



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

e-mail: crimeahrg@gmail.com

website: crimeahrg.org

CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REVIEW

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

RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS

On June 24, the press office of the FSB of the Russian Federation announced the arrest of a resident of Simferopol, who was accused of high treason.¹ According to the CHRГ, the detainee is **Stanislav Khudoley (Stetsenko)**, a Ukrainian national who was detained on June 22 in Simferopol after his apartments had been searched (*for more details, see the “Case of Ukrainian Commandos” section*).

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

As of end of June 2021, **111 persons** were deprived of liberty within a politically motivated criminal and/or religious persecution. The full list is published at the CHRГ website.²

“FEBRUARY 26 CASE”

This case defendants are charged under RF CC Art. 212 (Riots) for participating in a pro-Ukrainian rally on February 26, 2014 in Simferopol near the parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

On June 1, judges of the “Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea” (“hereinafter SCRC”) Viktor Vasilyev, Alla Khinevich and Yuliya Tsorayeva sentenced in absentia **Mr. Refat Chubarov**, the chairman of the Mejlis of the

Crimean Tatar people, to 6 years in the general regime penal colony under RF Criminal Code Article 212-1, for organizing a pro-Ukrainian rally on February 26, 2014.

As regarding the previous sentences in this case, the principle of punishment by law, freedom of peaceful assembly and the prohibition of discrimination were violated. The decision of the “court” is politically motivated, since the “case of February 26” was opened to persecute exclusively pro-Ukrainian protesters who came on February 26, 2014, in Simferopol to the rally at the Crimean parliament organized by the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people in support of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine. Several thousands of Crimeans, who opposed convening an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea where an unlawful decision of initiating ‘a referendum’ in Crimea was to be adopted, took part in the action. In January 2015 the RF Investigation Committee started a criminal case ‘for organizing mass riots and participating in them’ though the events of February 26, 2014, had taken place before the Russian Federation enforced its laws on the occupied territory of the peninsula in violation of the international humanitarian law norms.

“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

¹ <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10439244%40fsbMessage.html>

² https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/prisoners_06-2021.pdf

³ In most cases this organization is ‘Hizb-ut-Takhrir’



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 June 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 June 3, Alexander Generalov, judge of the Southern Area Military Court (SAMC), extended the detention of **Seytveli Seytabdiyev, Akim Bekirov, Eskender Suleymanov, Rustem Seytkhalilov and Asan Yanikov** until September 15.⁴

On June 7, SAMC judge Vyacheslav Korsakov extended the detention of **Enver Ametov, Osman Arifmemetov, Yashar Muedinov, Ruslan Suleymanov and Rustem Sheykhaliyev** until September 20.⁵

On June 7, Oleg Yegorov, judge of the Military Court of Appeal in Vlasikha (RF), upheld the decision to keep **Zekirya Muratov** in custody until August 17.⁶

On June 9, the «Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol» extended the detention of **Yashar Shikhametov** until August 14.⁷

On June 16, SAMC judge Igor Kostin⁸ extended the detention under house arrest for **Amet Suleymanov** until August 22.⁹

On June 17, SAMC judge Valeriy Opanasenko extended the detention of **Servet Gaziyeu, Alim Karimov, Seyran Murtaza, Erfan Osmanov** until October 14. During the session, **Mr. Server Gaziyeu** was removed from the courtroom for speaking in the Crimean Tatar language.¹⁰ On June 18, Valeriy Opanasenko extended the detention of **Mr. Dzhemil Gafarov**, who was at that moment in the pre-trial detention center hospital because of his health deterioration, until October 14.¹¹

On June 22, the “Kievskiy District Court of Simferopol” extended the detention of **Timur Yalkabov and Lenur Seydametov** until September 15th.¹²

On June 23, SAMC judge Yevgeny Zvyagin, during a preliminary hearing in the case of **Ernest Ibragimov and Oleg Fedorov**, extended their detention period by 6 months — until January 15, 2022.¹³

On June 28, SAMC judge Roman Saprunov extended the detention of **Ruslan Mesutov, Lenur Khalilov, Eldar Kantimirov and Ruslan Nagayev** until October 14.¹⁴

“UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS’ CASE”

At the end of June 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.

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1423498058017646>

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1425647284469390>

⁶ Military Court of Appeal / List of cases to be heard on 7 June 2021. Case no 55K-183/2021 https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=07.06.2021

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1427010470999738>

⁸ SAMC / List of cases to be heard on 16 June 2021. Case no 1-34/2021 https://yovs--ros.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=16.06.2021

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1431746343859484>

¹⁰ Crimean Solidarity / Court session no 39. Extension of pre-trial restraint for Gaziyeu, Gafarov, Karimov, Murtaza, Osmanov <https://crimean-solidarity.org/court-sessions/169>

¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1432989897068462>

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1435693226798129>

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1437111916656260>

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1439812576386194>



On June 3, SAMC judge Nikolai Vasilchuk sentenced **Ms.Tatyana Kuzmenko**, a resident of Feodosiya, to 8 years in prison under RF CC Art. 275 (*High treason*) with a two-year suspended sentence until her child reached the age of 14.¹⁵ Ms.Kuzmenko is the wife of Ukrainian national Konstantin Shiringa, who was detained by the Russian authorities in April 2020 on espionage charges. Ms.Kuzmenko has been under house arrest since April 2020.

On June 22, the FSB of the Russian Federation, after a search, detained a resident of Simferopol, who was accused of high treason.¹⁶ According to the FSB, he had been watching the military aircraft. According to the CHRG, the detainee is a 33-year-old citizen of Ukraine **Stanislav Khudoley (Stetsenko)**. Russian media reported that the “Kievsky District Court of Simferopol” imposed the detainee to a pre-trial restriction until August 21, 2021.¹⁷ According to the CHRG, after being detained, he was moved to the territory of the Russian Federation — to Moscow.

PERSECUTION FOR CHARGING WITH BEING IN N.CHELEBIDJIKHAN BATALLION

As of the end of June, **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 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.

¹⁵ CHRG / Military Woman in Crimea Sentenced to 8 Years for ‘High Treason’ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/voennosluzhashhaya-v-krymu-poluchila-8-let-za-gosizmenu>

¹⁶ <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%2lid%3D10439244%40fsbMessage.html>

¹⁷ TASS/ Court Arrested A Man Detained in Crimea On Charge of Collecting Data for Ukraine <http://0s.orqxg4zooj2q.cmle.ru/proisshestviya/11739181>

¹⁸ KrymInform / Court In Crimea Sentenced in Absentia Two Soldiers of Ukrainian National Battalion <https://www.c-inform.info/news/id/95748>

¹⁹ «Kievsky District Court of Simferopol» / List of cases to be heard on 28 June 2021. Case no 1-210/2021. http://kiev-simp--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=28.06.2021

²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1426721797695272>

²¹ <https://hromadske.ua/ru/posts/process-poshel-rossiya-i-ukraina-nachali-obmen-zaklyuchennyh-onlajn>

On June 23, Olga Kuznetsova, a judge of the “Kievsky District Court of Simferopol”, sentenced **Akim Gafarov** and **Nazim Eneleyev** in absentia to 8 years in prison under RF CC Art. 208 for being in the N. Chelebidzhikhan battalion.¹⁸ On June 28, on the similar charge, “judge” Andrei Dolgoplov sentenced **Alim Eneleyev** in absentia.¹⁹

PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

As of end of June, **3** persons were deprived of liberty within the persecution of the ‘Jehovah’s Witnesses’ in Crimea. **6 more people** were under the movement restriction — **5** were on house arrest, and **1** was under travel restrictions.

On May 17, the “Nakhimovsky District Court of Sevastopol” changed the pre-trial restriction for **Mr.Yevgeniy Zhukov** to house arrest.

In June, the “Gagarinsky District Court of Simferopol” began a trial on the merits of **Mr.Igor Shmidt’s** case.

EDEM BEKIROV’S CASE

On June 9, Sergei Demenok, a judge of the «Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol», sentenced **Mr.Edem Bekirov**, a Crimean Tatar activist, in absentia to 7 years in prison in the general regime penal colony and a RUR150,000 fine under Art. 222 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (*Unlawful storage and transportation of ammunition*) and Art. 222.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (*Unlawful storage and transportation of explosive devices*).

The accusation was based on the testimony of a “secret” witness, who failed to explain how Edem Bekirov, being a disabled person with an amputated leg, had managed to carry a bag with 14 kg of ammunition.²⁰ Mr.Bekirov was released in 2019 within the “big exchange”.²¹



FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On June 1, Ullubiy Isayev, ‘judge of peace’, fined the **“Light to the World” Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith** RUR30,000 under Part 3 of Art. 5.26 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation (*Unlawful missionary activity*).²²

On June 8, Svetlana Vlasova, ‘judge of peace’, fined **Mr.Yusuf Ashirov**, the Imam of the Alushta Muslim religious community, RUR5,000 under RF CoAO Article 5.25-4 for carrying out namaz without the permission of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea.²³

In May the same ‘judge’ fined this community RUR30,000 under RF CoAO Article 5.26-3 for keeping religious literature in the mosque.

On June 29, in Simferopol, Tatiana Protsenko, ‘judge of peace’, fined S. Asanov RUR5,000 under RF CoAO Article 5.26.²⁴

In total, as of the end of June 2021, the CHRG recorded 125 administrative proceedings under RF CoAO Article 5.26, with the total fine amount of RUR1,613,500.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The monitoring of the broadcasting, carried out by the CHRG in June in the north of Crimea, showed a significant worsening of the situation with the signal of Ukrainian radio stations. In June the Ukrainian broadcasting was accessible in 8 out of 19 settlements (in March — in 13 out of 19). Moreover, the “Zvezda” radio station of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation completely jammed out the “NV” Ukrainian radio with its signal. For more information on the monitoring results, visit the CHRG website.²⁵

Monitoring of access to Internet resources, carried out by the CHRG in June, showed that 12 providers in 12 settlements were completely blocking 18 Ukrainian sites. 9 sites more are accessible only in some settlements. For more information on the monitoring results, visit the CHRG website.²⁶

On June 15, Elena Toshcheva, judge of the “Zheleznodorozhny District Court of Simferopol”, upheld the decision on a RUR4,000 fine imposed on **Mr.Bekir Mamutov**, Editor-in-Chief of the QIRIM newspaper.²⁷ He was charged under RF CoAO Article 13.15 for the publication of the speech of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

On June 28, the persons who refused to introduce themselves did not allow a correspondent of the GRANI.RU Internet media to enter the building of the “Crimean Garrison Military Court” to be present at the session on the “case of Crimean Muslims” (Alushta group). They reasoned their rejection to allow him to enter by absence of the journalist and

²² «Judges of Peace of Republic of Crimea» / Case 05-0301/100/2021 <http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/>

²³ Crimean Solidarity / Court Fined Imam of Alushta Community RUR5,000 more. 200 Families Signed To Defend Him <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/06/08/sud-oshtrafoval-imama-obshhiny-alushta-eshhe-na--tysyach-rublej--semej-podpisalis-v-ego-zashhitu--1313>

²⁴ «Judges of Peace of Republic of Crimea» / Case 5-0159/75/2021 <http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/>

²⁵ CHRG/ Occupation Authorities Intensified Again Jamming Ukrainian Radio Signal in North of Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/okkupacziennaya-vlast-snova-usilila-blokirovanie-ukrainskogo-radiosignala-na-severe-kryma/>

²⁶ CHRG / 27 Ukrainian Websites Blocked by 12 Providers in Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-12-provajderov-blokiruyut-27-ukrainskih-sajtov/>

²⁷ CHRG / ‘Court’ Dismissed Appeal of Crimean Tatar Paper Editor-in-Chief Fined for Mentioning Mejlis <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/sud-otkazal-v-appelyaczii-redaktoru-krymskotatarskoj-gazety-kotorogo-oshtrafovali-za-upominanie-medzhliisa>



audience members on the lists.²⁸ The witnesses informed that these persons were security men of the Crimean Engineering and Pedagogical University located at the same address with the “Crimean Garrison Military Court”.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

On June 1, the Russian policemen detained **Mr. Dmitriy Formalev**, a resident of Simferopol, when he was holding his single-man protest. He was drawn up a report under RF CoAO Article 20.6.1 (*Failure to comply with the rules of conduct during an emergency threat regime*).²⁹

On the eve of the Day of the Crimean Tatar Flag (June 26), the Russian occupation authorities handed Crimean Tatar activists “warnings about the inadmissibility of violating the legislation on rallies and countering extremist activities”, that threatened activists with criminal and administrative liability for holding peaceful assemblies without the permission of the authorities. Such warning notices were handed:

- **Emine Avamileva**,³⁰ **Elmaz Akimova**³¹ on June 18
- **Rolan Osmanov** on June 21³²
- **Abdureshyt Dzhepparov**,³³ **Zair Smedliayev**³⁴ on June 22.

They tried also to hand it to **Edem Dudakov**,³⁵ and when he denied signing the notice, he was called to the police station ‘for conversation’.

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1439850253049093>

²⁹ CHRГ / Violation of Freedom of Assembly: A Crimean Fined For Single-Person Protest <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/narushenie-svobody-sobranij-krymchanina-oshtrafovali-za-odinchnyj-piket/>

³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=4246890572041437&set=a.662438240486706>

³¹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=974397259986657&id=100022491759799

³² https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1225150284583206&id=100012647377710

³³ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1671574956376320&id=100005714940800

³⁴ CHRГ / Activists Being Handed ‘Warning Notices’ On Crimean Tatar Flag Day Eve in Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-nakanune-dnya-krymskotatarskogo-flaga-aktivistam-stali-vruchat-predosterezheniya>

³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/edem.dudakov/posts/4110031205784384>

3 | VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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

DEPORTING OF PEOPLE LIVING ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY

On June 28 lawyer L.Gemendzhi informed that **Alim Sufyanov and Seyran Khayredinov**, defendants in the ‘Case of Crimean Muslims’ had been moved by the Russian authorities from Crimea to Rostov-na-Donu.³⁶

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

In June the CHRГ recorded **9** new criminal cases against the Crimean residents under RF CC Article 328 (*Evading the service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*) and **11** new sentences issued under RF CC Article 328. Totally, as of the end of June 2021, the CHRГ documented **227** criminal cases initiated for evading the RF Army military service, that were sent to the Crimean ‘courts’ for considering, with verdicts delivered for **210** of them and **17** being still under consideration.

THE REVIEW WAS PREPARED BY:

Olga Skrypnyk, coordinator for the Crimean Human Rights Group;

Oleksandr Siedov, analyst for the Crimean Human Rights Group.

³⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1439889766378475>