

OCCUPIED CRIMEA

No right to protest

For three years the right for peaceful assemblies has been consistently disrespected on the peninsula occupied by Russia: numbers, facts, trends

One of the fundamental human rights being consistently restricted since the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation is the right to freedom of peaceful assemblies ensured by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Thuggish attacks of so called 'Crimea Self-Defense' and other 'non-identified persons' on

the events supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine, abductions and murders of their participants in the spring of 2014 have gradually transformed into unlawful administrative and criminal persecutions of peninsula event initiators and participants by occupational law enforcement agencies and Crimean 'courts'.

Repressions against the protesters in Crimea are of very different nature. From mass detentions and dozens of cases started after the meeting of the Mejlis leaders at the peninsula administrative border in May of 2014 to arrests of single activists in summer of 2017. From persecutions of those who participated in the protest events before the complete establishment of the occupation regime to those who tried to express their civic position after the annexation already. Both retired people unknown for anyone before and well-known public and political figures, both Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, get under the repressive roller.

In order to discourage forever from any wish and readiness to express any protest moods, the occupation powers represented by 'police', 'prosecutor's office', and 'courts' apply administrative and criminal persecution instruments. But as to face down Crimea turned out not to be an easy task, tactics of the occupiers concerning the peaceful event participants changes all the time. For instance, when the occupation powers have understood that administrative arrests do not help and fail to reduce protest activity, the 'courts' have started imposing enormous fines on the detained.

Therefore, backed with extending the all-Russian practices of peaceful assembly freedom restrictions on the occupied peninsula, a purely Crimean – more brutal and repressive – practice is being developed, too.

This infographics presents basic facts and major trends on restricting the freedom of peaceful assemblies for the previous three years since the Crimea occupation start. The review has been prepared by Ukrainian

human right organizations and is based on the monitoring of the human rights situation on the peninsula as well as on the cases supported by the lawyers in the European Court for Human Rights.