



ICRC

The President

Geneva, 3 July 2017
OP_EURASIA 17/00096/BPM/nkd

Dear Dr Dobrovolny,

Dear Mr Vancura,

dear Georg,

I am writing in response to your letter of 20 June 2017. Let me first thank you for sharing your concern over the plight of detainees in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, and for informing us of your humanitarian activities in the country.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) welcomes any assistance it can get to alleviate the suffering of people affected by the conflict in these areas of Ukraine.

With regard to your questions, I should like to inform you that:

1. The ICRC is working to secure access – in areas controlled by the government and in areas controlled by other parties – to people detained in relation to the armed conflict.
2. We have helped to hand over family parcels to detainees on both sides and will continue doing so.

Dr Georg Dobrovolny
Forum Ost-West
Marktgasse 28
3011 Bern

Mr Georg Vancura
Lindenweg 8
5033 Buchs AG

3. There is a process in progress to confirm the willingness of detainees to be transferred from one side to the other; slightly more than a hundred people are involved. The ICRC is not part of the process, which is taking place within the framework of the Minsk Working Group on Humanitarian Issues, and to which all the parties (the "Donetsk People's Republic", "the Luhansk People's Republic" and the Government of Ukraine) have given their consent.
4. Several exchanges of detainees have taken place in the past 18 months.
5. The ICRC is pursuing a confidential dialogue with the authorities on access to detainees and on the procedures for visiting places of detention.

I am confident that the concerted efforts of all the parties involved will help to improve the humanitarian situation in the region.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Maurer