

# Human Rights Watch

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/01/12/ukraine-urgent-need-accountability>

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(Kiev) Detentions and abuses of civilians in the context of the conflict in eastern [Ukraine](#) went largely unaddressed during 2016, Human Rights Watch said today in its [World Report 2017](#).

Ukrainian government and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine detained dozens of civilians for allegedly collaborating with the other side and held them in prolonged arbitrary detention, often incommunicado, denying them contact with lawyers and family. In some cases, detainees were forcibly disappeared as authorities denied they were in detention or refused to provide information on their whereabouts. Many were tortured or otherwise suffered ill-treatment; some were denied needed medical attention.

Enforced disappearances and torture of civilians by both sides fosters an atmosphere of lawlessness and leaves people in eastern Ukraine exposed to abuse, said [Tanya Cooper](#), Ukraine researcher at Human Rights Watch. Both sides should take immediate steps to end these abuses and ensure accountability for the grave crimes perpetrated by their respective forces.

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