



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

e-mail: crimeahrg@gmail.com

website: crimeahrg.org

CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REVIEW

Monitoring review of the human rights situation in Crimea

March 2017

This monitoring review was prepared
by the Crimean Human Rights Group
on the basis of materials collected
in March 2017

Follow the [link](#), to read
monthly monitoring reviews of the
Crimean Human Rights Group

Follow the [link](#), to read
thematic reviews and articles of the
Crimean Human Rights Group



CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	3
Right to liberty and security of the person.....	3
<i>Detentions</i>	3
<i>Arrests</i>	4
Politically motivated criminal prosecution.....	5
«26 February case».....	5
«Hizb ut-Tahrir case».....	5
«Ukrainian saboteurs' case».....	6
<i>The Vladimir Balukh' case</i>	7
Freedom of speech and expression.....	8
<i>Obstruction of journalistic activities</i>	9
<i>Case of Ilmi Umerov</i>	9
Freedom of peaceful assembly.....	10
Freedom of association.....	12
3. ANNEXES	13



1. INTRODUCTION

The **Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG)** is an organization of the Crimean human rights defenders and journalists, the purpose of which is to promote the observance and protection of human rights in Crimea by attracting widespread attention to the problems of human rights and international humanitarian law in the territory of the Crimean peninsula, as well as the search and development of mechanisms to protect the human rights in Crimea.

The **CHRG** first of all obey the rules of basic documents in the field of human rights, such as: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural Rights and others.

The main objectives of the **CHRG**:

- 1) Collection and analysis of the information regarding the human rights situation in Crimea;
- 2) Broad awareness among governments, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the media and other target groups through the publication and spreading of analytical and information materials on the human rights situation in Crimea;
- 3) Promote the protection of human rights and respect for international law in Crimea;
- 4) Preparation of recommendations for government authorities and international organizations in the sphere of human rights;
- 5) Providing the presence of “human rights in the Crimea topics” in the information space.

The **CHRG's** team consists of experts, human rights activists and journalists from different countries who are involved in monitoring and documenting human rights violations in Crimea, since February, 2014.

During preparation and spreading of the information the **CHRG** is guided by principles of objectivity, reliability and timeliness.



2. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

DETENTIONS

On 9 March, **Seit-Ibrahim Zaytullaev**, who was detained on 10 February, 2017 by the FSS, was found guilty of violating Part 1 of Article 322 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Illegal crossing of the State Border of the Russian Federation). The judge of the «Armenian City Court» Tatyana Fedeneeva appointed him a fine of 5,000 rubles and released him from custody in the courtroom¹.

On 15 March, **Abdullah Yakubov** reported that a resident of Zavetnoye village of Sovetsky district Emil Mukhteremov was detained in Feodosia. According to Yakubov, Mukhteremov was detained and taken away by FSS officers after he left the bank branch with a friend and got into the car. Later, Yakubov reported that Mukhterimov is in the FSS department of the city of Feodosia². A few hours later Yakubov said that Emil Mukhteremov had got in touch. According to Mukhteremov, FSS officers let him go in the village of Zybino on the road and from there he got home.

On 29 March in Simferopol with gross violations of the law Crimean Tatar **Bilyal Adilov** was detained. Unknown persons in masks without identification marks, against Adilov's will and without procedural documents, placed him in a minivan of Volkswagen Multivan in dark blue colour (number plates K 953 EU 82). Adilov was detained near the building of the «Supreme Court» of Crimea, where he was going as a listener to the session on the case of Hizb ut-Tahrir. He was taken to the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and charged under Article 318 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Use of violence or threat of violence against a representative of authority)³. Prior to making a decision on the measure of restraint, Adilov was placed in a temporary detention facility. Lawyer Emil Kurbedinov published a video of Osman Arifmemetov, which recorded the detention of Adilov. When the person that made the video tried to find out who the masked people are, one of them knocked the camera out of the hands of the activist and said he was from the FSS. People in masks refused to show identity documents⁴. On 31 March, the «court» rejected the investigator's request and released Adilov from the detention centre, under a written undertaking not to leave the place⁵.

On 29 March an eyewitness of the detention of Adilov appealed to the «Zheleznodorozhnyi District Police Department» of Simferopol with a statement about the possible kidnapping of his friend Bilyal Adilov. However, in response to this statement, police officers demanded that the applicant hand over fingerprints and DNA samples. The police explained that this was a standard procedure, but such requirements are contrary to Russian law. The activist refused to hand over fingerprints and DNA samples⁶.

¹ <http://crimeahrg.org/zaytullaeva-zaderzhanniogo-fsb-pri-popyitke-popast-v-kryim-armyanskiy-sud-oshtrafoval-i-otpushil-na-svobodu/>

² <https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/posts/1867288496890116>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/emil.kurbedinov/posts/1401257853272141>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/emil.kurbedinov/videos/1401263819938211/>

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/akhmaduka/videos/1490356827664514/>

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/akhmaduka/videos/1488382631195267/>



On 30 March, Remzy Bekirov and Osman Arifmemetov were summoned to the Centre for Combating Extremism (Centre E) in order to return to them the things that were seized from them during the detention in Kamenka on 21 February, 2017⁷. However, instead, **Remzi Bekirov** was detained, and he was accused of distributing extremist materials (for more details see «Freedom of Speech and Expression»).

ARRESTS

On 30 March, the judge of the “Simferopol District Court” Svetlana Belik found **Remzy Bekirov** guilty of violating Article 20.29 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation (production and dissemination of extremist materials) and appointed him an administrative punishment in the form of an administrative arrest for a period of 3 days (for more details see “Freedom of Speech and Expression”).

For more than 6 months, a citizen of Ukraine of Afghan origin, **Kabir Mohammad**, has been kept in the Simferopol pre-detention centre. There are grounds to believe that his detention is unlawful. On 14 September, 2016, he was detained by FSS officers at the Armyansk when he was crossing the border with Crimea. Russian border guards during the verification of documents said that Interpol is looking for Iranian citizen Niyazi Mohammad Kabir, son of Abdulatif, who has been on the international wanted list since November 2010 on the “fraud case”. The surname of the wanted person is Niyazi, and the double name is Mohammad Kabir. However, the detained citizen of Ukraine has a surname — Mohammad, and the name Kabir is the name of his father. Thus, the data does not coincide, and he is not the person sought by the Iranian authorities. But despite this, the Russian authorities intend to extradite the detainee to Iran.

The judge of the “Armenian City Court” Tatiana Fedeneva, a few hours after the detention, made a decision to imprison Kabir Mohammad. During the following months the Crimean “courts” repeatedly extended the measure of restraint to him in the form of detention. According to his wife, during the court sessions he was not given an interpreter.

On 17 March, the judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea Anatoly Osodchenko dismissed another request of Mohammad's lawyers to provide him with an interpreter and left the decision on keeping him in custody.

According to his wife, Kabir Mohammad suffered a second stroke in the pre-trial detention centre, but he was not provided with medical assistance. After a stroke, he needs treatment⁸.

⁷ <https://youtube.com/watch?v=X-RSxeFqXIM>

⁸ <http://crimeahrg.org/afgantsa-s-grazhdanstvom-ukrainyi-polgoda-nezakonno-derzhat-v-sizo-kryima-i-namerenyi-vyidat-iranu/>



POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

«26 FEBRUARY CASE»

“26 February case” is considered in two trials: the first in the “Supreme Court” of Crimea regarding **Ahtem Chiygoz** (in custody) as the “organizer of unrest” near the Crimean parliament, the second in the “Central District Court” of Simferopol regarding the remaining defendants as “participants in the riots” (**Ali Asanov** and **Mustafa Degermenji** are in custody, with regard to **Eskender Katemirov**, **Eskender Emirvaliyev** and **Arsen Yunusov**, a preventive measure — personal bail — was chosen).

On 27 February, on 2 and 3 March, during the hearings the other defendants on the “26 February case” were heard at the Ahtim Chiyhoz trial: Eskender Nebiev, Arsen Yunusov, Eskender Kantemirov, Eskender Emirvaliyev, Talyat Yunusov, Ali Asanov and Mustafa Degermenji. The “Collegium of Judges”, in violation of procedural norms, did not confer the necessary status to these persons, despite the defence’s objections. As a result, the judges heard them as “other persons”, but such procedural status is not provided for by the Criminal code of the RF. According to the decision of the “Collegium of judges of the Supreme Court of Crimea”, these persons have the right to declare any information or opinions and are not obliged to give truthful information.

During the interrogation Mustafa Degermenji pointed out that the investigator offered to release him from custody on condition that he confess his guilt and give false testimony against Ahtem Chiyhoz. In addition, he reported that he and Ali Asanov were taken to the Investigative Committee, where the mufti of Crimea Emirali Ablaev was present. The Mufti also proposed to replace the custody with release with his personal bail, in case if Degermendji and Asanov agree to the conditions of the investigator⁹.

After the interrogation of the victims, witnesses of the prosecution and other persons, the judges went over to the testimony of defence witnesses.

On 23 March, the judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea, Viktor Zinkov, granted the prosecutor’s request and extended the detention of Ahtim Chiyhoz until 8 July, 2017. The ruling was made for no good reason, since at that time all the victims and defence witnesses had already testified before the court, which meant that, contrary to the prosecutor’s statement, Ahtem Chiygoz could not “put pressure on the witnesses and destroy evidence.”¹⁰

«HIZB UT-TAHRIR CASE»

19 people are imprisoned regarding the “Hizb ut-Tahrir case”: **Ruslan Zeitulayev**, **Rustem Vaitov**, **Nuri Primov**, **Ferat Sayfulaev** (convicted), **Inver Bekirov**, **Vadim Sirouk**, **Muslim Aliyev**, **Emir-Usain Kuku**, **Refat Alimov**, **Arsen Jepparov**, **Enver Mamutov**, **Remzi Memetov**, **Zevri Abseitov**, **Rustem Abil’tarov**, **Teymur Abdullayev**, **Rustem Ismailov**, **Eider Saledinov**, **Uzeir Abdullayev** and **Emil Jemadenov** (in custody). They are accused according to Part 1 of Article 205.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Establishment of a terrorist organization) and / or part 2 of Article 205.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Participation in a terrorist organization). Later, some of the defendants were also charged under Article 278 of the Criminal Code (Forcible seizure of power or forcible retention of power).

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/nikolay.polofov/posts/1314360171962709>

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/nikolay.polofov/posts/1333793860019340>



On 7 March, the judge of the Kyiv District Court, Alexei Tikhopy, extended the terms of detention until 11 June, 2017 to five Muslims that were detained in Simferopol on 12 October, 2016: Teimour Abdullayev, Uzeyir Abdullayev, Rustem Ismailov, Aider Saledinov, Emil Jemadenov. The meeting was held without the participation of Ismailov and Saledinov, who are in a psychiatric hospital for compulsory examination. The lawyer Edem Semedlyaev reported that three suspects in the courtroom were kept in a metal cage during the hearing¹¹. On 29 March, the judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea, Tatyana Melnyk, dismissed the appeal of the defence and upheld the decision on detention until 11 June¹².

On 23 March, the lawyer Emil Kurbedinov reported that Teymur Abdullayev had been transferred to the isolation cell of the pre-detention centre. According to Kurbadinov, the reason for placing of Abdullaev to the isolation cell was the letter to his family, which he wrote in the Crimean Tatar language. The letter was withdrawn by the employees of the pre-detention centre when they were examining his cell. Abdullaev demanded to return the letter, after which he was put in a punishment cell. He told the lawyer that the pre-detention centre employees said that it is forbidden to write letters in any language other than Russian¹³.

In Rostov-on-Don, the case of Ruslan Zeytullayev is being reviewed; he is convicted under Part 2 of Article 205.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (participation in a terrorist organization). The prosecutor demanded a review of the accusation and conviction of Zeytullayev according to Part 1 of Article 205.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (organization of terrorist activities). The testimonies of witnesses are heard in court again.

Rustem Vaitov which was convicted for 5 years of imprisonment is in the colony of Kurgan city, RF for 43 days. 40 of those days he spent in the penalty cell. Lawyer Edem Sememlyaev said that Vaitov was detained in the detention centre on the first day of his stay in the colony, allegedly for the fact that he got up late. Further conclusions were also associated with obscene language and violation of the colony's order¹⁴.

It became known that the convicted Ferat Sayfullaev arrived in the colony No. 17 of the Kirov region, Russia¹⁵.

«UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS' CASE»

The wife of **Andrei Zakhtei** said that when he was transferred from the Moscow Lefortovo detention centre to Simferopol pre-detention centre, money disappeared from his account¹⁶. According to lawyer Alexander Popkov, Andrei Zakhtey filed an application for the renunciation of Russian citizenship¹⁷.

On 2 March, the judge of the Kyiv District Court of Simferopol, Olga Kuznetsova, extended the term of detention for 3 months, until 7 June, 2017 for **Evgeny Panov** and **Andrei Zakhtei**. Information about the meeting was not published on the website of the “court”.

On 22 March, the judge of the Supreme Court of Crimea, Sergei Pogrebnyak, dismissed the appeal of the defence and upheld the decision to extend Andrei Zakhtei's detention¹⁸. On 24 March in the case of Yevgeny Panov, the judge Olga Plastinina made a similar decision.

¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/487906314740295/permalink/602899723240953/>

¹² https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=434079872&result=1&delo_id=4&new=4

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/emil.kurbedinov/posts/1395614300503163>

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/100004757052466/videos/768732873295274/>

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10212268065802948>

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/stecyuk.oksana/posts/1205457799573710>

¹⁷ <https://meduza.io/news/2017/03/09/ukrainskiy-diversant-andrey-zahtey-poprozil-lishit-ego-rossiyskogo-grazhdanstva>

¹⁸ https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=432819714&result=1&delo_id=4&new=4



Vera Kotoyanets, the mother of Evgeny Panov, arrived in Simferopol jail for a meeting with her son. However, the investigator Selivanov denied her a date with Panov. Only at the court session she was able to talk with her son and reported that bruises from handcuffs were visible on his hands¹⁹.

On 6 March, the judge of the Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol Viktor Klimakov extended the detention of **Vladimir Dudka, Dmitry Shtyblikov** and **Alexei Bessarabov** for two months until 8 May, 2017²⁰. The case had to be examined by the judge Tatyana Brykalo. She ruled to hold the meeting in closed session, but before the meeting, she was suddenly replaced.

The judge of the Sevastopol City Court Gennady Nikitin rejected the appeal of the defence and upheld the decision to extend the detention of Vladimir Dudka. According to relatives, the judge considered the case only for a minute and immediately made a decision. Thus, the judge could not even get to know the arguments of the defence.

On 17 March the judge of the "Zheleznodorozhnyi District Court of Simferopol", Dmitry Mikhailov, left **Redvan Suleymanov** in custody until 9 June, 2017²¹. On 28 March, the judge of the "Supreme Court" of Crimea Anatoly Osochenko upheld this decision to extend the detention of Suleymanov in custody²².

VLADIMIR BALUKH CASE

On 2 March, the judge of the Razdolnensky District Court, Maria Bedritskaya, extended the detention measure to **Vladimir Balukh** in the form of detention until 4 June. Earlier, the term of detention for Balukh was prolonged twice for one month, and this time the judge extended the term by three months.

On 16 March, the first hearing was held in the Razdolnensky District Court, at which the case of Vladimir Balukh was examined essentially. During the meeting, the testimonies of four witnesses from the prosecution were heard. This was the fellow villager Balukh, his wife and two employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Vladimir Balukh was in a metal cage during the hearing. During the interrogation at the meeting Balukh's fellow-villager described him positively. The wife of Vladimir Natalia reported that during the search in the house there were at least 16 people. According to her, these people moved around the house and went into the premises themselves, without the presence of the residents themselves. Two officers of "Razdolnensky police department" were also questioned as "prosecution witnesses": "head of the criminal investigation department" and "deputy head of the police department". Both witnesses pointed out that the search was initiated by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSS), the protocols were compiled by the FSS, but the police searched the apartment for unknown reasons.

The wife of Vladimir Balukh Natalia told the CHRГ that in the house during her absence things change their location. She added that on 16 March, while she was in court on the case of the spouse, things were again moved. On the morning of 17 March, Natalia Balukh found a staircase on the street, attached to the attic window on the roof of the house, where allegedly bullets and dynamite were "discovered" during the search on 8 December, 2016.

She immediately informed the local police Sergey Vlasenko that someone illegally penetrated her private property. She asked the district police to show up and check the attic, because she herself is afraid to go up there. However, the policeman refused to come and did not react to the statement of the wife of Balukh.

¹⁹ <http://ru.krymr.com/a/28355244.html>

²⁰ http://leninskiy.sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=press_dep&op=1&did=88

²¹ <http://ru.krymr.com/a/news/28375404.html>

²² https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=434080016&result=1&delo_id=4&new=4



FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION*

On 20 March, in connection with the search in the home of the parents of the activist of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre **Veldar Shukurdzhiyev**, it became known that a criminal case has been opened against him. The reason for opening a criminal case was his public statements in the Ukrainian media about the illegality of Russia's actions in Crimea. Shukurdzhiyev previously left Crimea in connection with the administrative persecution.

On 21 March, activists of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre **Leonid Kuzmin, Mikhail Batrak, Galina Balaban and Alena Popova** were summoned for questioning against Veldar Shukurdzhiyev in the FSS in Simferopol. FSS investigator Chumakov told them that Shukurdzhiyev was accused of extremism. In addition to questions about Shukurdzhiyev, the investigator also asked questions about journalist Lyudmila Shchekun and the leader of the movement «Evromaydan-Crimea» Andrei Shchekun²⁴, who currently lives in Kiev.

On 25 March, the media reported that the deputy of the Alushta city council **Pavel Stepanchenko** and the editor-in-chief of the newspaper «Your newspaper» **Aleksey Nazimov** went on a hunger strike in the Simferopol jail. In a statement about the start of a hunger strike, that is available to Novaya Gazeta, Nazimov points out that he is kept in the pre-detention centre for six months on charges he considers politically motivated. Nazimov reports that the investigation several times was re-qualifying the criminal case, refusing earlier charges, but the court every time supports the position of the investigator about the appointment of a preventive measure only in the form of detention²⁵.

On 30 March, an activist who repeatedly recorded video footage on the searches and detentions of Crimean Muslims on social networks, **Remzi Bekirov**, after being detained by the Centre for Countering Extremism, was found guilty under Article 20.29 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation (production and dissemination of extremist materials). On the eve of his arrest, he also recorded a video²⁶. Bekirov was accused of violating Article 20.29 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation for posting material on coastal partisans in the social network VKontakte in 2010. Bekirov said that this publication was deleted more than a month ago. The judge of the Simferopol District Court Svetlana Belik appointed an administrative punishment to Remzi Bekirov in the form of an administrative arrest for a period of 3 days.

On 30 March, in Simferopol, near the building of the Centre for Combating Extremism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, journalist **Taras Ibrahimov** spoke with activists. They were approached by three employees of Centre E and demanded to go with them. They explained their actions by the fact that a call was received about finding unknown persons near the regime object. Ibrahimov was taken to Centre E, was taken written explanations, and conducted an examination of personal belongings. After that, he was released, but the records of the delivery or detention, as well as the examination of things were not compiled. Ibrahimov said that during the interview, the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs complained to him that he, in their opinion, «one-sidedly illuminates the events, and offered to contact them for comments.»

* The section was prepared in cooperation with the **Human Rights Information Center**: <https://humanrights.org.ua/en>

²⁴ <http://crimeahrg.org/fsb-doprashivaet-aktivistov-ukrainskogo-kulturnogo-tsentra-kryvima/>

²⁵ <https://www.novayagazeta.ru/news/2017/03/25/130152-zaderzhannye-v-alushte-zhurnalists-i-deputat-ob-yavili-golodovku>

²⁶ <https://youtube.com/watch?v=X-RSxeFqXIM>



OBSTRUCTION OF JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES

On 20 March, in the Zheleznodorozhny District Court of Simferopol, before the start of the trial on the case of Nikolai Semena, the bailiffs did not allow the **journalists of the First Crimean TV channel** to enter the courtroom. Their reasoning was motivated by the fact that journalists misdirected the application for accreditation to the court. Also, the journalist of the **RIA Novosti, Maxim Groznov**, was not admitted to the courtroom due to lack of available seats in the hall. The bailiff and the judge's secretary warned journalists about the inadmissibility of maintaining an audio record without the permission of the court, but this requirement is contrary to Russian law. The bailiff threatened journalists that he would seize equipment from those who would be recording audio without permission.

On 27 March, two journalists of the foreign publication "Crimean Human Rights Authorized Representative", were refused by Lyudmila Lubina to meet and comment on the grounds that they had not received an accreditation certificate from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

CASE OF ILMI UMEROV

On 1 March, a preliminary investigation into **Ilmi Umerov's** case was completed²⁷. He is charged under part 2 of Article 280.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation «Public appeals for the implementation of actions aimed at violating the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, committed using information and telecommunication networks (including the Internet)» for his public statements that Crimea is the territory of Ukraine.

The FSS investigators not only deprive the lawyer of Ilmi Umerov **Nikolai Polozov** of the status of the defender in this case by attracting a lawyer as a witness in the case of his client, but also intend to bring Polozov to criminal liability.

On 2 March, the lawyer Nikolai Polozov reported that he was summoned to the Investigative Committee for testimony, as he is charged under article 308 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (refusal of a witness or victim to testify). The case was opened on the application of the FSS investigator Igor Skripka, to whom Polozov refused to testify as a witness in the case of his client Ilmi Umerov²⁸.

On 15 March, within the Nikolai Polozov's case, Ilmi Umerov was summoned to the Investigation Committee for questioning. The investigator asked questions about whether Polozov provided legal assistance to Umerov, and whether an agreement on legal assistance was signed between them. Umerov said that the agreement was signed in June 2016²⁹.

The judge of the Kyiv District Court of Simferopol, Olga Kuznetsova, dismissed the complaint of lawyer Nikolai Polozov against the actions of the FSS investigator Igor Skripka. She did not recognize the forced drive of the lawyer for questioning on 25 January, 2017, as a violation of the legislation on advocacy. Judge Kuznetsova did not consider it as important that Polozov is a lawyer of Ilmi Umerov, in the case of which he intended to interrogate FSS investigator Skripka. She also ignored the fact that FSS investigator Skripka decided to force the lawyer Polozov to come before the decision of the Kyiv District Court of Simferopol to bring in Polozov as a witness came into action³⁰.

²⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/aysh.umerova/videos/1283055741732247>

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1310024205729639>

²⁹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1951605151751015&id=100007046477228

³⁰ https://twitter.com/nikolai_polozov/status/845266562504364032



FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

On 2 March, deputy head of the administration of Simferopol, Galina Aleksandrova, denied holding a peaceful meeting on the occasion of birthday of Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko on 9 March to activists of the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**. The response of the administration does not specify the reason for the refusal, but there is a recommendation to file an application for a rally in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation (Appendix). However, the activists filed applications in accordance with the requirements of the laws of the Russian Federation. In addition, Ministry of Internal Affairs made a «warning about the inadmissibility of violation of the law» to the organizer of the action Leonid Kuzmin. The document listed the articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation, for violation of which activists will be prosecuted in the event of an «unauthorized rally»³¹.

On 4 March in Krasnokamenka village, the school principle and the district police prohibited **a football match** between local teams. According to the participants of the match, the reason for that was the statement that the football match is a «rally» unauthorized by the administration of the city of Feodosia³².

On 7 March, the «Bakhchisaray District Court» refused to satisfy **Osman Belyalov's** appeal. He is accused of participating in an «unauthorized rally» for the fact that on 12 May, 2016 he came to support the relatives of those who were detained on that day in the case of Hizb ut-Tahrir³³.

On 17 March, the administration of the city of Sevastopol denied **activists** to hold a «rally in support of the demand to investigate the facts of corruption of Russia's top officials», which was scheduled for 26 March. First, the Sevastopol Department of Public Communications refused to coordinate a rally near the monument to George the Victorious, referring to the replacement of paving slabs. After that, the authorities refused to hold a rally in Nakhimov Square, having substantiated their refusal by the fact that the rally might hamper the movement of pedestrians³⁴.

On 22 March, **Dmitry Kisiev**, the coordinator of the public initiative «Navalny 2018. Crimea» reported that the administration of Simferopol refused to him in holding a similar rally³⁵. The administration referred to the incomplete set of documents submitted.

After this denial, seven activists tried to organize a series of single pickets, but were detained by the police during a meeting in the Verona cafe³⁶. The detainees were taken to the police station No. 3 «Central» of the Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Simferopol (Futbolistov Street, 20). They were obliged to give a written explanation of their actions, conducted a personal search, and also were taken off fingerprints and samples of DNA³⁷. According to the activists, after being interrogated by the police, they were taken to the Crimean Scientific and Practical Centre of Narcology at the address: Simferopol, Fevral'skaya Street, 13), where they passed the alcohol intoxication test. There were no traces of

³¹ A «warning about the inadmissibility of violation of the law» to Leonid Kuzmin from Ministry of Internal Affairs, document <http://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-03-06-MVD-UKTS.pdf>

³² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yU8WSu5SnqA>

³³ <http://krymsos.com/ru/news/sud-zalishiv-v-sili-shtraf-uchasniku--nesanktsionovanogo-mitingu--v-bakhchisarayi/>

³⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/posts/1870179933267639>

³⁵ <http://ru.krymr.com/a/news/28383734.html>

³⁶ https://vk.com/wall64972578_10489

³⁷ <http://capablog.livejournal.com/1706.html>



intoxication. The organizers of the pickets were released without making any accusations and without providing protocols on detention and delivery.

However, later, on 26 March, one of the detainees Dmitry Kisiev reported on his page in the social network that he was arrested for 10 days³⁸. Another activist Aleksey Efremov said that on 26 March he was detained one more time by Interior Ministry officials³⁹. After that, according to him, the court ruled that he was fined to 500 rubles for violation of article 19.3 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation (disobedience to the lawful order of a police officer)⁴⁰.

On 11 March in Oktyabrskoe village of Krasnogvardeysky district a **drawing competition «My Mom is the best!»** was held. The organizers were public activist Nikolai Rand and several charitable foundations. However, the head of the Oktyabrskoye village, Vladimir Melnik, filed an application to the Interior Ministry and accused the organizers of violating article 20.2 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation (Violation of the established procedure for organizing or holding a meeting, rally, demonstration, procession or picketing). Melnik explained that he was outraged by the fact that the event passed without agreement with him, and he wants to punish the organizers. He also said that the leadership of the House of Culture, in which the contest was held, «will be punished in full» without involvement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, since the House of Culture is his subordinate institution⁴¹.

³⁸ https://vk.com/wall412152752_156

³⁹ https://vk.com/wall64972578_10513

⁴⁰ https://vk.com/wall64972578_10547

⁴¹ <http://ktelegraf.com.ru/8973-iniciativa-nakazuema.html>



FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

On 13 March, **Nariman Dzhelalov** was summoned to the Centre for Countering Extremism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Simferopol for questioning. After the interrogation, he reported that he was required to clarify the facts in connection with his interview, which he gave to the television channel «112 Ukraine»⁴². The investigator said that since the presenter called Dzhelalov deputy chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, and Dzhelalov did not deny it, he could accuse Dzhelalov of involvement in a banned organization in the Russian Federation due to the ban of the Mejlis.

THE REVIEW WAS PREPARED BY:

Olga Skrypnyk, *coordinator of the Crimean Human Rights Group;*

Vissarion Aseev, *analyst of the Crimean Human Rights Group;*

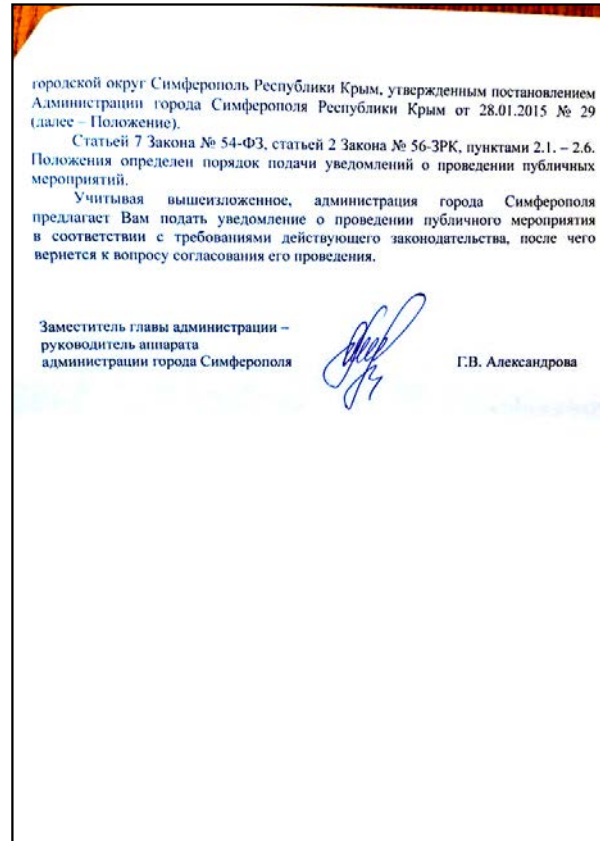
Alexander Sedov, *analyst of the Crimean Human Rights Group.*

⁴² <https://www.facebook.com/zair.smedlya/videos/1284467854921713/>



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1



The refusal of the administration of the city of Simferopol to activists of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in holding a peaceful meeting on the birthday of Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko on March 9