

CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REVIEW

JANUARY 2021

The monitoring review was prepared by the Crimean Human Rights Group on the basis of materials collected in January 2021

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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 observance 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** focuses on documentation and ongoing monitoring of human rights violations and war crimes in connection with the illegal actions of the Russian Federation in Crimea.

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.

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

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS

On January 22, Mr.Sergey Vasilyev who held a single man protest, and Mr.Ilya Bolshedvorov, who was video recording it, were detained. After drawing up the report, they were released (for more detail, see the section "Freedom of peaceful assemblies").

For 22 to 24 January, 12 people were detained in Sevastopol for taking part in a rally to support Mr.Aleksey Naval'nyi, the Russian opposition leader (for more detail, see the section "Freedom of peaceful assemblies").

On January 28, at about 5.00 pm, the Russian policemen searched the house of Ms.Gulnara Kadyrova, the wife of Mr. Ivan Yatskin, a defendant in the case of "Ukrainian Commandos", in the village of Kormovoye. As the woman said, the police named looking for the drugs as the reason for the search.¹

As of end of January 2021, 108 persons were deprived of liberty within a politically motivated criminal and/or religious persecution. The full list is published at the CHRG website.²

"CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS"

This case defendants are accused of membership in Muslim religious organizations³ or propaganda of activities of the organizations that are declared terrorist or extremist in the RF though they are not according to the Ukrainian laws. Cases are considered in violation of the right to a fair trial, the main evidence for the court is the testimony of anonymous witnesses (many of whom are RF FSB men), pre-trial testimony of witnesses who later declare in court that such testimony was given under duress, and linguistic examinations of conversations of the accused Muslims. The evidence provided by the defense is usually not accepted by the judges.

In January the total number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty under the 'Case of Crimean Muslims' was 68 persons, and 5 more people are under the movement restriction: 3 are subject to supervision, and are not allowed to leave the occupied territory, and 2 are on house arrest.

On January 12, Roman Saprunov, judge of the Southern Area Military Court (YuOVS) passed sentences to Muslims of the "Belogorsk group": Mr.Ayder Dzhepparov was sentenced to 17 years, Mr.Enver Omerov — to

¹ Krym.Realii / House of Gulnara Kadyrova, the partner wife of Mr.Yatskin, Searched in Crimea https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-krym-obysk-zhena-jatskina/31074582.html

² https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/prisoners-01-2021.pdf

³ In most cases this organization is 'Hizb-ut-Takhrir'



18 years, Mr.Riza Umerov — to 13 years in the maximum security penal colony, with serving the first 2 years in prison.⁴

On January 13, Timur Mashukov, judge of the Southern Area Military Court, extended the period of detention of Mr.Servet Gaziyev, Mr.Dzhemil Gafarov, Mr.Alim Karimov, Mr.Seyran Murtaza and Mr.Erfan Osmanov for 6 months and ordered to convoy them from Simferopol to Rostov-na-Donu (RF).⁵

On January 14, the Third General Jurisdiction Court of Appeal in Sochi (RF) upheld the decision on keeping Mr.Dzhemil Gafarov, Mr.Remzi Bekirov, Mr.Enver Ametov, Mr.Alim Karimov, and Mr.Tofik Abdulgaziyev in custody.⁶

On January 21, the Third General Jurisdiction Court of Appeal in Sochi (RF) upheld the decision on keeping Mr.Asan Yanikov, Mr.Eskender Suleymanov, and Mr.Akim Bekirov in custody.⁷

On January 29, Galina Red'ko,⁸ a judge of the' Supreme Court of Republic of Crimea' ('SCRC'), upheld the decision on keeping Mr.Ismet Ibragimov in custody till 2 March 2021.⁹

"UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS' CASE"

At the end of January 2021, **15 people** who were accused by the RF FBS during the detention "of preparing subversions, possession of weapons and espionage", were in custody. These cases feature recorded facts of unlawful investigation methods, torturing to get confessions, violation of presumption of innocence, dissemination of 'confession' videos by the RF FSB via the Russian mass media.

On January 14 the First General Jurisdiction Court of Appeal of Moscow City (RF) upheld a decision on keeping Mr.Ivan Yatskin in custody till 16 February, 2021.¹⁰

PERSECUTION FOR CHARGING WITH BEING IN N.CHELEBIDJIKHAN BATALLION

As of the end of January, six people were deprived of liberty under a charge of being in N.Chelebidjikhan battalion. The official reason for persecuting the accused in Crimea under RF CC Article 208-2 is that they failed to come voluntarily to the RF law enforcement bodies and declare their participation in the Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidjikhan Volunteer Batallion. The evidence of the battalion actions against the RF interests declared by the investigation is the information of mass media that the purpose of the battalion establishment was to de-occupy Crimea.

PERSECUTION OF "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES"

As of the end of January 2021, at least 6 persons were deprived of liberty within the persecution of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' in Crimea.

CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS IN CUSTODIAL SETTING

Mr.Nariman Mezhmedinov, aged 55, has been detained on the charge of being in the N.Chelebidzhikhan battalion, and is being held in the pre-trial detention center in Simferopol (SIZO). His sister informed the Crimean Human Rights Group that once arrested, Nariman had stayed almost all the time in the medical unit of the pre-trial detention center, as he suffered from such diseases as: asthma, pancreatitis, heart weakness. The family does not have enough money to pay for all the necessary medicines, and the SIZO administration does not supply with them. However, ignoring his illnesses, the forensic medical examination commission recognized his detention in the pre-trial detention center as admissible.

 $^{^{4} \ \ \, \}underline{\text{https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1325722744461845\&id=403544516679677}}\\$

⁵ https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1326622611038525&id=403544516679677

⁶ https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1327287050972081&id=403544516679677

⁷ https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1331766053857514&id=403544516679677

^{8 «}SCRC» / Case 22K-386/2021 https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=29.01.2021

Grimean Solidarity / Court of Appeal Kept Ismet Ibragimov In Custody, Arabic Language Expert, Till March https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/01/29/apellyacionnyj-sud-ostavil-znatoka-arabskogo-yazyka-ismeta-ibragimova-pod-strazhej-do-marta-890

¹⁰ Krym,Realii / Court in Moscow Rejected Appeal Against Arrest Extension for Yatskin — Lawyer https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-krym-yatskin-apellyaciya-otklonena/31046104.html

Mr. Valentin Vygovsky, aged 37, was detained in 2014 in the case of "espionage" and is now being held in penal colony No. 5 in Kirovo-Chepetsk (RF). Parents suspect that he has recently contracted COVID-19 after an outbreak of the virus in the colony. Valentin had the relevant symptoms, but he was neither offered any medical care, nor tested for COVID-19. In addition, he has a chronic spine disorder and joint issues while his teeth have begun to crumble. One more reason of his health condition worsening is that the Ukrainian has been kept in the ward-type room (PKT) for four years without the right to be visited by the relatives and to speak with them. Valentin's father is sure that his son has been kept in the PKT due to his pro-Ukrainian position that the man does not conceal.

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On January 13, Yelena Andrukhova, 'a judge of peace' of Bakhchisaray District, fined imam **S. Davletshayev** RUR5,000 under the RF Code of Administrative Offenses (CoAO), Art. 5. (Illegal missionary activity) for a namaz ceremony "without documents issued by a religious organization authorizing for this.¹¹

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On January 22, in Sevastopol, Mr.llya Zaik was arrested for 5 days by the verdict of Andrei Grachev, a "judge of the Leninsky District Court". He was charged under RF CoAO Art. 20.2 (organization of an unauthorized mass event) for publishing information about the date and place of the action in support of Aleksey Naval'nyi, the Russian opposition leader, in Sevastopol on the social network.¹²

On January 28, the 'RF MIA¹³ for the Republic of Crimea' press office announced that 9 people had been liable administratively under RF CoAO Art. 20.2 for publishing calls to participate in the action in support of A. Naval'nyi on social networks.¹⁴

On January 29, the pro-Russian mass media, referring to the RF FSB press office, informed a detention of 2 residents of Yalta and Sevastopol under RF CC Article 205.2 (justification of terrorism) for publishing the information forbidden in the RF on social networks (the contents of the publications to be clarified).¹⁵

On January 29, 'the RF MIA Sevastopol City Department' published a statement threatening to hold liable the persons publishing the information on holding 'non-authorized' public events.¹⁶

^{11 «}Justice Courts» / Case 05-0003/26/2021 http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/

^{12 «}Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» / Case 5-149/2021 https://leninskiy--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=22.01.2021

¹³ Ministry of internal affairs

^{4 «}Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Republic of Crimea» / In Republic of Crimea Policemen Held Liable Internet Users Suspected To Call To Extremist Actions https://82.xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/22803952

¹⁵ Krym.Inform / FSB Detained Two Citizens in Crimea for Justifying Publicly Terrorism https://www.c-inform.info/news/id/92332

^{16 «}RF MIA Department for Sevastopol City» / RF MIA Sevastopol City Department Warning of Liability for Attending Unauthorized Events https://92.xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/22823910



FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

On the night of January 11-12, the RF police was stopping cars on the Kerch bridge when leaving Crimea for the Russian Federation "for inspection." The cars with the Crimean Tatars were not allowed through. According to eyewitnesses, about 120 people were stopped like this and held for checking documents, as it was said. At 6:00am, the Russian policemen began to return the documents, but forbad to leave Crimea, without any reasons. All other cars were allowed through the police. Thus, the RF police prevented activists and relatives from participating in the rally in support of the defendants in the "case of the Crimean Muslims" who were scheduled to be sentenced on January 12 in Rostov-na-Donu (RF).¹⁷

On January 20, Kristina Pikula, a 'judge of Krasnogvardeyskoye District Court', fined Ms.Olga Ganaga, CEO of 'Krasnogvardeysky Elevator' Ltd, RUR17,000 under RF CoAO Article 20.2 for holding a rally on August 10, 2020, at the building of Krasnogvardeyskoye Village administration.¹⁸

On January 22, in Simferopol, the Russian policemen detained Mr.Sergey Vasilyev during a one-man protest against the inaction of the police and the prosecutor's office. Mr.Ilya Bolshedvorov, who was filming the action, was also detained. They were taken to the police station of the Tsentralny District of Simferopol, where the report under RF CoAO Article 20.6.1 was made (failure to comply with requirements in the event of an emergency threat — the so-called "quarantine restrictions"). On the

same day, Elena Blagodatnaya, a judge of 'Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol', fined Sergei Vasiliyev RUR5,000.¹⁹

On January 22, the Russian police handed a warning to activists Mr.Emin Rustemov, Mr.Aziz Karakhalilov, Mr.Arsen Yakubov and Mr.Mustafa Seidaliyev,²⁰ Mr.Remzi Kutuzov,²¹ Mr.Rize Asanov²² that holding and visiting rallies be prohibited in connection with the introduction of the 'high alert' regime on the territory of the Republic of Crimea".

On January 29, similar warnings were handed to Mr.Rustem Mennanov, Mr.Asan Seytkhalilov and Mr.Eldar Seit-Eminov, residents of the village of Sovetskoye,²³ and Ms.Olga Volgina, a resident of Alushta.²⁴

On January 23, rallies were held in Simferopol and Sevastopol in support of Aleksey Naval'nyi, the Russian opposition leader. On the eve, the occupation authorities took a number of measures to prevent these events to be held:

- On January 22, the «head» of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, published a statement calling «not to attend illegal rallies».²⁵
- On January 22, the Simferopol administration published a statement of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation calling on parents to protect their children from participating in a political action.²⁶
- On January 22, lead teachers of a number of Simferopol schools demanded that parents report on January 23 every 2 hours that the child was under the parents' control.²⁷

¹⁷ Crimean Solidarity / Dozens of Crimean Tatars Blocked Again On Crimean Bridge. They Were Going On Sentence Pronouncement https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/01/11/desyatki-krymskix-tatar-snova-zablokirovany-na-krymskom-mostu-oni-vyexali-na-oglashenie-prigovora-848

^{*}Krasnogvardeyskoye District Court'» / Case 5-5/2021 (5-833/2021;) https://krasnogvardeiskiy--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=20.01.2021

¹⁹ https://www.facebook.com/ilyabolshe/posts/890611715074018

²⁰ Crimean Solidarity / Policemen Issued Warnings On Banning Rallies To Four Crimean Tatar Activists https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/01/22/policejskie-vynesli-predosterezheniya-o-zaprete-mitingov-chetyrem-krymskotatarskim-aktivistam-877

²¹ https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1332314740469312&id=403544516679677

²² https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1332470197120433&id=403544516679677

²³ https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1337278403306279

²⁴ https://vk.com/wall483668412 1062

²⁵ https://www.facebook.com/aksenov.rk/posts/1763890383784413

²⁶ Website of Simferopol City Administration / http://simadm.ru/press/government/27799/

²⁷ https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/posts/2813275918958031



- On January 23, in the morning, under the pretext of dismantling the New Year tree, Lenina Square in Simferopol was completely fenced, with the Russian policemen involved.²⁸
- On January 23, 2 hours before the planned start of the event, S. Aksyonov said that the RF law enforcement men "will act very tough in putting things in order" in Crimea.²⁹
- On January 23, the "governor" of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, published a statement urging young people not to attend "illegal" actions so as not to "ruin your lives".³⁰
- On January 23, the administration of Sevastopol, without a preliminary announcement, organized an exhibition of municipal equipment on Nakhimova Square.³¹

Activist Aleksey Efremov reported that on January 23, about 100 people assembled in Simferopol, who did not shout slogans and did not carry posters or other symbols. However, as he said, 10-15 people among the assembly were detained for 5 hours. The OVD-Info website reported 8 people detained at the rally in Simferopol: Milana Moskvina, Daria Luskova, Yekaterina Kharchenko, Ali Akhmad, Maria Radchenko, Alexandra Radionova, Anastasia Kandova, Yulia Malysina.³² On January 28, the "Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol" held a hearing on the case of Daria Luskova,³³

on January 29 — on the case of Ali Akhmat,³⁴ who were charged under RF CoAO Art. 20.6.1 (Failure to comply with the rules of conduct in the emergency situation).

From January 23 to January 25 Andrey Grachev, a judge of 'Leninsky District Court', issued 11 decrees on sentencing, under RF CoAO Article 20.2, participants of public events detained during the rally in Sevastopol. On January 23, 3 decrees were issued to impose punishment for participation in the action against Mr. Vladimir Grechishkin, Mr. Dmitriy Brazhnikov, Mr.Artem Lukashov (RF CoAO Article 20.2).35 Vladimir Grechishkin was sentenced to 20 hours of compulsory labor, Artem Lukashov — to 5 days of arrest. On January 24, 8 decrees were issued under RF CoAO Art. 20.2 for Mr. Vyacheslav Neevin, Mr. Alexander Kritsky, Mr.Sergey Lukashov, Ms.Alexandra Baklitskaya, Ms. Anastasia Glushenko, Mr.Maxim Bychkov, Mr.Andrey Kravtsov and Mr.Maxim Rozum.³⁶ Vyacheslav Neevin was sentenced to one day of administrative arrest, Alexander Kritsky and Aleksandra Baklitskaya to 3 days of arrest, Sergey Lukashov, Maxim Bychkov and Anastasia Glushenko — to 5 days, Andrey Kravtsov and Maxim Rozum — to 7 days of administrative arrest.

In addition, on January 23, 2 decrees under RF CoAO Art. 20.2 to impose punishment were issued in other parts of Crimea. In the "Nizhnegorskoye District Court" — against Mr.Daniil Sherkunov³⁷ and in the "Alushta Town Court" — against Mr.Andrey Bashkov.³⁸

²⁸ https://www.facebook.com/crimeainform/posts/1722671997941046

²⁹ https://www.facebook.com/aksenov.rk/posts/1764319237074861

³⁰ https://www.instagram.com/p/CKYXWA4gqE-/

³¹ Vesti Sevastopol / Upgraded Municipal Machines Exhibited At Nakhimova Square in Sevastopol https://vesti92.ru/news/novosti/na-ploschadi-nakhimova-v-sevastopole-pokazali-obno/

OVD-Info / List of detained at actions to support Aleksey Naval'nyi on January 23, 2021 https://ovdinfo.org/news/2021/01/23/spisok-zaderzhannyh-na-akciyah-v-podderzhku-alekseya-navalnogo-23-yanvarya-2021-goda

^{33 «}Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol» / Case 5-278/2021 https://centr-simph--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=28.01.2021

^{34 «}Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol» / Case 5-296/2021 https://centr-simph--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=15H_date=29.01.2021

num=1&H_date=29.01.2021
35 «Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» / Cases 5-150/2021, 5-151/2021, 5-153/2021, 5-154/2021 https://leninskiy--sev.sudrf.ru/

modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=23.01.2021

36 «Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» / Cases 5-152/2021, 5-155/2021 — 5-162/2021 https://leninskiy--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=24.01.2021

^{37 «}Alushta Town Court» / Case 5-100/2021 https://alushta--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=23.01.2021

^{38 «}Nizhnegorskoye District Court / Case 5-45/2021 https://nizhnegorskiy--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H date=23.01.2021



From January 29 to January 31, the "Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol" issued 7 decrees on sentencing Mr.Valentin Matveyev,³⁹ Mr.Danil Kovalenko, Ms.Tatyana Stepina, Mr.Yaroslav Balakin, Mr.Alexander Zenyukov,⁴⁰ Ms.Yana Yaroslav, Mr.Vadim Rodin.⁴¹

On January 29 the 'MIA for Republic of Crimea' published a statement threatening the 'unauthorized action' participants.⁴²

On January 29 the parents of Crimean schoolchildren reported the CHRG a demand of lead teacher to deliver notes indicating the presence of their children on January 30 and 31.43

On January 31, OVD-Info website reported at least 7 people detained in Simferopol at the action to support Mr.Naval'nyi.⁴⁴

^{39 «}Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» / Case 5-200/2021 https://leninskiy--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=29.01.2021

^{40 «}Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» / Cases 5-201/2021 — 5-204/2021 https://leninskiy--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=30.01.2021

^{41 «}Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» / Cases 5-205/2021, 5-206/2021 https://leninskiy--sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=31.01.2021

^{42 «}MIA for Republic of Crimea» / MIA for Republic of Crimea Warning On Liability for Attending Unauthorized Actions https://82.xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/22816281/

⁴³ https://www.facebook.com/crimeahrg/posts/2818269438458679

⁴⁴ OVD-Info / List of detained at actions to support Aleksey Naval'nyi on January 31 2021 года https://ovdinfo.org/news/2021/01/31/spisok-zaderzhannyh-na-akcii-v-podderzhku-alekseya-navalnogo-31-yanvarya-2021-goda

3 VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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 January 28, the RF MIA press office in the 'Republic of Crimea' informed about detention of 3 residents of Bakhchisarai district for evading the military services in the Rf Armed Forces.⁴⁵

In January the CHRG recorded 13 new criminal cases against Crimea residents under RF CC Art. 328 (evading the military service in the Russian Federation Armed Forces), and 13 new sentences awarded under this article.

This is the highest number of cases and sentences for evading the military services in the RF Armed Forces within one month, since the start of occupation, including 2 sentences in 'Kirovskoye District Court', 5 — in 'Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol', 1— in 'Gagarinsky District Court of Simferopol, 1— in 'Bakhchisarai District Court', 1— in 'Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol'; 1— in 'Krasnoperekopsk District Court', 1— in 'Sovetskoye District Court', and 1— in 'Nizhnegorskoye District Court'.

Totally, as of the end of January, the CHRG documented 176 criminal cases initiated for evading the RF Army military service, that were sent to the Crimean 'courts' for considering, with verdicts delivered for 168 of them and 8 being still under consideration.

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⁴⁵ «MIA for Republic of Crimea» / Policemen Held Dodgers Liable https://82.xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/22791554