing public events involving beneficiaries, representatives of NGOs, state and law enforcement agencies, and international organizations;
- ensuring systematic support for illegally imprisoned persons and their family members.