## Warsaw Human Dimension Conference

Plenary Session 2: Democratic Institutions Olena Stadnik *expert of Association of Reintegration of Crimea* **01.10.2024** 

## Distinguished Chairman and Honourable Participants!

Let me stress that Russian aggression against Ukraine, attempted annexation of Crimea and four Ukrainian mainland regions made total destructive influence on democratic institutions in all OSCE region.

And the scope of situation is not only in the impossibility to hold any local or national elections in Ukraine during last three years. Russia's attacks on democracy continue in all Europe, and now the dramatic fight against tyranny develops in Georgia, Russian terroristic activities enforced in Moldova.

New wave of authoritarian repressions against fundamental human rights started during Russia's illegal "presidential elections" that were organized in Russia-occupied territory in March 2024, and later in illegal Russia's "regional elections" in Crimea in September 2024

Russia-controlled structures promised to local Ukrainian population, as in Crimea so in Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions, that persons, who will make any protests against "elections" or refuse to participate in such "presidential elections" and to "vote for Putin", will be punished brutally of even "will disappear forever".

Such repressions continue in forms of arrests, raids, enforced disappearances, tortures and fines. Since end of September Russian occupiers started broadscale military trainings in Crimea, with blockade the settlements and urban areas of military and paramilitary structures as a common policy of armed terror and fear propaganda

At the same time Russia uses own agents in the OSCE electoral monitoring missions to undermine the idea of democratic elections in all civilized states of the region.

And, as our Association proved in own investigation this September, Russian intelligence used since 2022 Crimea collaborator Tatyana Khmil, long term director of key enterprises in business empire of Dmytro Tabachnik, Russia-controlled Crimean tycoon and formed Ukrainian minister of Yanukovich period, for business contacts with Ryan Wesley Routh, who is accused now in United States of attempting to assassinate Donald Trump at a Florida golf club on September 15.

As Tatyana Khmil, so Dmytro Tabachnik, are essencial tools of Russian intelligence and their collaborating with Ryan Routh became evident after common photos were published this September, made in April, 2022 in Kyiv.

Ryan Wesley Routh and Dmytro Tabachnik are not the only tools of Russian interference in United States' presidential elections this year, so OSCE electoral monitoring missions must pay special attention to this issue.

Thank You for Your attention!