



<b>MT Call sign / Monitors Names</b>	Miriam Cias
<b>Location (-s)</b>	KalanchakABLCP ChaplynkaABLCP ChonharABLCP
<b>Date</b>	August 2016

#### INPUT

Headlines:

- **Asker Battalion insists on corruption in the Border Guard Service of Ukraine**

The SMM visited all three crossing points of Kalanchak, Chaplynka and Chonhar (96 km, 90 km and 126 km south-east of Kherson respectively) at the administrative boundary line (ABL) between Ukraine's mainland and the Crimean peninsula. At Kalanchak crossing point the SMM was approached by an Asker member of 30-55 years of age, dressed in camouflage trousers and T-shirt with the logo of the self-proclaimed Crimean Tatar battalion. He drew the SMM's attention to the fact that border guards (BG) try to force out Asker from the crossing points. In his words, social activists have managed to decrease significantly the number of cases of corruption at ABLCP. However, constant pressure from law enforcement agencies forces them to fold operations.

The shift commanders, following orders from their superiors, force BG to extort funds from people moving from Crimea to Ukraine. Members of Asker ask Kherson residents to inform them about all the cases of extortion. However, for fear for their families locals are unwilling to cooperate.

He also told the SMM that the Border Guard Service of Ukraine's declarations about the new border control facilities have nothing to do with reality. Moreover, discipline and professional training of BG need improvement.

#### FOLLOW-UP

The SMM will continue to monitor situation at the ABLCPs and follow up on developments with Asker activities.

#### CONTACTS MADE

<b>Patrol Dates</b>	<b>Entity</b>	<b>Name/function (optional)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
	Ukrainian border guards	Shift commander	KalanchakABLCP	n/a
	Ukrainian border guards	Shift commander	ChaplynkaABLCP	n/a