

2015-J2356

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Crimean Tatar Genocide on May 18, 2015

WHEREAS, This Resolution arises from a sense of human decency and respect for the Crimean Tatar people and their history; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Crimean Tatar Genocide on Monday, May 18, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The history has recorded May 18, 1944, as one of its darkest days, when the entire Crimean Tatar population, mostly women, children and the elderly, was uprooted from their homes without any warning, loaded on trucks in town centers and taken to the nearest train stations to be deported to Central Asia, Urals, Siberia and other remote areas of the then Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the majority of able-bodied Crimean Tatars were fighting as members of Soviet Armed Forces to defend their Soviet motherland; and

WHEREAS, More than 46 percent of the total number of Crimean Tatars perished during this systematically planned mass deportation, which was masterminded, planned and executed by Joseph Stalin; and

WHEREAS, The horror stories of this vicious crime against humanity are well documented and a project is currently being launched by the Crimean Tatar National Mejlis to collect stories of the victims; and

WHEREAS, Due to Russian invasion and occupation of Crimea in 2014, the "Surgun" continues to this day, with countless human rights abuses and restrictions being placed by Russian authorities upon Crimean Tatars; and

WHEREAS, The national and human rights of Crimean Tatars are yet to be

fully restored 70 years after their mass deportation; the Crimean Tatars continue to be severely discriminated against just as they were during the Soviet era, and continue to wish for peace, prosperity and justice; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the anniversary of this horrific event and urges all New Yorkers and the international community as a whole to act with a sense of urgency in condemning such atrocities and preventing crimes against humanity like this from ever happening again; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Crimean Tatar Genocide on May 18, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Crimean Tatar National Mejlis.