from escalating into open conflict; however, their capacity to control the situation has begun to reach its limits.

Conclusions

It is difficult to grasp all the nuances of inter-ethnic relations even in settings that are much less complex than in Crimea. It is often tempting to identify strongly with the cause of beleaguered minority groups such as the Crimean Tatars, and to paint majority-minority relations in simplistic black and white colours. Thus it is important to stress that the Crimean Tatar community should not be idealized. Its leaders are not infallible, Crimean Tatar groups have also been involved in organized crime in Crimea, and the community is not free of extremists. This is not surprising. What *is* surprising is that its leaders have generally continued to advocate relatively moderate policies, and extremist activity is very limited, in spite of the brutality and persecution to which this community was subjected after it was deported, and the discrimination it continues to encounter in its homeland. It should be noted that these conclusions concerning the restraint demonstrated by the Crimean Tatars are shared by many scholars and NGO representatives who have carefully studied the situation in Crimea and the pattern of inter-ethnic tensions in the region.

The leaders of the Crimean Tatar community have shown that they are pragmatists who are ready to negotiate and compromise on various issues as long as these compromises do not threaten the integrity and viability of their community in Crimea. However, in a number of cases the dominant political elites in Crimea have demonstrated that they do not share this willingness to negotiate in good faith. In addition Ukraine's central authorities in Kyiv, preoccupied with issues such as the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and the separatist rhetoric voiced by some Crimean politicians, have benefitted from the support of the Tatar community in Crimea without providing it with equivalent support.

The crucial nature of developments in Crimea for the future of Ukraine fully justifies this report's emphasis on the situation in this important region. Other reports and studies have emphasized Crimea's role in Russian-Ukrainian relations, and the way in which developments there affect regional stability in the Black Sea basin. This report focuses heavily on the Crimean Tatars in the hope that this will attract greater attention to the problems they face in building a new life for themselves in their homeland, and the report's recommendations reflect these emphases.