



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REVIEW

APRIL 2021

The monitoring review was prepared by the Crimean Human Rights Group on the basis of materials collected in April 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** 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.

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CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

BAN ON TORTURE

On April 29, during a search at the house of **Ernest Seytosmanov**, brother of Enver Seytosmanov, the defendant in the «Case of Crimean Muslims», the RF FSB men were holding Ernest Seytosmanov in submission until he began to lose consciousness (*for more detail, see the Searches and Detentions section*).

RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS

On April 14, at about 5:30 am, the Center for Combating Extremism (Center E) staff searched the house of Mr. **Abduseliam Seliametov**, a Crimean Tatar, in the village of Zarechnoye, Simferopol district, though he was outside Crimea at that moment. Only his son Adil was in the house, and the Center E men did not explain him his rights and did not show a search warrant. They said that the search was being carried out as part of a case that did not have any relation to Mr. Seliametov. After the search, religious literature, and electronic equipment, including Adil's mobile, were confiscated.¹

On April 20, in the village of Kurskoe, Belogorsk District, FSB men searched the

house of **Mr. Seyran Taymazov**, a Crimean Tatar, who has been living in the Ukraine controlled territory since 2016. During the search, his parents were in the house. The FSB men questioned the parents about Mr. Taymazov and left the house without confiscating anything.²

On April 22, in the village of Bogatoye, Belogorsk District, the Center E men searched the house of Mr. **Eldar Fetliayev**, a Crimean Tatar, referring to an anonymous call that had informed, as it was said, about explosions under preparation in Crimea as the reason for the search. The search resulted in confiscating two tablets, a mobile and a CD.³

On April 23 at 5:55 am, the house of Mr. **Ruslan Ramazanov**, a Crimean Tatar, was searched in Khoshkeldy Residential Area of Simferopol, and it was also explained by an anonymous call.⁴

On April 22, the FSB of the Russian Federation disseminated a video of the arrest of a resident of Sevastopol born in 1998, who was accused of transferring information to Ukraine.⁵ The RF FSB press office reported that a criminal case under Art. 275 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (*high treason*) had been filed against him.⁶ The «Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» reported that as requested by FSB investigator on April 21, a decision on pretrial detention till June 19 had been made.⁷

¹ CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY /'You May Pick Up the Mobile in a Week'. E Centre Searched Abduseliam Seliametov's House <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/04/14/za-telefonom-pridesh-cherez-nedelyu-centr-e-provel-obysk-v-dome-abduselyama-selyametova-1150>

² <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1392518111115641>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1393650511002401>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1394563800911072>

⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmwfpbN_NAY

⁶ RF FSB <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10439223%40fsbMessage.html>

⁷ « Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol » / http://leninskiy.sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=press_dep&op=1&did=249



On April 29, the RF FSB men searched the house of Mr. **Ernest Seytosmanov**. After the search he was taken to the RF FSB office in Sevastopol, and interrogated for more than 6 hours. He was released only when he signed an interrogation subject confidence obligation.⁸

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

As of end of April 2021, **113 persons** were deprived of liberty within a politically motivated criminal and/or religious persecution. The full list is published at the CHRГ website.⁹

«CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS»

This case defendants are accused of membership in Muslim religious organizations¹⁰ 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 April the total number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty under the ‘Case

of Crimean Muslims” was **74 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 April 8, Igor Kostin, Judge of the Southern Area Military Court (YuOVS), at the request of Prosecutor Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, extended the detention period for brothers **Seytumer** and **Osman Seytumerovs** and their uncle **Rustem Seytmemetov** until July 22, 2021, and also extended the house arrest period for **Amet Suleymanov** till June 22 2021.¹¹

On April 8, Roman Saprunov, Judge of the Southern Area Military Court, extended the detention period for **Eldar Kantimirov, Ruslan Mesutov, Ruslan Nagayev, Lenur Khalilov** until July 15, 2021.¹²

On April 12, the ‘Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol’, at the request of the FSB investigator Yuriy Andreyev, extended the detention period for **Yashar Sheikhametov** until June 14.¹³ On April 29, Elena Elanskaya, a judge of the ‘Sevastopol City Court’, upheld this detention order.¹⁴

On April 12, the ‘Kievsky District Court of Simferopol’ extended the detention period for **Lenur Seydametov and Timur Yalkabov** until July 15, 2021.¹⁵

On April 13, the ‘Kievsky District Court of Simferopol’ extended the detention period for **Oleg Fedorov, Ernest Ibragimov and Azamat Eyupov** until July 15, 2021.¹⁶

On April 16, Gennadiy Nikitin, a judge of the ‘Nakhimovsky District Court of Sevastopol’,

⁸ CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY / ‘Let Him Go. He Is Almost Blacking Out’. Search at Enver Seytosmanov’s, Political Prisoner, Brother’s <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/04/29/-otputi-ego-on-uzhe-belyj-u-brata-politzaklyuchennogo-envera-sejtosmanova-proshel-obysk-1185>

⁹ https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/prisoners_04-2021.pdf

¹⁰ In most cases this organization is ‘Hizb-ut-Takhrir’

¹¹ CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY / Court Refused To Release Muslims of Bakhchisarai Group 3, ‘Hizb-ut-Takhrir’ Case <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/04/08/sud-otkazalsya-osvobodit-izpod-strazhi-musulman-tretej-baxchisarajskoj-gruppy-dela-xizb-uttaxrir-1131>

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1384669788567140>

¹³ CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY / Arrest of Yashar Shykhametov, Crimean Political Prisoner from Sevastopol, Extended for 4 Months — Lawyer <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/04/12/krymskomu-politzaklyuchennomu-iz-sevastopolya-yasharu-shixametovu-prodlili-arest-na-mesyaca-advokat-1138>

¹⁴ “Sevastopol City Court” / List of cases to be heard on 29 Apr 2021. Case 22K-363/2021 https://gs-sev.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=29.04.2021

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1387225811644871>

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1388093974891388>



upheld the sentence (300 hours of compulsory community service) of **Ruslan Bekirov** for refusing to testify in the court against the defendants in the “Case of Crimean Muslims”. Mr. Bekirov said that the testimony had been obtained under FSB men pressure.¹⁷

On April 22, YuOVS extended the detention period for **Mr. Zekirya Muratov** until August 17, 2021.¹⁸

On April 30, the ‘Supreme Court of Republic of Crimea’ (“SCRC”) upheld the decision to detain Mr. **Azamat Eyupov** until July 15.¹⁹

On April 30, Liudmila Tarpavin, a judge of the Military Court of Appeal, City of Vlasikha (RF), upheld a decision to detain **Mr. Vadim Bektemirov** until 11 June 2021.²⁰

«UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS’ CASE»

At the end of April 2021, **17 people** (including Mr. Vladyslav Yesypenko) who were accused by the RF FSB 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.

A new defendant of this case is a Sevastopol resident, born in 1998, detained by RF FSB on April 22 on a charge of transferring the information to Ukraine.²¹

On April 13, Alla Khinevich, judge of ‘SCRC’, extended a detention period for **Ivan Yatskin** until July 1, 2021 — for the time of the trial.²² Mr. Yatskin was transported from the Lefortovo Pre-Trial Detention Center (Moscow) to that of

Simferopol because the hearings of the case on its merits started.

On April 20, the «SCRC» held the first hearing on the merits of the case of Ivan Yatskin, charged under RF CC Art. 275 (*high treason*). The state prosecution was to be announced at the session. Lawyer N. Polozov said that he could not provide details of the case hearing, since it was related to the National Security Information of Russian Federation and he had to sign a non-disclosure statement.²³

CASE OF VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO

On April 6, Timur Slezko, a ‘SCRC’ judge, upheld the decision to keep journalist **Vladyslav Yesypenko** in custody until May 11.²⁴ During this session Mr. Yesypenko refused the appointed lawyer Violetta Sineglazova. The journalist stated that the FSB men had used torture against him after his arrest. To make him confess, they had been putting a bag over his head, not allowing him to breathe.

On April 30, Anton Tsykurenko, a judge of the ‘Kievskiy District Court of Simferopol’, extended the detention period for Vladyslav Yesypenko until July 11, 2021.²⁵

PERSECUTION FOR CHARGING WITH BEING IN N.CHELEBIDJIKHAN BATALION

As of the end of April, **6 people** were deprived of liberty under a charge of being in N.Chelebidjikhhan 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 Chelebidjikhhan Volunteer

¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1389777554723030>

¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1393824024318383>

¹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1399470650420387>

²⁰ Military Court of Appeal / List of cases to be heard on 30 Apr 2021. Case 55K-141/2021 https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=30.04.2021

²¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmwfpbN_NAY

²² CHRГ/Rats and Bedbugs in Cell of Simferopol Detention Center, Where Ivan Yatskin Is Kept <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-kamere-sizo-simferopolya-gde-soderzhat-ivana-yaczkina-est-klopy-i-krysy>

²³ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-nachalos-rassmotrenie-dela-ivana-yaczkina/>

²⁴ CHRГ/ Journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko Claimed Torturing at Court in Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/zhurnalist-vyacheslav-esipenko-na-sude-v-krymu-zayavil-chto-ego-pytali>

²⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/zhurnalista-vladislav-esipenko-ostavili-pod-strazhej-do-11-iyulya/>



Battalion. 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 April 2021, at least **4 persons** were deprived of liberty within the persecution of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' in Crimea. **5 more people** are under the movement restriction: **4** are on house arrest, and **1** is under travel restriction.

CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS IN CUSTODIAL SETTING

On April 13, lawyer N. Polozov informed that there were rats and bedbugs, and mold on the ceiling in the cell of Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center, where **Ivan Yatskin** was kept.²⁶

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On April 8, Marina Matiushenko, 'a judge of peace', issued a warning to the «**LOVE OF CHRIST**» Church of Evangelical Pentecostal Christians under Art. 5.26 of the Code of Administrative Offences (*Illegal Missionary Activity*) for publications on a social network describing the activities of the organization.

In April, the CHRG registered 3 new administrative proceedings in Crimea under Art. 5.26 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation, including 2 — regarding the **Alushta Muslim community** and its **imam Yusuf Ashyrov** based on the reports drawn up after the search in the mosque on March 30, 2021. The imam was accused of conducting Friday prayers, and the community was accused of having religious literature in the mosque.²⁷ The administrative proceedings under RF CoAO article 5.26 were also started against the «**Bread of Life**» Church of Evangelical Christians, Kerch City.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On April 13, journalist **Ablyamit Ziyadinov** was not allowed by the court officers to attend a hearing in the 'Kievskiy District Court of Simferopol' on extending the detention periods for 'Case of Crimean Muslims' defendants. The court officers told Mr. Ziyadinov, that they had not received the request for taking photos and videos sent by him.²⁸

On April 20, Yelena Kiseleva, 'a judge of peace of Simferopol', fined the editor of the "Qirim" newspaper **Mr. Bekir Mamutov** under RF CoAO Art. 13.15 (*misuse of freedom of the mass media*) for the publication of the report of Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary

²⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/nikolay.polozov/posts/3980770328655000>

²⁷ KRYM. REALII / Two More Reports Drawn Up in Crimea on Alushta Imam — Lawyer <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-krym-imam-ashirov/31223472.html>

²⁸ CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY / Court Extended Arrest for Crimean Political Prisoners Fedorov, Ibragimov, and Eyupov till July 15 Cy <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/04/13/sud-prodlil-arest-krymskim-politzaklyuchennym-fedorovu-ibragimovu-i-eyupovu-do-iyulya-1146>



General, «Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine).» The persecution was reasoned by absence of note that the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people is an organization banned in the Russian Federation, in the publication.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

On April 14, the «Crimean Solidarity» association reported that the mothers of the defendants in the «Case of the Crimean Muslims» **Mrs. Zelikha Abkhairova** and **Mrs. Zore Emiruseinova** had received summons demanding to report to the police. Administrative proceedings were initiated against women under RF CoAO Art. 20.2-5 (*Violation of the procedure for holding rallies*) for holding single person protests on October 31, 2020.²⁹ On April 15, **Mrs. Emine Abdulganiyeva** received a similar summons.³⁰

On April 14, the report on administrative violation under RF CoAO Art. 20.6.1 (*Failure to comply with the rules of conduct in the event of a threat of an emergency occurrence*) was received by **Mrs. Fatma Ismailova** for holding a single person protest on December 25, 2020.³¹ On April 19, **Mrs. Margarita Djapparova**, was known to have received a letter with an administrative report for holding a single person protest on December 26 to support her husband — Ayder Djapparov.³²

On April 20, the Russian policemen handed **Mr. Rustem Mennanov**, a Kurultai delegate, a warning about the inadmissibility of violating the «anti-extremist» legislation on holding peaceful assemblies. According to Mr. Mennanov, Alexei Rychkov, a policeman, said that he «does not know why he is handing a warning, he has an order».³³

In April, the CHRГ recorded 3 decisions on sentencing under RF CoAO Art. 20.2: in Sevastopol — **Ms. Eva Pletneva**, in Feodosiya — **Mr. Nikolai Malakhov** and in Alushta — **Ms. Olga Volgina**. Natalya Golubieva, a ‘judge of Alushta Town Court’, fined Ms. Volgina RUR30,000 for arranging ‘an unauthorized event’, namely, publications in the social networks calling to actions of supporting Mr. Aleksey Navalny, a Russian opposition member.

On April 26, Yuriy Gulevich, a judge of ‘the Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol’, fined **Mr. Andrey Mel’nik** RUR10,000 under RF CoAO Article 20.6.1 for holding a single person protest in Simferopol on April 21, with a ‘FREEDOM TO NAVALNY’ poster.

The Russian authorities refuse authorizing to hold opposition events and persecute their participants, referring to the threat of the coronavirus spread. However, at the same time in April mass events organized by the authorities and dedicated to the anniversary of the liberation of the cities from occupation in 1944 were held in several cities of Crimea. This confirms the selective application of restrictive measures and the use of «quarantine» restrictions in order to prevent peaceful assemblies that are not controlled by the Russian Federation occupied authorities.

²⁹ CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY / Mothers of Political Prisoners — Zelikha Abkhairova and Zore Emiruseinova — Called Up to Local Police Officer for Single Person Protest <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/04/14/materej-polituznikov-zelihu-abxairovu-i-zore-emiruseinovu-vyzvali-k-uchastkovomu-za-odinochnyj-piket-1149>

³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1389144811452971>

³¹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1389832314717554>

³² <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1391764224524363>

³³ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/139314112720006>

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

In April the CHRГ recorded **3** new criminal cases against the Crimean residents under RF CC Article 328 (*Evading the service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*) and **7** new sentences issued under RF CC Article 328. Totally, as of the end of April 2021, the CHRГ documented **204** criminal cases initiated for evading the RF Army military service, that were sent to the Crimean ‘courts’ for considering, with verdicts delivered for **193** of them and **11** being still under consideration.

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