



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA AND 100 DAYS OF FULL-SCALE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

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POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PERSECUTION



On the eve of the full-scale Russian invasion, at least 116 Ukrainian citizens were kept in custody due to politically and/or religiously motivated criminal persecution. 4 persons more may have been imprisoned for political reasons, and other 9 persons were under house arrest.¹

As of 3 June 2022, **at least 123 citizens of Ukraine** were deprived of liberty due to politically and/or religiously motivated criminal persecution. And other 9 persons were under house arrest.

After February 24, 2022, the **politically motivated persecution of Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian activists** went on. Thus, on March 16, **Abdureshyt Dzhepparov**, a Crimean human rights activist and veteran of the Crimean Tatar national movement, was detained. After the search, Mr.Dzhepparov was taken to

the occupation police station in the town of Bilohirs'k. At the same time, security men fired into the air, threatening to use automatic weapons against people gathered near his house. In addition, the occupiers detained two nephews of Abdureshyt Dzhepparov, who came to his house — Muhammad-Ali Dzhepparov and Fevzi Yakubov. Mr.Dzhepparov was accused of RF Code of Administrative Offence² Article 20.3-1, *“Propaganda or public display of Nazi attributes or symbols, or attributes or symbols of extremist organizations, or other attributes or symbols, which promotion or public display is prohibited by federal law”*. ‘Belogorsk District Court’ sentenced him to 15 days of administrative arrest for a publication on the Internet, dated 2019.³

On March 24, the house of **Zair Smedliayev**, Head of the CEC⁴ of the Kurultay of the Crimean Tatar people, in the village of Krasnohvardiys'ke was searched while he was taken to the local

¹ Page 4 https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/crimean-human-rights-group_jan_2022_ua.pdf

² Hereinafter RF CoAO

³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/abdureshita-dzhepparova-areshtuvali-na-15-dib/>

⁴ Central Executive Committee

police station. “Krasnogvardeisky District Court” found Mr.Smedliayev guilty of committing an offense under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3-1 (*Public actions aimed at discrediting the involvement of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation to protect the interests of the Russian Federation and its citizens*) and imposed a RUR 40,000 fine. The formal

At least 123 citizens of Ukraine were deprived of liberty and other 9 persons were under house arrest due to politically motivated criminal persecution.

reason for charging with this article was his publication on Facebook on March 9, 2022. In addition, Mr.Smedliayev was accused of RF CoAO Article 20.3-1 (*Propaganda or public display of Nazi attributes or symbols, or attributes or symbols of extremist organizations, or other attributes or symbols*) for the publication on Facebook on March 1, 2014. ‘Judge’ Kristina Pikula sentenced him to a 2-days’ administrative arrest.

On May 2 Iryna Danylovych, a citizen journalist and a pro-Ukrainian activist, was arrested. On April 29, the security service men searched her house in the village of Vladyslavivka near to Feodosiya, while she was detained at work. According to her mother, a mobile and a laptop were seized during the search. As of May 4, the activist’s whereabouts are unknown.⁵

«CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS»

The defendants in the case are accused of affiliating to Islamic organizations⁶ or propagandizing activities of the organizations that are declared terrorist or extremist in the RF though they are not according to the Ukrainian law. 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 defence is usually not accepted by the judges.

On March 10, the court sentenced Remzi Bekirov, a Grani.ru online media correspondent, and Riza Izetov, a human rights activist, this case defendants, to 19 years in confinement. Activist Rayim Aivazov was sentenced to 17 years in confinement with serving the first 5 years in prison and with further freedom restriction for 1 year and 6 months. Activist Shaban Umerov was sentenced to 18 years in confinement with serving the first 5 years in prison and with further freedom restriction for 1 year and 6 months.

On March 18, the Southern Area Military Court sentenced five defendants of the ‘2nd Simferopol Group’. They were found guilty under RF Criminal Code⁷ Article 205.5 (*Management of terrorist organization activity and participation in such organization activity*) and Article 278 (*Forcible seizure of power or forcible retention of power*). All accused were convicted to 14-15 years in confinement: Akim Bekirov, Seytveli Seytabdiyev and Rustem Seytkhalilov were sentenced to 14 years in the maximum-security penal colony with serving the first 5 years in prison, Eskender Suleymanov and Asan Yanikov — to 15 years in the maximum security penal colony with serving the first 5 years in prison.

On March 23, the Southern Area Military Court sentenced Crimean Tatars Tymur Yalkabov and Lenur Seydametov to 17 and 13 years in the maximum security penal colony, correspondingly, with serving the first 4 years in prison, and with further freedom restriction for 1 year and 6 months.

On April 19, the RF Southern Area Military Court sentenced Emil Ziyadinov, a children’s coach, to 17 years in the maximum security penal colony with serving the first 4 years in prison.

⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-siloviki-zareshituvali-gromadyansku-zhurnalistku-irinu-danilovich/>

⁶ In most cases this is ‘Hizb-ut-Tahrir’.

⁷ Hereinafter RF CC

«CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

On March 4, in Bakhchisaray, the FSB men searched the house of Crimean Tatar Emil Emirov. He was accused of “contacts with Ukrainian agents.” According to Diliara Emirova, his wife, during the search, the security men did not allow to call a lawyer or leave the house. The “report” accusing Mr.Emirov states that he could have communicated with the Ukrainian secret services.⁸

On April 27, the court in Rostov-na-Donu announced a new verdict of Dmytro Shtyblukov, one of defendants of the ‘Case of Crimean Commandos’, 19 years and 6 months in confinement under Article 275 of the Russian Criminal Code (*High Treason*). In early November 2021 he could be released as the term of his illegal sentence in Russia expired. But this did not happen, as he has been under investigation in the new criminal case.⁹

PERSECUTION ON CHARGE OF BEING IN N. CHELEBIDZHUKHAN BATTALION

The official reason for persecuting the accused in Crimea under RF CC Article 208-2 (*Service in an illegal armed unit acting for the purposes that contradict the interests of the Russian Federation*) is that they failed to come voluntarily to the RF law enforcement bodies and declare their service in the Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhukhan 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.

On June 1, 2022, the Supreme Court of Russia designated the “Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhukhan Volunteer Battalion” as “terrorist” and banned it on the territory of the Russian Federation.

On March 5, Nasrulla Seidaliyev, a 62-year-old Crimean Tatar, was detained in Simferopol on charges of serving in the battalion (RF CC Article 208-2).¹¹

On March 27, Rustem Gugurik, a resident of Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region, was detained in Chongar when he tried to enter Crimea. The “court” took him into custody until May 29. He is accused of committing a crime under RF CC Article 208-2 (*service in the battalion*).¹²

On April 8, the ‘Kievsky District Court of Simferopol’ affirmed conviction in the case of Izet Gdanov, the ex- First Deputy Permanent Representative of the President to the ARC: 8 years in the maximum security penal colony for alleged service in the N. Chelebidzhukhan Battalion. Mr.Gdanov is in the territory controlled by Ukraine.¹³

On April 8, the ‘Simferopol District Court’ arrested Arsen Ibrayimov, a Kherson resident, who had been detained in Dzhankoy and accused of serving in the Crimean Tatar Volunteer Battalion, for 2 months. The FSB said that “a man born in 1988 took an active part in the food and energy blockade of the Crimean peninsula as well as in anti-Russian actions.”¹⁴

On May 22, Rosguard men conducted illegal searches in the village of Azovs’ke in the Henichesk district of the Kherson region, which

⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-proveli-obshuk-u-krimskogo-tatarina-za-zvinuvachenniyam-u-zvyazkah-iz-ukraïnskimi-specsluzhbami/>

⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/figurantu-spravi-krimskih-diversantiv-dmitru-shtyblukovu-uhvalili-shhe-odin-virok/>

¹⁰ https://n.tass.ru/obschestvo/14789255?utm_source=ru.krymr.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ru.krymr.com&utm_referrer=ru.krymr.com

¹¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-simferopoli-zatrimali-krimskogo-tatarina-za-uchast-u-nacziionalnomu-bataljoni/>

¹² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/meshkanczya-hersonskoi-oblasti-areshtuvali-v-krimu-buczimto-za-uchast-u-nacziionalnomu-bataljoni/>

¹³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/sud-u-krimu-zaochno-zasudiv-izeta-gdanova-do-8-rokiv-kolonii/>

¹⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-meshkanczya-hersonu-areshtuvali-v-krimu-buczimto-za-uchast-u-nacziionalnomu-bataljoni/>

is currently occupied by the Russian armed forces. The Russian military detained Ruslan Abdurakhmanov, a 31-year-old resident of Azov'ske, and deported him to Crimea. According to preliminary information, he is "accused" of serving in "Asker" unit and the "civil" blockade of Crimea in 2015 and is being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Centre.¹⁵

PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

In April the 'Armiansk Town Court' and the 'Yalta Town Court' in Crimea launched trials against Jehovah's Witnesses: Taras Kuzio, Daria Kuzio, Petro Zhyl'tsov, Serhiy Liulin, Tadevos Manukian, Oleksandr Dubovenko, and Oleksandr Lytvyniuk for "organizing and financing extremist activities." Mr. and Mrs. Kuzio couple, Mr. Liulin, Mr. Zhyl'tsov, and Mr. Manukian are accused of financing an extremist organization under RF CC Article 282.3, with the potential maximum punishment of 8-year's confinement. The trial of Mr. Dubovenko, and Mr. Lytvyniuk started on April 5 in the 'Armiansk Town Court'. The men are accused under RF

CC Article 282.2 (*organizing extremist activities*). The investigation states that they '*used a software to hold a Zoom online conference call in order to involve new organization members*'.¹⁶

CASE OF MUSTAFA DZHEMILIEV

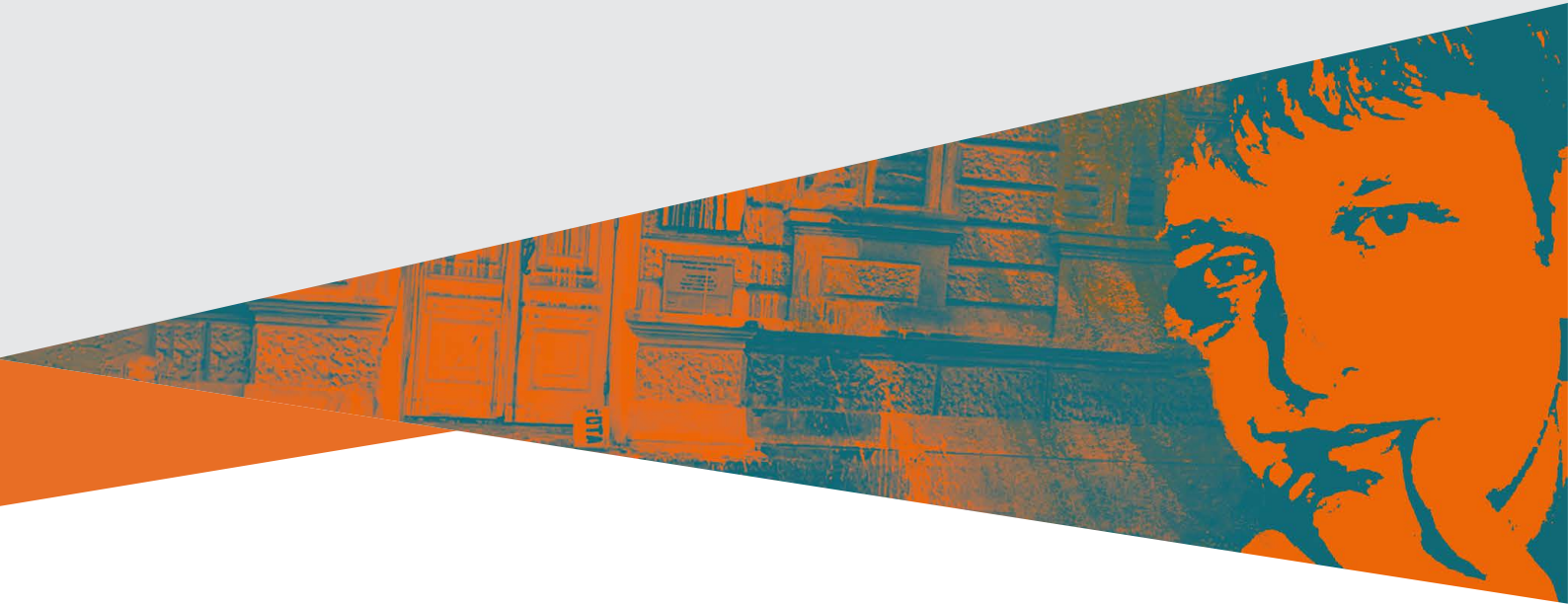
On April 22, after 57 court sessions the "Armiansk Town Court" passed a sentence in absentia on Mr. Mustafa Dzhemiliev, a Crimean Tatar people leader. Pursuant to RF CC Article 222-1 (*illegal acquisition, transfer, sale, storage of the weapon*) "judge" Venera Isroilova sentenced to 1 year of confinement and a RUR15,000 thousand fine. But Mr. Dzhemiliev was acquitted "due to the lapse of the statute of limitations." Pursuant to RF CC Article 224 (*negligent storage of firearms*), the court imposed a RUR20,000 fine but acquitted Mr. Dzhemiliev "due to the lapse of the statute of limitations." Pursuant to RF CC Article 322-4 (*illegal crossing of the state border of Russia*) Dzhemiliev was sentenced in absentia to 2 years of confinement and released "under the amnesty declared due to the 70th anniversary of the victory."¹⁷

¹⁵ <https://investigator.org.ua/ua/news-2/243145/>

¹⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/dva-krimskih-sudi-rozpochali-proczesi-nad-svidkami-egovi/>

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimskij-sud-uhvaliv-zaochnij-virok-mustafi-dzhemilevu/>

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION



LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Curtailing the freedom of speech in Russia and territories of Ukraine occupied by Russia is going on. For instance, on March 4, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing so-called “fakes” about the actions of the Russian army in Ukraine. The law supplemented the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation with Article 207.3 and introduced punishment for disseminating “*knowingly false information about the activities of the Russian Armed Forces*” as well as for “*discrediting the use of Russian troops*”. This provision applies to both Russian and foreign media and journalists.

In addition, the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation designated the social network “Facebook” accessory to “*violation of the rights and freedoms of citizens of the Russian Federation*”, and limited access to YouTube and Twitter. TikTok service stated that it would not work in Russia.

The Prosecutor General’s Office of Russia designated the Crimean Human Rights Group ‘undesirable in Russia’ as its activities ‘constitute a threat to the constitutionally established state order and security of the Russian Federation’.

Roskomnadzor blocked media outlets that provided objective information about the hostilities. As of March 3, at least 22 media were banned.

On May 6, according to the information, the Prosecutor General’s Office of Russia designated the Crimean Human Rights Group “undesirable in Russia.” As stated by the Prosecutor General’s Office of Russia, activity of human

rights defenders ‘*constitute a threat to the constitutionally established state order and security of the Russian Federation*’.

The team of the Crimean Human Rights Group has been working since 2014. Human rights activists have been documenting human rights violations and war crimes in the occupied Crimea and cooperating with the authorities and other international and Ukrainian organizations to support the presence of Human Rights in Crimea subject in the information space. The Crimean Human Rights Group publishes monthly monitoring reviews of the human rights situation in Crimea.

CASE OF IRYNA DANYLOVYCH, CITIZEN JOURNALIST

Ms. Iryna Danylovych, a health care worker and a citizen journalist, disappeared on April 29. The same day her home in the village of Vladyslavivka near Feodosia was searched while her ‘detention’ in fact could be classified as ‘enforced disappearance’. According to the mother, the phone and laptop were seized during the search. The security agents did not leave a copy of the court decision. Her lawyer was informed that Ms. Danylovych was not in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre.

Only on the 13th after the abduction, the lawyer got a confirmation from the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre that activist Iryna Danylovych was there. According to the lawyer, Ms. Danylovych had been kept in the basement of FSB building for eight days, subject to polygraph tests, put a sack on her head and threatened that she would be taken out to the forest if she hid something. She was also threatened with deporting to Mariupol blocked by the Russian Army. All this time she was fed once a day and taken to the toilet twice a day. At the end of this detention in the FSB Ms. Danylovych was forced to sign blank forms in exchange for freedom.

Once she had done this, she was told that two hundred grams of explosives had been found in her small bag and then she was moved to court to impose a pre-trial restriction. A criminal case

has been opened against Ms. Iryna Danylovych under RF CC Article 222.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition, transfer, sale, storage, transportation or translocation of explosives*). It is worth mentioning that the RF FSB has repeatedly faked criminal cases under this and similar articles for politically reasoned persecution of Crimeans.

On May 27, the ‘Supreme Court of Crimea’ decided on keeping Ms. Danylovych in the pre-trial detention centre for two months.

CASE OF JOURNALIST VOLODYMYR YESYPENKO

On March 10, Vladyslav Yesypenko, a freelance journalist of KRYM.REALII project, was detained in Crimea where he was on the editorial assignment. For instance, on the eve of his detention, he had filmed laying flowers at a monument to Shevchenko in Simferopol. The FSB stated that he allegedly worked for the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, and “an explosive device was found” in his car. The journalist was tortured by the FSB men to extract a confession that he was allegedly working for Ukrainian intelligence. He, for instance, informed that the security agents had put a bag on his head and prevented him from breathing to obtain a guilty plea.

On February 16 ‘judge’ Dliaver Berberov found Mr. Yesypenko guilty of possessing and processing of an explosive device, sentenced him to 6 years in the general security penal colony and fined him RUR110,000.

On May 26, 2022, the ‘Supreme Court of Crimea’ considered an appeal against the verdict of the Vladyslav Yesypenko’s case, he had been sentenced to 6 years in the penal colony and returned it to the ‘Simferopol District Court’ to rectify the violations. “Judge” Dliaver Berberov should present lawyers copies of the minutes of the “court” sessions.

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

On March 4 an article regarding ‘the public actions aimed at discrediting the Russian army’ (RF CoAO Article 20.3.3) came into force. The maximum punishment shall be a fine of up to RUR100,000.

And it was on March 11, when the Crimean Human Rights Group documented the first fine for an anti-war slogan. On March 9, a Simferopol resident came to the Taras Shevchenko monument in Simferopol, laid flowers at the monument, and placed a blue-and-yellow cardboard plaque on which she wrote “No to War” with a felt-tip pen.

The first documented fine for an anti-war slogan against a Simferopol resident with a blue-and-yellow cardboard sign and the words “No to War”

She was detained and brought to the Tsentralny Police Department of the Russian Federation. In a few hours she was taken to the “court”. The administrative offense report states that the woman “committed public actions aimed at discrediting the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in order to protect the interests of the Russian Federation and its citizens, support international peace and security in the course of the “demilitarization” and “denazification” of Ukraine, namely demonstrated handmade cardboard poster with the Ukraine colours and the thematic inscription “No to War”. “Judge” Victor Mozheliansky found the woman guilty of committing an administrative offense under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3-1 (*Propaganda or public display of Nazi attributes or symbols, or attributes or symbols*

of extremist organizations, or other attributes or symbols, which promotion or public display is prohibited by federal law’) and imposed a RUR35,000 fine.¹⁸

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the Crimeans have been widely persecuted, mostly under the article “Discrediting the army.” There is information about at least 20 convictions under this article in the occupied Crimea.¹⁹

For example, on April 13, a 55-year-old local man was detained in Sevastopol for cutting a banner in support of the war with Ukraine. The ‘Gagarinsky Court’ of Sevastopol “regarded these actions as discrediting the Russian Armed Forces” and fined the man RUR30,000.²⁰

In early June, a Yevpatoriya resident went to Teatral’na Square of the town with an anti-war poster and was fined RUR30,000.²¹

The policy of counteracting anti-war sentiments in the peninsula is manifested not only in administrative persecution, but also in warnings and intimidation of local residents. For example, in early March, Crimean school chats sent mass messages to parents warning of “*the inadmissibility of participating in protest actions.*”²² Parents were told that “*various reactionary movements have intensified their activity on various resources, calling for participation in unauthorized anti-war rallies, and children are asked not to stay aside and say their word.*”

Crimeans who publicly disagree with Russia’s war against Ukraine are being also persecuted in another way.

Thus, on April 14, Valeria Goldenberg, a 60-year-old resident of the village of Soniachna Dolyna (Sudak), was arrested for allegedly “desecrating the grave” of a soldier who died during hostilities against Ukraine. The Crimean woman’s actions were caused by a protest against the Russian war in Ukraine. However, Russia controlled media reported that “*the pensioner could have done this due to nationalist beliefs.*” The ‘Sudak Town Court’ considered the request of the “investigation” to impose

¹⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-vinesli-pershij-shtraf-za-gaslo-ni-vijni/>

¹⁹ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/krym-ukraina-voyna-diskreditaciya-armii-presledovaniye-sud/31873880.html>

²⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-sevastopoli-sud-oshtrafuval-cholovika-kotrij-zrizav-baner-na-pidtrimku-vijni/>

²¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-krimchanina-oshtrafuvali-za-antivoennij-piket/>

²² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimchan-zalyakuyut-vyazniczeyu-za-vihid-na-akczii-protestu/>

a pre-trial restriction and took the woman into custody until May 8, 2022.²³ On June 8, Ms. Goldenberg was sentenced to 2 years in the penal colony-settlement. In addition, the pensioner must pay a compensation in the amount of RUR500,000.²⁴

The same day, April 14, a local resident informed the police against Ms. Olga Diachenko, a 46-year-old Yalta resident, because of her painted nails: he said that one of the nails had been painted blue and yellow, and another one — red and black. The “police” photographed her hands and “held a preventive conversation”, reporting the situation to the local FSB branch. After the conversation, the woman was forced to erase her manicure.²⁵

On May 25, the ‘Gagarinsky District Court’ in Sevastopol sentenced a 21-year-old local resident to probation for “calls for extremism on social media.”

The FSB opened a case under RF CC Article 280-2 (*public appeals to extremist activities*) and RF CC Article 148-1 (*violation of the right to freedom of conscience and religion*). According to the occupiers, a Sevastopol resident born in 2001 posted “Ukrainian nationalist slogans” on social networks, which allegedly contained “*calls for violence against groups of people separated on national and racial grounds*.” The occupation court sentenced the man from Sevastopol to 1 year and 6 months of probation with a probation period of 1 year. The “court” also deprived the young man of the right to administer the sites for a period of 1 year and 6 months.

investigators are using illegal methods of investigation (pressure, intimidation, threats, obstruction of the lawyer’s work, etc.).

The “prosecutor” in this case is Iryna Shvaykina, who used to work in the Ukrainian Prosecutor’s Office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and who in May 2015 was informed by the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine about the suspicion under Criminal Code of Ukraine Article 111-1 (*high treason*).

According to the ‘court’, Mr. Ziza is charged with Criminal Code of Russian Federation Article 30-3 (*attempted crime*) and Article 167-2 (*deliberate destruction or damage to another’s property, if these acts caused significant damage, were performed from molester motives, were performed by arson, explosion or in any other generally dangerous manner, or caused by negligence the death of a person or other serious consequences*). Under this article, Mr. Ziza shall be subject to either forced labor for up to five years or deprivation of liberty for the same period.

Although the article is not of terrorist category, the Crimean Human Rights Group was informed that RosFinMonitoring had added Bohdan Ziza to the updated “list of terrorists and extremists.”

CASE OF BOHDAN ZIZA

On May 17, Bohdan Ziza, a 28-year-old local resident, was detained on charges that he had splashed the entrance of the Yevpatoriya “administration” building with yellow and blue paints on the night of May 16. The court took him into custody, and then Olena Spasyonova, a judge of ‘the Supreme Court’ decided on keeping the activist in custody. He is currently being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center and there are reasons to believe that

²³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/litnyu-krimchanku-mozhut-zasuditi-na-5-rokiv-cherez-oskvernennya-mogili-soldata-kotrij-zaginuv-na-vijni-v-ukraïni/>

²⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/litnya-krimchanka-otrimala-dva-roki-za-splyundruvannya-mogili/>

²⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimchanku-zatrimali-cherez-zhovto-sinij-manikyur/>

USING CRIMEA AS RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE



After February 24 this year, Crimea has become the base used by Russia for striking Ukrainian cities.

Russia has been involving the Crimeans in the full-scale war against Ukraine. It was just in autumn that Russia forcibly mobilized 3,000 Crimeans. These mobilized Crimeans were sent to take part in hostilities against Ukraine. On April 1, a new forced conscription campaign began, with other several thousands of Crimeans to be sent to war. However, in Crimea, the indicators of conscription are hidden. At the press conference in Simferopol, Yuriy Lyman, “Crimean Military Commissioner”, refused to announce this year’s plans for the draft campaign.²⁶

Putin says that only contracted soldiers are involved in the war against Ukraine, but this is not the case. He sends conscripts, including those from Crimea, to this war.

A few weeks before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine (in February 2022), the Russian Armed

From the territory of the occupied Crimea, the Russian Federation has been also launching missile and air strikes on many settlements in Ukraine, that have caused deaths and injuries of the civilians.

Forces began to move en masse from Russia to the occupied Crimea via the Kerch Bridge.

The military equipment from Crimea, which took part in the further occupation of Ukraine in the first weeks of the war, was marked with the letter Z. Later, this symbol became the official “brand” among propagandists supporting the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

²⁶ <https://feo.rk.gov.ru/ru/article/show/10084>

Since February 24, 2022, the Crimean Human Rights Group has been collecting data on the dead²⁷ and captured Russian military men related to military units in Crimea. Some of them were forcibly drafted into the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and then sent to participate in hostilities in another part of Ukraine. The information about captured Crimean soldiers, who report that the command did not tell them about a full-scale war but sent them to “training” or “special operation”, is being also collected.

As of June 3, 2022, the CHRG documented at least 54 dead and 19 captured Crimeans.

The Russian authorities are trying to hide the information about the actual number of dead and wounded among the Russian military, such

information is not provided in Crimea, too. However, morgues and hospitals are overloaded in Crimea.

For instance, according to the data of the Ukrainian Army HQ, a funeral ceremony for about 100 military men of the Russian unit was held in the quarters of the 126th Separate Coast Guard Brigade in Crimea. In addition, similar memorial events were recently held in the Sailors’ Club of Sevastopol for the Black Sea Navy marines who died in the war against Ukraine.²⁸

Since the sinking of the cruiser MOSKVA the Russian Defence Ministry has so far officially reported only one death and 27 missing servicemen. Although relatives of the sailors told about at least 40 dead²⁹. The number of wounded and evacuees is still unknown.

²⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zagibli-vijskovi-iz-krimu/>

²⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/z-brigadi-u-perevalnomu-zaginuli-blizko-100-vijskovih-genshtab-zsu/>

²⁹ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-matrosov-moskvy-pytayutsya-priznat-pogibshimi-rezultate-katastrofy/31864815.html>