



# CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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## CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REVIEW

**March 2019**

The monitoring review was prepared  
by the Crimean Human Rights Group  
on the basis of materials collected  
in March 2019

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## 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

### BAN ON TORTURE

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Mr Ilya Kavernikov, a son of **Mr. Volodymyr Dudka**, a defendant of the “Ukrainian Commandos case’, informed the CHRG that the RF Investigation Committee had rejected starting a criminal case against the FSB men who, as Mr Volodymyr Dudka and Mr Aleksey Bessarabov stated, had tortured them to force to confess the guilt.<sup>1</sup>

### RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

#### DETENTIONS AND SEARCHES

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> at about half past noon the RF police detained Rev. **Clement (Pavel Kusch)**, Archbishop of Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) at Simferopol Bus Terminal from which he planned to go to Rostov-na-Donu (RF) to the court hearings of the case of Mr Pavel Grib, a Ukrainian national and a political prisoner. The RF policemen brought him to the ‘Tsentralny District Police Station of Simferopol’ and informed that a theft had been reported in the church where he served<sup>2</sup>. Then he was convoyed to ‘Kievsky District Police Station of Simferopol’ and said that as unknown witnesses had testified, ‘he had been cursing with naughty words’<sup>3</sup>. About 08.00pm the priest’s lawyers informed that Archbishop Clement had been allowed to leave the police without any charge made.<sup>4</sup>

Archbishop Clement relates this unlawful detention with both his religious and public activities to support the Ukrainian nationals in Crimea and in the RF who have become victims of unlawful deprival from liberty by the Russian authorities.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> the search was carried out at **Yevgeniy Gayvoronsky’s**, a Primechaniya.ru website journalist. According to the journalist information, mobiles, computer equipment, and bank cards were withdrawn during the search. After the search he was convoyed to the Yalta Police department where, as he said, he was threatened with deportation from Crimea and an imprisonment. On March 26<sup>th</sup> Mr Yelena Bekenstein, a ‘justice of peace’, declared him guilty of administrative law infringement under CoAO Article 6.9-1 (*Consumption of narcotic drugs or psychotropics non-prescribed by physician*) and sentenced to 12 day’s administrative arrest.

Mr. Gayvoronsky considers the case to be fake and refers this to his journalist actions that resulted in his submission of documents on land frauds in Yalta to the RF Investigation Committee in 2018<sup>5</sup>. Earlier he had explicitly supported the occupation of Crimea by Russia in his publications.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> in Simferopol the RF police detained Mr. Yuriy Meshkov, ‘ex-president’ of Crimea, Mr Sergey Akimov, a ‘Crimean Cossacks’ chieftain, and pro-Russian bloggers Ilya Bol’shedvorov and Oleg Kocherov, and convoyed them to the police station. a report under RF CoAO Article

<sup>1</sup> CHRG | Case on torturing ‘Ukrainian Commandos’ was rejected to investigate in Sevastopol <https://bit.ly/2uQZVo0>

<sup>2</sup> Center for Journalist Investigations | Occupiers Detained Archbishop of OCU Clement in Simferopol as if for a theft in the church <https://investigator.org.ua/ua/news-2/214802/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeaahrg/posts/2258773747741587>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/videos/2292755147443739/>

<sup>5</sup> Note | Search – or armed raid? <https://primechaniya.ru/home/news/mart-2019/obysk-ili-vooruzhennyj-nalet/>



19.3 (*Failure to follow police instructions*) was made on Mr Meshkov<sup>6</sup>. On March 19<sup>th</sup> Ms Zoya Karalash, a 'judge of Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol', sentenced Mr Meshkov to two-day's administrative arrest (for more details, see section 'Freedom of peaceful assemblies')<sup>7</sup>.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Belogorsk the RF FSB men searched the house of **Mr. Akim Kurdede** as suspected for joining 'Noman Chelebidjikhhan Battalion'. According to the lawyer's information, nothing was withdrawn during the search. After the search the members of Akim Kurdede's family were convoyed to Belogorsk RF FSB department, questioned and released. According to the relatives' information, Mr Kurdede is 'in Europe as labour migrant'.<sup>8</sup>

On March 27<sup>th</sup> 25 houses of Crimean Tatars most of whom are activists of the CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY public association were searched by the RF FSB men (in Simferopol, and in Belogorsk, and Krasnogvardeysk districts). Five lawyers informed that the RF FSB men forbade them to be present when their clients were being searched.<sup>9</sup> The Russian mass media, referring to the 'RF FSB Department for Crimea', stated that houses of Crimean residents suspected of 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir' membership had been searched<sup>10</sup>. After the searches the RF FSB men detained 20 persons who were at home during the searches: **Tofik Abdulgazyev, Izet Abdullayev, Medjit Abdurajmanov, Bilial Adilov, Enver Ametov, Farkhad Bazarov, Akim Bekirov, Server Gazyev, Djemil Gavaforv, Riza Izetov, Alim Karimov, Yashar Muedinov, Seyran Murgaza, Erfan Osmanov, Seitveli Seytabdiyev, Rustem Seithalilov, Ruslan Suleymanov, Shaban Umerov, Rustem Sheykhaliev, Asan Yanikov**. Four men more: **Vladlen Abdulkadyrov, Remzi Bekirov, Edem Yayachikov and Osman Arifmemetov** – were put on the wanted list.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> **Vladlen Abdulkadyrov, Remzi Bekirov, and Osman Arifmemetov** were detained in Rostov-na-Donu. On March 29<sup>th</sup> lawyer E.Semedliayev reported that, according to his information, **Edem Yayachikov** was in the RF FSB department though the RF FSB did not confirm this information to him. The spouse of Edem Yayachikov made an application on her husband disappearance.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> 'Kievsky District Court of Simferopol' imposed a pre-trial restraint as detaining in custody till May 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 for 9 detained. On March 28<sup>th</sup> 'Kievsky District Court of Simferopol' passed the same decision regarding 14 more detained men. Five of them are charged under RF CC Article 205.5-2 (Management of terrorist organization activities), the others – under RF CC Article 205.5-2 (Participation in the terrorist organization activities).

On March 27<sup>th</sup> **Eskender Mamutov and Emil Ziyadinov** who were at Rustem Sheykhaliev's house during the search were detained. On March 28<sup>th</sup> **Mr Tair Ibragimov** was detained in Simferopol during a single-man protest (for more information about these detentions see section 'Freedom of assemblies and associations').

<sup>6</sup> Novaya Gazeta | The first president of Crimea was arrested for two days in Simferopol <https://www.novayagazeta.ru/news/2019/03/19/150149-v-simferopole-na-dvoe-sutok-arestovali-pervogo-prezidenta-kryma>

<sup>7</sup> «Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol» | List of cases to be heard on 19 March 2019. Case 5-39/2019 [https://centr-simpli-krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=19.03.2019](https://centr-simpli-krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=19.03.2019)

<sup>8</sup> Krym. Realii | A house of suspected in joining the 'unlawful voluntary battalion' was searched in Crimea – lawyer <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-obysk-v-krymu-proveli-v-dome-podozrevaemogo-v-uchastii-v-dobrobate/29836921>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/posts/2272250146393947?\\_tn\\_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/posts/2272250146393947?_tn_=-R)

<sup>10</sup> RIA Novosti | FSB is searching adherers of the terrorist organization in Crimea <https://ria.ru/20190327/1552142761.html>



## POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

### «CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS»

In March, the number of people deprived of liberty under 'the Case of Crimean Muslims' totaled 56.

- **Ruslan Zeytullayev, Rustem Vaitov, Nuri Primov, Ferat Sayfullayev:** with judgements of conviction passed, they are in the penal colonies on the RF territory;
- **Enver Mamutov, Remzi Memetov, Zevri Abseitov, Rustem Abil'tarov:** with judgements of conviction passed, they are waiting for the appeals against the sentence to be considered, and are in the Rostov-na-Donu Detention Center;
- **Inver Bekirov, Vadim Siruk, Muslim Aliyev, Emir-Usein Kuku, Refat Alimov, Arsen Djepparov** were convoyed at the end of February from the Simferopol Detention Center to Rostov-na-Donu Detention Center; case was brought to court;
- **Teymur Abdullayev, Rustem Ismailov, Ayder Saledinov, Uzeir Abdullayev, Emil Djemadenov:** the case was submitted to the court, and they were convoyed from the Simferopol Detention Center to Rostov-na-Donu Detention Center;
- **Marlen Asanov, Seyran Saliyev, Memet Belialov, Timur Ibragimov, Server Zakir'yaiev, Ernes Ametov, Enver Seytosmanov, Server Mustafayev, Edem Smailov, Rustem Emiruseinov, Eskender Abdulganiyev, Arsen Abkhairov, Rustem Emiruseinov, Eskender Abdulganiyev, and Arsen Abkhairov:** the case is at a pre-court investigation, and they are in the Simferopol Detention Center;
- **Tofik Abdulgazyev, Izet Abdullayev, Medjit Abdurajmanov, Bilial Adilov, Enver Ametov, Farkhad Bazarov, Akim Bekirov, Server Gazyev, Djemil Gavaforv, Riza Izetov, Alim Karimov, Yashar Muedinov, Seyran Murgaza, Erfan Osmanov, Seitveli Seytabdiyev, Rustem Seithalilov, Ruslan Suleymanov, Shaban Umerov, Rustem Sheykhaliyev, Asan Yanikov, Vladlen Abdulkadyrov, Remzi Bekirov and Osman Arifmemetov** were detained on March 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2019. The case is at a pre-trial investigation stage, the detained are in the Rostov-na-Donu detention center. Where Mr **Edem Yayachikov** is remains unknown.

All are charged with membership in 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir' under RF CC Article 205.5-1 (*Creation of terrorist organization*) and/or RF CC Article 205.5-2 (*Membership in terrorist organization*). Later some of the case defendants were charged under RF CC Article 278 (*Violent coup or violent retention of power*). One person is charged under RF CC Article 282-2 (*Management of or participation in the extremist organization activities*).

- **Nariman Memedeminov** is charged for placing a video with 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir' symbols under RF CC Article 205.2-2 (*Public appeals to terrorist activities, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism*), is in the Simferopol Detention Center.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> 'Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol' extended a detention period for **Mr. Enver Seytosmanov** till May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.<sup>11</sup> On March 21<sup>st</sup> Mr Igor Kozhevnikov, 'a judge of Sevastopol City Court' upheld this judgement.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/videos/1082296558641840/>

<sup>12</sup> «Sevastopol City Court | List of cases to be heard on 21 March 2019. Cases [22K-218/2019](https://gs--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=21.03.2019) [https://gs--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=21.03.2019](https://gs--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=21.03.2019)



On March 4<sup>th</sup> Mr Sergey Pogrebniak, a 'judge of 'Supreme Court of Republic of Crimea', upheld a judgement on keeping **Mr Timur Ibragimov** in custody till April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019.<sup>13</sup>

On March 5<sup>th</sup> lawyer E.Semedliayev informed that 'the investigation' had re-qualified the charge for **Mr Memet Belialov and Mr Timur Ibragimov** from RF CC Article 205.5-2 (*Membership in the organization declared terrorist in the RF*) to RF CC 205-5.1 (*Management of terrorist organization activities*)<sup>14</sup>. Now they may face from a 15-years's till life sentence.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> judges of 'Supreme Court of Republic of Crimea': Sergey Pogrebniak, Yuriy Latynin, and Konstantin Karavayev upheld a judgement on keeping in custody for **Marlen Asanov, Memet Belialov, Seyran Saliyev, and Ernes Ametov** till April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 .<sup>15</sup>

On March 14<sup>th</sup> Mikhail Sobolev, a 'SCRC judge', supported a motion of Alexander Pashutin, a RF FSB investigator, and extended a detention period<sup>16</sup> for **Mr Nariman Memedeminov** till May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019.<sup>17</sup> On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Aleksey Kozyrev, a 'SCRC judge', upheld a previous judgment on keeping Mr Memedeminov in custody till April 16<sup>th</sup> 2019. The judgement was passed at the 'Kievsky District Court of Simferopol' on February 13<sup>th</sup>.<sup>18</sup> Since on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 a new judgment on detention had been passed, an appeal consideration was nothing but formality.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> at least 25 searches were carried by the RF FSB men in Crimea, with **23 persons** detained afterwards. According to the lawyer's information, one man more is detained at the RF FSB. All have been accused of involvement into 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir' Muslim organization (for more detail see section Searches and detentions).

### «UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS' CASE»

In March 13 people accused on detaining with espionage or preparation of sabotage by RF FSB were in custody: **Mr. Yevgeniy Panov, Mr. Andrey Zakhtey, Mr. Vladimir Prisich, Mr. Volodymyr Dudka, Mr. Dmitriy Shtyblikov, Mr. Aleksey Bessarabov, Mr. Gleb Shablii, Mr. Aleksey Stogniy, Mr. Gennadiy Limeshko, Ms. Anna Sukhonosova, Mr. Dmitriy Dolgopолоv, Mr. Konstantin Davydenko, Mr. Yunus Masharipov**. Unlawful methods of investigation and torturing for securing confessions were recorded in these cases.

Two sessions of the 'Sevastopol City Court' on the case of **Mr. Volodymyr Dudka and Mr. Aleksey Bessarabov** were held on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, where they once more stated that evidence against them had been falsified during the investigation.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>13</sup> «SC RC» | | List of cases to be heard on 4March.2019. Case [22K-767/2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=04.03.2019) [https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=04.03.2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=04.03.2019)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/videos/584027168769165/>

<sup>15</sup> «SC RC» | | List of cases to be heard on 6 March 2019. Cases [22K-814/2019, 22K-816/2019, 22K-817/2019, 22K-818/2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=06.03.2019) [https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=06.03.2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=06.03.2019)

<sup>16</sup> «SC RC» | List of cases to be heard on 14 March 2019. Case [3/2-17/2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=14.03.2019) [https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=14.03.2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=14.03.2019)

<sup>17</sup> Krym. Realii | Court in Crimea extended an arrest of Crimean Tatar blogger Memedeminov <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-sud-v-krimu-prodlil-arest-narimanu-memedeminovu/29821781>

<sup>18</sup> «SC RC» | List of cases to be heard on 20 March.2019. Case [22K-917/2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=20.03.2019) [https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=20.03.2019](https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=20.03.2019)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeaarg/posts/2273043416314620>



## VOLODYMYR BALUKH'S CASE

In March conveying of **Mr Volodymyr Balukh** through the RF territory went on. After Armavir Detention Center he was conveyed to Voronezh one, on March 10<sup>th</sup> he was in Yaroslavl<sup>20</sup>. On March 26<sup>th</sup> lawyer Taras Omel'chenko reported that the activist was in the Tver Detention Center<sup>21</sup>. On March 30<sup>th</sup> the lawyer informed that since March 29 Mr Balukh had been in the Penal Colony no 4, town of Torzhok, Tver Region of the RF, where he had been conveyed to serve the sentence<sup>22</sup>.

Conveying Mr Balukh from the Kerch colony to Russia constitutes a violation of the RF Criminal Penitentiary Code, Article 73 pursuant to which the activist shall stay in Kerch as well as a disrespect of international humanitarian law provisions.

## VEDJIE KASHKA'S CASE

**Mr Bekir Degermendji, Mr Asan Chapukh, Mr Kiazim Ametov and Mr Ruslan Trubach** were detained on 23 November 2017 due to a fake charge of extorting the money from a citizen of Turkey. During the detention Mrs Vedjie Kashka, a Crimean Tatar movement veteran, whom, as the detained said, the citizen of Turkey was to return the borrowed money, died.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> Mr Mikhail Belousov, 'a judge of 'Kievsky District Court of Simferopol'', extended a house arrest period for the defendants till May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019<sup>23</sup>. The 'judge' supported a lawyer's motion to remove restrictions on visiting medical institutions from Mr Kazim Ametov<sup>24</sup>.

## CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS IN DETENTION FACILITIES

On March 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Irina Limeshko, a spouse of **Gennadiy Limeshko**, a 'Ukrainian commandos' case defendant, informed that her husband had got sinusitis in the colony and had run fever of about 40° several days. According to her words, the prisoner had to apply for several days till he was provided with an antipyretic drug.<sup>25</sup>

On March 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs Oksana Zakhtey, a spouse of Andrey Zakhtey (sentenced under the 'Case of Ukrainian Commandos'), informed that his chronic diseases had exacerbated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Simferopol Colony, and his vision had reduced.<sup>26</sup>

On March 14<sup>th</sup> **Mr Nariman Memedeminov**, a 'Crimean Muslims case' defendant, did not undergo a planned in advance surgery because two 'court sessions' were to be held that day<sup>27</sup>. He underwent the surgery only on March 29<sup>th</sup> in N.A.Semashko Hospital.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>20</sup> CHRГ | Volodymyr Balukh, a Ukrainian activist, was conveyed via Voronezh and Yaroslavl to one of Tver Region colonies <https://crimeahrg.org/ukrainskogo-aktivista-vladimira-baluha-cherez-voronezh-i-yaroslavl-vezli-v-odnu-iz-kolonij-tverskoj-oblasti/>

<sup>21</sup> CHRГ | Volodymyr Balukh, a Ukrainian activist, is in Detention Center no 1 of Tver City Ъ <https://crimeahrg.org/ukrainskij-aktivist-vladimir-baluh-nahoditsya-v-v-sizo-1-g-tver/>

<sup>22</sup> CHRГ | Volodymyr Balukh was transported to Torzhok town colony <https://crimeahrg.org/vladimira-baluha-dostavili-v-koloniyu-g-torzhek>

<sup>23</sup> «Kievsky District Court of Simferopol» | List of cases to be heard on 1 March 2019. Case 1-28/2019 (1-409/2018) [https://kiev-simph--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud\\_delo&srv\\_num=1&H\\_date=01.03.2019](https://kiev-simph--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=01.03.2019)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/798006050566853>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2271099693171051>

<sup>26</sup> Krym. Realii | The vision of Mr Zakhtey, a 'Ukrainian commando' sentenced in Crimea, has reduced – the spouse <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-delo-ukrainskih-diversantov-u-zakhteya-uhudshilos-zrenie/29814943>

<sup>27</sup> Krym. Realii | Arrested Crimean Tatar blogger Memedeminov was not performed an urgent surgery – lawyer <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-v-krymu-krumskotatrskomu-blogeru-ne-proveli-zaplanirovanuu-operaciu/29823391>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/photos/a.415337212167074/813928512307940/>





On March 20<sup>th</sup> lawyer I. Veliliyev informed that **Mr Edem Bekirov** had been moved to the Simferopol Detention Center medical unit, though he should not be kept in custody due to his health condition.<sup>29</sup>

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> lawyer E.Kurbedinov informed that 'health of **Mr Enver Seytosmanov** in the detention center was endangered due to lack of a competent medical treatment since he needed monthly droppings monitored by cardiologists.<sup>30</sup>

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

On March 7<sup>th</sup> the RF Parliament (GOSDUMA) adopted four bills: no 606593-7, no 606594-7, no 606595-7 and no 606596-7, in the third reading, that introduced an administrative liability for people and organizations for disseminating unreliable information presented as reliable one, as well as information that 'expresses an explicit lack of respect in a defamatory manner to the RF state and its authorities'. The final version suggests penalties to an amount of RUR30,000 – 100,000 for individuals, RUR60,000 – 200,000 – for officials, and RUR200,000 – 500,000 for organizations for disseminating 'the unreliable information', with 'an administrative offence subject to be confiscated'. The 'contempt of the authorities in a defamatory manner' is to be punished with an administrative arrest, up to 15 days, or a penalty of RUR30,000 – 100,000 in case of the first time, RUR100,000 – 200,000 or an administrative arrest in case of the second time, and RUR200,000 – 300,000 or an administrative arrest in case of the third time. Comparing to the initial version of the bill, the penalties for individuals have been increased several dozen times.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> the bills were supported by the RF Council of Federation and on March 18<sup>th</sup> signed by President and published as federal laws No 27FZ<sup>31</sup>, No 28FZ<sup>32</sup>, No 30FZ<sup>33</sup>, and No 31FZ<sup>34</sup>, with coming into effect on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

A legal uncertainty of wording allows for persecuting selectively for publications which information does not match the official RF authorities' position or criticizes the authorities.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> in Yalta persons introduced themselves as 'Center E' men, searched at Yevgeniy Gayvoronsky's, a PRIMECHANIYA website journalist. He associates this search with his journalist actions (for more detail, see Searches and detentions section).

When posts with pro-Ukrainian statements, and critics of the RF authorities as well as occupation disapproval<sup>35</sup>, had appeared on Gayvoronsky's Facebook page, the editorial board of PRIMECHANIYA website acknowledged officially that cooperation with Mr Gayvoronsky had been terminated.<sup>36</sup>

On March 26<sup>th</sup> Krym.Realii (Radio Svoboda project) website published an interview with Yevgeniy Gayvoronsky where he stated a need to return Crimea under Ukraine's control. The same day 'Center E' men detained him charged with taking drugs and conveyed to the court. 'A justice of peace' declared him guilty under CoAO Article 6.9-1 (*Usage of drugs*) and imposed an administrative arrest for 12 days.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2554316207974127>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/photos/a.1677121552573479/2269932286625733>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.pravo.gov.ru/laws/acts/22/50554510601047.html>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.pravo.gov.ru/laws/acts/22/50564510601047.html>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.pravo.gov.ru/laws/acts/22/51484510601047.html>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.pravo.gov.ru/laws/acts/22/51494510601047.html>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012367658479>

<sup>36</sup> PRIMECHANIYA | Patriot Gayvoronsky lost by us <https://primechaniya.ru/home/news/mart-2019/patriot-gajvoronskij-kotorogo-my-poteryali/>



In March the Crimean Human Rights Group finalized the monitoring in Crimea that recorded a full blockage of access to 12 Ukrainian information resources and 2 social networks by 10 Crimean providers. In addition, at least 28 websites were partially blocked.<sup>37</sup>

The monitoring of radio signal showed that signal of seven Ukrainian radio broadcasting stations was fully or partially jammed in 20 North Crimean settlements with a signal of FM Russian radios.

## FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND OF ASSOCIATION

On March 18<sup>th</sup> in Simferopol the RF police detained Mr Yuriy Meshkov, 'ex-president' of Crimea, Mr Sergey Akimov, a 'Crimean Kazaks' chieftain, and pro-Russian bloggers Ilya Bol'shedvorov and Oleg Kocherov. When they had refused presenting the documents, they were convoyed for a medical examination. Mr Kocherov informed that they had been handed a warning notice on inadmissibility of violating the RF laws on assemblies, rallies, demonstrations, processions and picketing as well as laws on preventing extremist actions<sup>38</sup>. On March 19<sup>th</sup> 'Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol' sentenced Mr Meshkov to 2-days' administrative arrest under RF CoAO Article 19.3 (*Failure to follow police instructions*). Meshkov thinks that a reason for persecution was an attempt to hold a rally with critics on the Russian authorities. He stated that he had applied for approval of an event at Lenina square but the Simferopol administration rejected to approve it.<sup>39</sup>

On March 27<sup>th</sup> during the mass searches in the Crimean Tatar houses **Eskender Mamutov and Emil Ziyadinov** who were at Rustem Sheykhaliev's house were detained. The published video shows that a RF policeman was threatening the people come with an administrative persecution and demanded them to go away, and when the people started moving away the OMON men took two men from the crowd.<sup>40</sup> The same day Ms Olga Kuznetsova, 'a judge of Kievsky District Court', declared Mr Ziyadinov guilty under RF CoAO Article 19.3 (*Failure to follow police instructions*) and imposed a RUR500 penalty, and Mr Eskander Mamutov guilty under RF CoAO Article 20.1 (*Disorderly conduct*) and sentenced to 5-days' administrative arrest.<sup>41</sup>

On March 29<sup>th</sup> activist **Tair Ibragimov** who was standing with a poster 'Return 166 children their fathers!!!' (a protest action against mass searches of March 27th) was detained by the RF police at the 'Kievsky District Court' building. He was convoyed to 'Kievsky District Police station' where a report on violating RF CoAO Article 20.2-5 (*Violation of assembly procedure*) was made on him<sup>42</sup>. On March 29<sup>th</sup> 'Kievsky District Court of Simferopol' imposed a RUR15,000 penalty on him.<sup>43</sup>

## FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On March 6<sup>th</sup> Archbishop Clement (**OCU**) informed that Mr Sergey Berezhnoy, Simferopol Detention Center governor, did not allow him to visit political prisoner **Volodymyr Dudka** for

<sup>37</sup> CHRNG | Providers in Crimea are blocking at least 14 websites in full – monitoring <https://crimeahrg.org/provajdery-v-krymu-polnostyu-blokiruyut-minimum-14-sajtov-monitoring/>

<sup>38</sup> Krym.Realii | Crimea: Russian security men detained ex-president of Crimea, Kazak Akimov and pro-Russian bloggers <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-krym-zaderzhali-akimova-meshkova-kocherova-bolshedvorova/29828601>

<sup>39</sup> PRIMECHANIYA | The first president of Crimea was detained before Putin's speech <https://primechaniya.ru/home/news/mart-2019/pervogo-prezidenta-kryma-zaderzhali-pered-vystupleniem-putina>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/videos/269230147131314/>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/812761762424615>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/videos/1263172930526213/>

<sup>43</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/813678302332961?\\_tn\\_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/813678302332961?_tn_=-R)



religious ceremonies (confession and communion). The governor rejected the priest though the archbishop had been granted a court permission for such 'visit'<sup>44</sup>.

On March 11<sup>th</sup> in Kerch Ms Natalia Zarudniak, 'a justice of peace', passed two judgements on imposing a RUR5,000 penalty on two members of '**Arc of Salvation Church of Christians of Evangelist Faith**'. The reason for punishment was holding Sunday classes in the church premise.<sup>45</sup>

On March 20<sup>th</sup> the RF FSB men searched at least 6 houses of the '**Jehovah's Witnesses**' religious organization, declared extremist in Russia in 2017, in Yalta and Alupka. According to the 'Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia' website, Bibles, desktops/ laptops and other electronic devices were withdrawn from the faithful. The case against the faithful is managed by FSB investigators A.Lavrov and S.Bosiyev. After the search Mr **Artem Gerasimov**, a Yalta resident, was convoyed to RF FSB Department<sup>46</sup> in Simferopol where a criminal case under RF CC Article 282.2-1 (*Management of extremist organization activities*) was opened against him.<sup>47</sup>

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Archbishop Clement (**OCU**) informed that he had to submit documents for registering a Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Crimea under the Russian laws.<sup>48</sup> Earlier he had reported many times persecutions of the Russian authorities due to absence of such registration.<sup>49</sup> For instance, on March 3<sup>rd</sup> he had been detained by RF police in Simferopol without any reasons (*for more detail, see section Searches and detentions*).

On March 25<sup>th</sup> in Sevastopol Mr Viktor Dmitriyev, a 'justice of peace', sentenced a member of '**Tree of Life Church of Christians of Evangelist Faith**' to a penalty of RUR5,000 (under RF CoAO Article 5.26-4, Missionary activities with violation of RF laws on freedom of conscience, faith and religious organizations). The reason for this were publications in the religious organization's group in the VKontakte social network that according to the judge's opinion, were aimed at 'attracting new members into the organization'.<sup>50</sup>

## BAN ON DISCRIMINATION

The Crimean Human Rights Group monitoring showed that no Ukrainian language medium school had left in Crimea. 'The Ministry of Education of Crimea' stated the presence of one such school. However, though this school was declared to be the Ukrainian language medium one, in fact, the lessons were delivered in Russian. The monitoring of three schools declared to be Crimean Tatar language medium ones showed that the lessons were delivered both in Crimean Tatar and in Russian.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Krym.Realii | Archbishop Clement is not allowed to enter the Detention Center to see Mr Dudka, a defendant within 'Ukrainian commandos' case <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-arhiepiskopa-klimenta-ne-puskaut-k-obvinyayemomu-po-delu-ukrainskih-diversantov-dudke/29805331>

<sup>45</sup> Justices of Peace of Republic of Crimea judgement on case 05-0052/44/2019 [http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/files/docs/DecisionTextsAS/44/05-0052\\_44\\_2019\\_Postanovlenie\\_o\\_naznachenii\\_administrativnogo\\_nakazaniya.doc](http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/files/docs/DecisionTextsAS/44/05-0052_44_2019_Postanovlenie_o_naznachenii_administrativnogo_nakazaniya.doc)

<sup>46</sup> Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia | Searches and arrests for faith in Crimea <https://jw-russia.org/news/19032018-675>

<sup>47</sup> SOVA | a criminal case started in Yalta against Jehovah's Witnesses <https://www.sova-center.ru/misuse/news/persecution/2019/03/d40795/>

<sup>48</sup> Krym.Realii | Archbishop Clement: documents on registering the Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Crimea have been submitted <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-vlasti-kryma-dali-3-mesica-ukrainkoy-cerkvi-v-kryma-privesti-vle-documentu-v-poriadok/29838223.html>

<sup>49</sup> CHRGI | Review 'Freedom of conscience and religion in Crimea' <https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Svoboda-religii-v-Krymu.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> «Justice of peace of Sevastopol» | judgement on case 5-0156/6/2019 [http://mirsud.sev.gov.ru/files/docs/DecisionTextsAS/6/5-0156\\_6\\_2019\\_Postanovlenie\\_o\\_naznachenii\\_administrativnogo\\_nakazaniya.doc](http://mirsud.sev.gov.ru/files/docs/DecisionTextsAS/6/5-0156_6_2019_Postanovlenie_o_naznachenii_administrativnogo_nakazaniya.doc)

<sup>51</sup> CHRGI | No Ukrainian language medium school remained in Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/v-krymu-ne-ostalosi-odnoj-shkoly-s-ukrainskim-yazykom-obucheniya>



### 3. VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

#### *GENEVA CONVENTION (III) RELATIVE TO THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR*

On March 5<sup>th</sup> lawyer N. Polozov reported that prisoner of war **Denis Gritsenko** had been handed only one letter from the relatives for the month, though at least ten had been sent to the Ukrainian for this period.<sup>52</sup>

On March 6<sup>th</sup> lawyer A.Georgiyevskaya informed that the investigation rejected all applications of prisoner of war **Volodymyr Tereschenko** to meet and to call the family, and no letters from relatives were handed to him.<sup>53</sup>

On March 14<sup>th</sup> lawyer A.Azamatov informed that prisoner of war **Yuriy Budzylo** had not received any letter, and he had not been granted a meeting with relatives as well as phone calls.<sup>54</sup>

On March 11<sup>th</sup> lawyer N.Polozov informed that the RF FSB men had assigned a psycho-mental out-of-hospital examination for 11 Ukrainian prisoners of war.<sup>55</sup> By March 21<sup>st</sup> the comprehensive psycho-mental out-of-hospital examination had been assigned to all 24 prisoners of war.

Lawyer Sergey Badamshyn informed that on March 18<sup>th</sup> prisoner of war **Vasiliy Soroka** had been operated in the Moscow City Clinic Hospital No 4. 8 shell splinters were pulled out from his arm during the surgery. During the examination it was found out that some ligaments had been damaged with the splinters due to the wound received in November 2018 when the Ukrainian ships were seized by Russia. While being imprisoned, he was at Kerch Town Hospital and then in several medical units controlled by RF FSIN. But no of them planned a surgery on withdrawing splinters and restoring ligaments.<sup>56</sup>

On March 26<sup>th</sup> lawyer E.Kuberdinov informed that LEFORTOVO Detention Center administration had rejected him to meet his client **Bogdan Nebylitsa**, prisoner of war.<sup>57</sup>

#### *GENEVA CONVENTION (IV) RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR*

#### **CONSCRIPTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY INTO ARMED FORCES OF OCCUPYING POWER AND PROPAGANDA OF JOINING VOLUNTARILY THE ARMED FORCES**

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> 'SYRIA TURNING POINT' exhibition displaying the weapons seized by the RF in Syria was held in Kerch at the railway terminal. a mobile station for contracting to the RF army worked close to the exhibition. According to the information of two not-related CHRG sources, students of Kerch Maritime Engineering Institute were forced to visit the event under the threat of expelling.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/nikolay.polozov/posts/2171174042947980>

<sup>53</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/anastasia.georgievskaya/posts/2718521168174751?\\_tn\\_=-H-R](https://www.facebook.com/anastasia.georgievskaya/posts/2718521168174751?_tn_=-H-R)

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2568340783240060>

<sup>55</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/crimeaarg/posts/2263343213951307?\\_tn\\_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/crimeaarg/posts/2263343213951307?_tn_=-R)

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2518380934903953>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2272805979450653>

<sup>58</sup> CHRG | Russia held war advertising events in Kerch (photo and video) <https://crimeahrg.org/rossiya-provela-v-kerchi-meropriyatiya-propagandiruyushhie-voynu-foto-i-video/>



On March 18<sup>th</sup> a stage and military machines, shelters and stands with advertising materials calling the city residents to contract into the Russian Army and Navy were installed at Nakhimova Square. There were also information boards describing the benefits of serving in the RF military units at the square.

Schoolchildren wearing YUNARMIA uniform – a children and youth organization created to promote the service in the Russian army among the children – were brought to the communication events.<sup>59</sup>

On March 27<sup>th</sup> in Simferopol at Lenina Square the RF authorities held an event to promote the service in the Russian army. Military machines: armored vehicles, communication sets were placed on the square. People were showed a grenade launcher, sniper's rifles and other weapons. According to a correspondent of 3652.ru, the Crimeans were also informed here about the contracted service in the RF Armed Forces.<sup>60</sup>

## ILLEGAL SHIFT OF PEOPLE

On March 29<sup>th</sup> all Crimean Tatars detained on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Crimea were moved to the RF territory.<sup>61</sup> On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Ms Liudmila Denisova, Ombudsman of Ukraine, confirmed that 23 detained Muslims were in 5 different detention centers on the territory of Rostov Region of RF.<sup>62</sup>

Convoing the Ukrainian nationals from Crimea to the RF violates Article 49 of the Convention (IV) relative to protection of civilian persons in time of war that forbids a transfer of the occupied territory people to the territory of the Occupying Power.

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<sup>59</sup> CHRG | Sevastopol residents, violating the Geneva Convention relative to protection of civilian persons in time of war are actively recruited to the RF army <https://crimeahrg.org/sevastopolitsev-v-narushenie-v-narushenie-zhenevskoj-konventsii-o-zashhite-grazhdanskogo-naseleniya-vo-vremya-vojn-aktivno-verbuyut-v-armiyu-rf>

<sup>60</sup> 3652ru | Exhibition of military machines and weapons is in the center of Simferopol today <https://www.3652.ru/news/2345697/segodna-v-centre-simferopola-rabotaet-vystavka-voennoj-tehniki-i-oruzia>

<sup>61</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/emil.kurbedinov/posts/2277699015628016?\\_tn\\_=K-R](https://www.facebook.com/emil.kurbedinov/posts/2277699015628016?_tn_=K-R)

<sup>62</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/denisovaombudsman/posts/2543717372367663?\\_tn\\_=K-R](https://www.facebook.com/denisovaombudsman/posts/2543717372367663?_tn_=K-R)