



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA AND 200 DAYS OF FULL-SCALE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

During the 6 months of the full-scale war, after February 24, more than **750** different cruise missiles were launched from the occupied Crimea and the Black Sea

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Under the general editorship of Ms O. Skrypnyk, Head of the Board of the Crimean Human Rights Group.

The Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG) is an organization of Crimean human rights defenders and journalists aimed at supporting the respect and protection of human rights in Crimea by documenting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law on the territory of the Crimean Peninsula, and attracting a wide attention to such problems, as well as at searching and developing mechanisms for the protection of human rights in Crimea. The CHRG team includes experts, human rights defenders and journalists who, since February 2014, have been involved in monitoring and documenting human rights violations in Crimea. The CHRG focuses on human rights violations caused by the illegal actions of the Russian Federation in Crimea. The results of CHRG monitoring and documenting violations of human rights are presented in monthly reviews of human rights situation in Crimea as well as in ad hoc reports and articles.

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CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

When the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine started, monitors of the Crimean Human Rights Group (*hereinafter referred to as the CHRG*) have begun to get information from the occupied settlements of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions that Ukrainian civilians abducted in these territories by the Russian military, the Rosguard, or the RF FSB are being transported to places of detention in Crimea. The list of these cases include:

Mr.Serhiy Tsyhipa, a public activist from the city of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson Region, head of the ‘KAKHOVSKY PLATSDARM’

(Kakhovka Bridgehead) NGO, a citizen journalist. On March 12, he is known to have been on his way to Tavriysk to deliver medicines for his mother-in-law, and since then the communication with him was lost. Journalist Oleh Baturin abducted on March 13 (he was later released), was in custody in the building of the Kherson Regional State Administration. There, in one of the nearby interrogation rooms, he heard the name and voice of Serhiy Tsyhipa. According to the ZMINA Center for Human Rights, as of the beginning of September, Serhiy Tsyhipa is being held in Crimea.

Mr.Appaz Kurtamet, a 20-year-old Crimean Tatar, a teacher of the Crimean Tatar language from the village of Novooleksiyivka, Kher-

son Region. On July 23, he left Novooleksiyivka for Crimea to visit his relatives. He is known to have arrived at the Russian checkpoint between the occupied Crimea and the Kherson Region.¹ Since then, his contact with relatives has been lost. On July 24, an unknown person called his mother and informed her that her son had been detained while passing a document control at the Chonhar Checkpoint. Numerous attempts by the mother to find out the further whereabouts of her son had no results. Attempts by relatives to find out Kurtamet's whereabouts suggested that he might be held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center. However, the Center administration states that no Appaz Kurtamet is in their check lists. On August 12 Kurtamet's relatives made an abduction statement to the Russian police of Crimea.

Ms.Iryna Horobtsova, a resident of Kherson, Senior QA at one of the leading IT companies in Ukraine. On May 13, she was abducted in Kherson.² After February 24, the woman volunteered in the city. In social networks, she published posts in support of Ukraine and the Armed Forces of Ukraine, open-

ly condemned the Russian invasion and occupation of Kherson, collected funds for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and called for the rescue of AZOVSTAL.³ On May 13, two black 'Z' letter marked jeeps arrived at her house, and the armed men took Iryna with them. The parents addressed the RF FBS with a request to help find their daughter. With some time passed, they received an answer: «*This person is being held in Simferopol, so there is no reason to search, as she is being held there. However, this person has resisted the special operation. Therefore, after the end of the special operation, appropriate measures will be taken against her.*» A lawyer in Crimea was only able to confirm that Iryna did be detained for some time in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center. However, there is no updated information on what happened to her later.

Mr.Ihor Prokotovylo, a member of the Nova Kakhovka City Council, the head of the summer house village, was abducted by the Russians on April 19.⁴ On April 23, the armed men again came to Prokotovylo's house and were looking for his brother, a participant of the anti-terrorist

¹ https://t.me/chubarov_refat/597

² <https://zmina.info/news/u-hersoni-okupanty-vykraly-miscezevu-meshknku-v-den-yiyi-narodzhennya/>

³ https://mipl.org.ua/vikrali-v-den-narodzhennya-rosijski-okupanti-zvinuvachuyut-xersonsku-blogerku-v-koriguvanni-vognyu-po-aeroportu-v-chornobaivci/?fbclid=IwAR0v3oGk7C4PMJxEFhEQKJMF44inWSbMkMpTn12xiShm2xMfAKKIJ_Ox_Y

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501372487206777/posts/1030805787596775>

operation (ATO). Neighbors report that at that moment Mr. Prokotovylo was handcuffed in the bus, with visible torture signs. On April 28, his wife was informed that he had been transferred to Crimea.

Mr. Pavlo Zaporozhets, a 32-year-old resident of Kherson, an ATO participant, was abducted in May. On August 12, after three months of captivity and torture, the Russian military transferred him to Crimea. Pavlo has been accused under RF Criminal Code Article 30-3 (*attempt*) and Article 361-1 (*act of international terrorism*).⁵ The «Kievskiy District Court» of Simferopol imposed a detention as pre-trial restraint. On August 24, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea affirmed this decision. The CHRG has verified data that he is being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center.

Mr. Yaroslav Zhuk, a volunteer, resident of Melitopol, was abducted by the Russian military together with another volunteer, Illia Yenin. Zhuk’s sister reported that “armed people ran into his house and shot into the air.” On July 12, Volodymyr Rohov, the “mayor” of Melitopol, appointed by the Russian army, posted a video with a staged confession of Yaroslav Zhuk who was saying “on June 17,

2022, I attempted to assassinate Yelena Shapurova director of the city’s Department of Education. I threw explosives from the window of the car. I am a member of partisan movement controlled by the SBU.” He was transferred to Crimea and accused of committing the crime under RF Criminal Code Article 361-1 (*act of international terrorism*). On August 11, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol imposed a detention as pre-trial restraint.⁶ On August 26, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea affirmed this decision.

Mr. Dmytro Holubiev, a resident of Zaporizhzhia, was abducted by the Russian military and transferred to Crimea. The CHRG has information that he is being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center and accused of terrorism.

RIGHT TO LIFE

On September 6, according to local resources, Serhiy Sukhov, a 34-year-old resident of Gaspra, was brought to the Yalta hospital in the morning with stab and cut wounds: he had been beaten by two men near the Auto Cafe. The man died in the hospital. Surveillance cameras recorded how two men, after beat-

⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-vikradenogo-aktivista-sudyat-u-krimu-za-terroristichnoyu-statteyu/>

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikradenogo-v-melitopoli-volontera-yaroslava-zhuka-sudyat-u-krimu/>

ing him, put Sukhov into a ‘Z’ letter marked car. Later, it was informed that one of the attackers, Volodymyr Kikovets’, was detained. The second attack participant was presented as a witness in the case, and was released after the detention. Yalta residents became so angry with this, that on September 7, a rally was held at the police building in Yalta, local residents blocked the street in the town center and demanded that those responsible for the murder of Serhiy Sukhov be punished. Only due to the public pressure the second attack participant was again detained. Without this pressure, the second attacker could have escaped punishment. However, despite this, there is a reasonable risk that both attackers may escape punishment, as they are active supporters of the Russian Federation’s war in Ukraine and have participated in Russian military actions against Ukraine.

According to the open sources, one of attackers is Volodymyr Kikovets’. He was in the list of SPARTA group fighters published in 2015 by V’yacheslav Abros’kin, Head of MIA Department for Donetsk Region in that time: this group participated in the war in the territory of ‘DNR’.⁷

Another suspect in the murder of Serhiy Sukhov is Kyrylo Hontarenko. He is the chairman

of the “Council of Veterans of the Crimean People’s Militia”, the commander of the “Alupka Company” platoon of the Special Forces “Union of Veterans of the Combined Regiment of the Crimean People’s Militia”. Kyrylo Hontarenko owns the KASKAD private security company which guards health resorts and hotels on the Southern coast of Crimea. This spring, Kyrylo Hontarenko was awarded the medal “For the Defence of the Republic of Crimea” by the occupying “administration” of Yalta, and in 2019 — a commendation from the occupying Yalta Town Council for “active participation in maintaining public order on the territory of the town in the emergency situation.”

Taking into account that persons like Kyrylo Hontarenko and Volodymyr Kikovets’ enjoy the full support of the occupation authorities, and the investigative bodies and courts in Crimea are exclusively loyal to the Russian authorities, the detained persons may then avoid punishment due to the ineffectiveness and/or length of the investigation. Murder of a person imposes a positive obligation on the state (and the authority exercising effective control) to protect the right to life. However, the system that has developed in the occupied Crimea makes an investigation by an independent and impartial body impossible.

⁷ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/yalta-ubiystvo-pozrevayemiye-boyeviki-protesty/32024609.html>

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PERSECUTION

As of September 14, 2022, at least 140 citizens of Ukraine were deprived of liberty due to politically and/or religiously motivated criminal persecution. The list is published on the CHRГ's website.⁸

After February 24, 2022 **political-ly reasoned persecution of Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian activists** has continued. The information on detentions during the first 150 days of a full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has been presented in the review of the situation of human rights in Crimea and 150 days of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and published at: https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/chrg_human-rights-situation-in-crimea-and-150-days.pdf

«CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS»

The defendants in the case are accused of affiliating to Islamic organizations⁹ 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.

In March — July 2022, the Russian courts passed sentences in the following cases:

- Remzi Bekirov, a Grani.ru online media correspondent, and Riza Izetov, a human rights activist, were sentenced to 19 years in confinement;
- 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;
- 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;
- Akim Bekirov, Seytveli Seytabdiyev and Rustem Seytkhalilov

⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/lisleniya-svobody-ls-analiz-novyj-140-chelovek.pdf>

⁹ In most cases this is 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir'.

were sentenced to 14 years in the maximum-security penal colony with serving the first 5 years in prison;

- Eskender Suleymanov and Asan Yanikov were sentenced to 15 years in the maximum security penal colony with serving the first 5 years in prison;
- Tymur Yalkabov was sentenced to 17 years in the maximum security penal colony, with serving the first 4 years in prison, and with a freedom restriction, once the sentence had been served, for 1 year and 6 months;
- Lenur Seydametov was sentenced to 13 years in the maximum security penal colony, with serving the first 4 years in prison, and with further freedom restriction, once the sentence had been served, for 1 year and 6 months.¹⁰
- Emil Ziyadinov, a children's coach, — 17 years in the maximum security penal colony with serving the first 4 years in prison;
- Oleh Fedorov — 13 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- Ernest Ibragimov — 13 years in the maximum security penal colony;

- Ismet Ibragimov — 19 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- Azamat Eyupov — 17 years in the maximum security penal colony.

On September 9, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu (RF) represented by presiding judge Aleksey Magomadov sentenced Yashar Shykhametov, a cook, detained in Crimea on February 17, 2021, to 11 years in custody, with serving the first 4 years in prison.

Searches and detentions of Crimean Tatars and Muslims on charges of Hizb ut-Tahrir membership continue in Crimea. On August 11, RF FSB men searched houses of four Crimean Tatar families in Dzhankoy and Dzhankoy District. Then Vilen Temeryanov, a citizen journalist, Enver Krosh, Seitaiy Abbozov, Murat Mustafayev, Edem Bekirov and Rinat Aliyev were detained. They are charged with RF Criminal Code Article 205.5 (*organization of the activities of a terrorist organization or participation in them*).

Later it became known that the RF FSB men beat and tortured activist Enver Krosh in the vehicle on the way from Dzhankoy to Simferopol. He had got signs of beatings.¹¹ On August 12,

¹⁰ More details on sentences passed in March 2022 at: <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/oglyad-situaczii-z-pravami-lyudini-u-krimu-ta-sto-dniv-povnomasshtabnogo-vtorgnennya-rf-v-ukrainu/>

¹¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/envera-krosha-yakogo-zatrimali-v-krimu-katuvali-rosijski-siloviki/>

the «Kievskiy District Court» of Simferopol decided to keep the detained Crimean Tatars in custody until October 10, 2022.¹² Later it has become known that Seitiy Abbozov is on house arrest.

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 Chelebid-

zhukhan Volunteer Battalion “ as “terrorist” and banned it on the territory of the Russian Federation.¹³

On July 21, 2022, the Russian FSB included the ‘Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhukhan Volunteer Battalion’ in the register of terrorist organizations.

The CHRГ has previously reported about at least 5 citizens of Ukraine detained under this article: Nasrulla Seydaliyev, 62-year-old Crimean Tatar, Rustem Gugurik, a resident of Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region, Arsen Ibrayimov, a resident of Kherson, Ruslan Abdurakhmanov,¹⁴ a 31-year-old resident of Azovs’ke, Kherson Region, Mamed Dovgopoplov,¹⁵ a resident of Kherson Region, who were deported to Crimea. The persecution under this article continues.

On July 22, Oleksiy Kyseliov, Retired Reserve 1st Rank Captain, and Former Commander of the HQ Ukrainian Navy MS SLAVUTICH, Volunteer and Activist, was detained in occupied Heniches’k and taken out to Crimea. On July 29, the “Kievskiy District Court” in Simferopol imposed a pre-trial restraint on him — two months of detention under RF

¹² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-zareshthuvali-zatrimanih-shistoh-krimskih-tatar/>

¹³ https://n.tass.ru/obschestvo/14789255?utm_source=ru.krymr.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ru.krymr.com&utm_referrer=ru.krymr.com

¹⁴ https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/100_bookua-1.pdf

¹⁵ https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/krim-ta-150-dniv_ua.pdf

CC Article 208-2.¹⁶ According to the FSB, Oleksiy Kiseliyov ‘being on the territory of Ukraine, in May 2016, voluntarily joined the armed formation “Crimean Tatar Volunteer Battalion named after Noman Chelebidzhikhan” operating on its territory, that is against the laws of this country, and acting for purposes contrary to the interests of the Russian Federation.’

The FSB of Crimea believes that he supplied food to other battalion members and trained them for a naval blockade of the Crimean peninsula, taught them how to operate sea ships and ‘to date has failed to announce his voluntary termination of service in an illegal armed formation.’ Mr. Kyseliyov informed the lawyer that he had been tortured with electric current during the interrogations.¹⁷

On August 4, a judge of ‘Bilohors’k District Court’ found Rustem Osmanov detained in April guilty under RF CC Article 208-2 and sentenced him to six years in custody with serving one year in prison and five years in the maximum security regime penal colony.¹⁸

On August 9, ‘Kievskiy District Court’ of Simferopol sentenced Ruslan Abdurakhmanov to 5 years in the maximum security regime penal colony for the service in the battalion.¹⁹ Mr. Abdurakhmanov was accused of being directly involved in the food blockade of Crimea and allegedly serving as a bodyguard of Lenur Isliamov.

«CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

On September 9, in Feodosia, the RF FSB detained a resident of the Sovietskiy District of Crimea for allegedly “preparing to assassinate” Kirill Stremousov, a “minister” and a so-called “deputy head of the administration of the Kherson region” appointed by the Russian army. The website of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation informs that the detainee was allegedly “recruited and actively used by the Security Service of Ukraine men who planned crimes against high-ranking officials of the authorities of the Republic of Crimea”.²⁰

¹⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/eks-komandira-korablya-slavutich-vikrali-j-sudyat-u-krimu/>

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/ekskomandir-korablya-slavutich-oleksij-kiselov-rozpoviv-prokatuvannya-pislya-vikradennya/>

¹⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimskogo-tatarina-zasudili-v-krimu-na-6-rokiv-za-buczimto-uchast-u-bataljoni-chelebidzhihana/>

¹⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimskogo-tatarina-zasudili-do-5-rokiv-kolonii-za-buczimto-uchast-u-bataljoni-chelebidzhihana/>

²⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-fsb-zatrimala-miscevego-meshkanczya-kotrij->

PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

On April 20, 2017, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation declared Jehovah's Witnesses an extremist organization and banned its activities on the territory of the Russian Federation. On August 16, 2017, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation added Crimean units of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' to the list of extremist organizations. In 2018, criminalization of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' persecution started. In 2020, the first imprisonment sentences were passed on the members of the 'Jehovah's Witnesses' organization.

In April 'Armiansk City Court' and 'Yalta Town Court' started court proceedings against Jehovah's Witnesses — Taras Kuzio, Dar'ya Kuzio, Petro Zhyl'tsov, Serhiy Liulin, Tadevos Manukian, Oleksandr Dubovenko, and Oleksandr Lytvyniuk — for 'managing and financing extremist activity'.

On August 24, homes of four 'Jehovah's Witnesses' were searched in Sevastopol, followed with arrests of Viktor Kudinov, aged 53, and Sergey Zhygalov, aged 51.²¹ Men were accused of organizing the activities of a banned

organization (*Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, Article 282.2-1*).

The trial of three Jehovah's Witnesses continues in Sevastopol. At the September 8 session, the "prosecutor" requested for Volodymyr Maladyka, Yevhen Zhukov and Volodymyr Sakada 7.5 years in custody with an additional ban on membership in the non-governmental associations for 8 years.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Curtailing the freedom of speech in Russia and territories of Ukraine occupied by Russia is going on. New legal restrictions criminalizing so-called «fakes» about the actions of the Russian army in Ukraine have come in force. A new RF CC article — 207.3 — has introduced punishment for disseminating "knowingly false information".

A new administrative article about 'public actions aimed at discrediting the Russian army' (*RF Code*

[buczimto-gotuvav-ubivstvo-ministra-j-kolaboranta-stremousova/](https://crimeahq.org/uk/u-sevastopoli-vidbulisya-obshuki-u-4-h-svidkiv-egovi-dvoh-zareshtovano/)

²¹ <https://crimeahq.org/uk/u-sevastopoli-vidbulisya-obshuki-u-4-h-svidkiv-egovi-dvoh-zareshtovano/>

of *Administrative Offences, Article 20.3.3*) is also being applied for persecutions. The maximum penalty may amount to RUR100,000. For 200 days of invasion the CHRГ has documented information about at least 102 verdicts of occupying courts on imposing an administrative punishment under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3.

CASE OF IRYNA DANYLOVYCH, CITIZEN JOURNALIST

Ms.Iryna Danylovych, a health care worker and a citizen journalist, disappeared on April 29.²² Only on the 13th day after the abduction, the lawyer got a confirmation from the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre that activist Iryna Danylovych was there. She had been kept in the basement of FSB building and subject to unlawful methods of investigation. When she had been forced to sign blank forms, she was told that two hundred grams of explosives had been found in her small bag and a criminal case had been opened against her under RF CC Article 222.1-1 (*Illegal acquisition, transfer, sale, storage, transportation or translocation of explosives*). According to the ‘court’ decision, she was detained.

On August 23, ‘Feodosiya City Court’ retained Iryna Danylovych in detention till February 2, 2023.²³ On August 29, the same court started considering the case of Iryna Danylovych,²⁴ the “prosecutor” announced the charge: allegedly, Iryna “no later than on April 29 was looking for an improvised explosive device, composed of explosives — approximately 230 grams — a military-style electric detonator and striking elements that were syringe needles.” All this, according to the investigation, was stored in her glasses case, which she always had with her.

CASE OF JOURNALIST VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO

Vladyslav Yesypenko, a freelance journalist of the “Krym.Realii” project, detained on March 10 in Crimea during his an editorial assignment, is still behind bars. Mr.Vladyslav Yesypenko, a free-lance journalist of KRYM.REALII project, detained in Crimea on March 10, 2021, where he was on the editorial assignment, is still kept in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre. The journalist was tortured by the FSB men to extract a confession that he was allegedly

²² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-siloviki-zaareshtuvali-gromadyansku-zhurnalistku-irinu-danilovich/>

²³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/irinu-danilovich-zalishili-pid-vartoyu-na-piv-roku/>

²⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/danilovich-zvinuvatili-u-vigotovlenni-vibuhovogo-pristroyu-z-medichnimi-golkami/>

working for Ukrainian intelligence. 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 August 18, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea considered an appeal against the conviction of the “Simferopol District Court” and shortened the term by 1 year.²⁵ The decision made by the «Supreme Court» was a 5-years’ sentence to be served in the general regime penal colony, and a fine of RUR105,000. With the decision made, the journalist will be transferred to the colony to serve an illegal sentence. The CHRG expects that Vladyslav Yesypenko will be left in Crimea and transferred to the colony in the city of Kerch.

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

On March 11, the Crimean Human Rights Group documented the first fine for an anti-war slogan under the new article regarding ‘the public actions aimed at discredit-

ing the Russian army’ (*RF CoAO Article 20.3.3*). A woman, resident of Simferopol, who had a blue-and-yellow cardboard plaque on which “No to War” was written, was sentenced to RUR35,000 fine.²⁶

The Crimean Human Rights Group documented the facts of applying the article «For discrediting the army» in Crimea from early March to September 11, 2022. For this period the occupation authorities sent **at least 120 administrative cases** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 for consideration by Crimean ‘courts’. For 102 of them a punishment verdict was passed, with the amount of fines totalling about RUR2mln.

The most common reason for persecution was ‘No War’ statement published on a social network or single person protest with the same statement on the poster. In one of the cases, «I am for peace» statement became a reason for persecution. According to the «logic» of the occupying power, the Russian Federation is not officially at war with Ukraine, as it has been «conducting a special operation», so calls for peace are a defamation of the Russian Armed Forces. People are also persecuted for posting or commenting on social networks. In order to initiate administrative proceedings, it is enough to call the war

²⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/apelyacziya-pereglyanula-virok-esipenka-strok-zmenshili-na-rik/>

²⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-vinesli-pershij-shtraf-za-gaslo-ni-vijni/>

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

As of September 11, 2022

120 administrative cases under RF CoAO Article 20.3. "For discrediting the army" against Crimeans

For **102** of them a punishment verdict was passed amount of fines totalling about **RUR2**mln



“A WAR” or to publish information that the Russian Armed Forces have been involved in mass killings of civilians in Ukraine. In several cases, people were persecuted for destroying or painting over symbols of war: destroying posters with “Z” letter or attacking cars with such symbols.²⁷

Thus, in September, a 64-year-old resident of Yevpatoria was detained: in early August he had connected to one of the video chats and «*made statements discrediting the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*». He was drawn up a report under Art. 20.3.3-2 of the Code of Administrative Offences

of the Russian Federation («*Public actions aimed at discrediting the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*»). The ‘Yevpatoria City Court’ found the man guilty and sentenced him to an administrative fine of RUR30,000.²⁸

Crimeans who publicly demonstrate their disagreement with Russia’s war against Ukraine are being persecuted under other administrative or criminal articles or fired.

On August 14, the «Leninskiy District Court» found DJ Yuriy Rodionov guilty of committing an administrative offense under Article

²⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/rozmovi-pro-vijnu-plakati-ya-za-mir-zafarbovuvannya-simvoliki-yak-u-krimu-peresliduyut-za-diskreditacziyu-zs-rf/>

²⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/64-richnogo-krimchanina-oshtrafuvali-za-obrazu-armii-rosii-u-videochati/>

20.3-1 of the Russian Federation CoAO (*Propaganda or public display of Nazi paraphernalia*) and sentenced him to 10 days of administrative arrest for playing the Ukrainian song «Dyke Pole (Wild Field)» in the cafe.²⁹

On August 30, five teenagers aged 17 to 21 were detained in Simferopol allegedly for «discrediting» the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation — for shouting the slogan «Glory to Ukraine». Several administrative reports were drawn up on young people under Articles of the Russian Federation CoAO: 20.3.3 (*Public actions aimed at discrediting the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*), 20.20 (*Consumption (drinking) of alcoholic products in prohibited places*) and 20.1 (*Minor hooliganism*).³⁰

After September 1, a 60-year-old teacher of School No. 22 was fired from her job in Sevastopol because of the yellow and blue balloons she used to decorate the classroom. Parents of 1st graders bought balloons, the teacher placed the balloons, making pairs of blue and yellow ones. She also placed children's drawings next to the balloons and wrote in Ukrainian «Happy September First!».³¹

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, he is currently being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center and there are reasons to believe that investigators are using illegal methods of investigation (pressure, intimidation, threats, obstruction of the lawyer's work, etc.).

Bohdan Ziza was not accused of terrorism, but charged with RF CC Article 30-3 (*attempt to commit a crime*) and Article 167-2 (*deliberate destruction or damage to someone else's property*).

However, RosFinMonitoring included him in the «list of terrorists and extremists.» In early July, new charges were added to the activist's case. Now he is accused of violating RF CC Article 167-2 (*deliberate destruction or damage to someone else's property by arson*); Article 214 (*vandalism*), Article 205 (*act of terror*).

²⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-na-10-dib-zaareshtuvali-didzheya-za-ukraïnsku-pisnyu/>

³⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/pyatoh-pidlitkiv-zatrimali-u-simferopoli-za-diskreditacziyu-zbrojnih-sil-rf/>

³¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-sevastopoli-zvilnili-vchitelku-cherez-zhovto-blakitni-povityanikulki/>

On July 12 Mr.Sirenko, “judge” of “Kievskiy District Court”, extended a detention period for 3 months. During the court session the activist publicly stated that he kept on speaking against the Russia’s war in Ukraine, and his deeds were a protest art action.

CASE OF AZIZ FAYZULAYEV

On June 7, 2022, Aziz Faizulayev, a resident of the village of Pushkino, Sovietsky district, was arrested. He was accused of allegedly throwing a Molotov cocktail into the village council building on the night of June 5. On the same day, all premises and court buildings were searched in Faizulayev’s house.

A few days later, a staged video with a “heartfelt confession” was broadcast, with Aziz Faizulayev saying that he had thrown the incendiary mixture to protest against the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine. The cousin of the detainee claims that he could testify under pressure. Mr.Faizulayev is currently being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center. The CHRG sees the political reasons of the persecution and the risks of using illegal methods of investigation in this case.³²

³² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimskogo-tatarina-zatrimali-za-pidpal-administraczi%d1%97-sela-cherez-nezgodu-z-vijnoyu/>

USING CRIMEA AS RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE

CONSCRIPTION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY RESIDENTS TO ARMED FORCES OF OCCUPYING POWER

The Russian Federation has been using Crimeans in the full-scale war against Ukraine. In violation of the international humanitarian law norms, the Crimeans are still forcibly drafted into the armed forces of the Russian Federation. Only in the autumn, the Russian Federation forcibly mobilized 3,000 Crimeans. Some of them were sent to participate in hostilities against Ukraine. On

April 1, a new forced conscription campaign began, after which other several thousands of Crimeans will be sent to war. However, in Crimea, the figures of conscription are concealed, and Yuriy Lyomar, the “military commissar of Crimea”, refused to announce plans for this year’s conscription campaign.³³

Sergey Aksyonov, the so-called «head» of Crimea, said that at least a «Crimean battalion» of 1,200 volunteers, including representatives of the «Kazaks», had been sent to war to «defend the national interests of Russia.» About 100 volunteers more, as said by Aksionov, would leave for the front the next days.³⁴

³³ <https://feo.rk.gov.ru/ru/article/show/10084>

³⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-sotnyu-krimchan-vidpravlyayut-na-vijnu-aksonov/>

CRIMEANS ARE PERSECUTED FOR EVADING SERVICE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY

As of September 11, 2022

Crimean Human Rights Group registered **397** criminal cases under RF CC Article 'Evasion of service in the Armed Forces of the RF' in Crimea, including **67** verdicts handed down already after February 24, 2022

In this situation, persecutions for evading service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continue in Crimea. As of September 11, the Crimean Human Rights Group registered **397 criminal cases** under RF CC Article 328 in Crimea (*Evasion of service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*), that were sent to the “courts” on the occupied peninsula. Regarding 331 of them the decision was made, including:

- 292 guilty verdicts in the “courts” of the first instance, with **67 verdicts handed down already after February 24, 2022**;
- 22 decisions of appellate “courts” on upholding the sentences;
- 9 decisions on returning the case to the investigator;
- 8 decisions on the continuation of the consideration of cases.

In addition, regarding 66 cases it was decided to terminate criminal cases against Crimeans. It should be noted that the termination of the case does not release these people from forced conscription into the armed forces of the occupying army.

Since February 24, 2022, the Crimean Human Rights Group has been collecting data on dead and captured Russian military personnel assigned to military units in Crimea. Some of them were forcibly drafted into the ranks of the Armed Forces of

the Russian Federation and later sent to participate in hostilities in another territory of Ukraine.

As of July 24, the CHRG documented **at least 66 dead and 24 captured Crimeans** who fought on the side of the Russian Federation. During the exchange of POWs between Ukraine and Russia «144 for 144», which took place on June 29, 8 Crimeans were handed over to the Russian side.³⁵

The Russian authorities are trying to hide information about the real number of dead and wounded among the Russian Armed Forces, this information is also not made public in Crimea.

PREPARATION TO MOBILIZATION

The Crimean Human Rights Group has reported earlier that the Russian occupying authorities in Crimea have been carrying out mobilization preparation activities. For instance, conscription commissions for mobilizing the citizens that, according to the legislation of the Russian Federation, perform one of the key functions in the mobilization process, are being created in Crimea. Then, by ordinance of S.Aksionov, it was decided to allocate 30 thousand places for graves and

100,000 places in health care institutions, in the occupied Crimea. These places will be used for Russian military participating in the hostilities against Ukraine.

Thus, if the President of the Russian Federation announces general or partial mobilization, the procedures for mobilizing Ukrainian citizens to the armed and auxiliary forces of the Russian Federation will have been implemented on the territory of Crimea. These measures do not include conscription campaigns, which are held twice a year in Crimea.

This being said, compelling the population of the occupied territories in service in the army of the occupying power constitutes a violation of the norms of international law, namely, the provisions of Art. 51 of the Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war. The actions of individuals responsible for such forced involvement constitute a war crime according to Art. 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMEA

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

³⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/kontrakt-prodlevat-ne-budu-chto-zhdet-byvshih-voennoplennyh-iz-kryma/>

ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMEA

According to the information of the President of Ukraine V. Zelensky

Russia carries out missile strikes and airstrikes on many civilian objects of Ukraine from the territory of the occupied Crimea and the waters of the Black Sea, that caused deaths and injuries of the civilians.

During the 6 months of the full-scale war, after February 24, more than **750** different cruise missiles were launched from the occupied Crimea and the Black Sea.

A few weeks before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine (in February 2022), the Russian Armed Forces began to move a 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.

Russia carries out missile strikes and airstrikes on many civilian objects of Ukraine from the territo-

ry of the occupied Crimea and the waters of the Black Sea, that caused deaths and injuries of the civilians.

During the 6 months of the full-scale war, after February 24, more than 750 different cruise missiles were launched from the occupied Crimea and the Black Sea, according to the information of the President of Ukraine V. Zelensky. They destroyed at least hundreds of civilian objects: schools, universities, ordinary residential buildings, hospitals.³⁶

For example, on August 8, four KALIBR sea-based cruise missiles were launched. All these targets were

³⁶ <https://www.president.gov.ua/news/z-krimu-vse-pochalosya-nim-i-zavershitsya-potribno-zvilniti-77237>

shot down by the air defense of the Air Forces of Ukraine.³⁷

On August 11, anti-aircraft missile units of the Air Forces of Ukraine destroyed two KALIBR cruise missiles in the Kharkiv Region,³⁸ and on August 20, four KALIBR cruise missiles were destroyed in the Dnipropetrovsk Region.³⁹

On August 21, the Odesa Region was hit by 5 KALIBR missiles at night, 2 of them were shot down over the sea, 3 targeted one of the agricultural enterprises of the Odesa Region, and a grain storage was hit.⁴⁰ On September 2, 5 KALIBR sea-based cruise missiles were shot down.⁴¹

All these above-mentioned KALIBR missiles were launched from the Black Sea.

On August 9, a series of explosions was heard in the occupied Crimea at the Russian Saki airbase in Novofedorivka, where the 43rd Fighter Aviation Regiment is based. In particular, this base was home to Su-30SM multipurpose fighters and

Su-24M front-line bombers, which repeatedly attacked the territory of Ukraine with missiles and bombs, including attacks on civilian objects. The command of the Air Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine announced the destruction of 9 Russian planes.⁴²

On August 16, explosions occurred at the ammunition warehouse on the territory of the military base in the village of Mays'ke near Dzhankoy, that resulted into destroying completely all objects on the base territory.⁴³ On August 20, in Sevastopol, an UAV attacked for the second time the building of the headquarters of the Black Sea Navy of the Russian Federation.⁴⁴

The article by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valeriy Zaluzhny and First Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on National Security, Defense and Intelligence Mykhailo Zabrodsky recognized that targets in the occupied Crimea, including the Saki airfield, had been hit by a series of successful missile strikes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.⁴⁵

³⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsu/posts/431902142311073>

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsu/posts/434063858761568/>

³⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/389348696711548>

⁴⁰ <https://fb.watch/fqNllLoJQA/>

⁴¹ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/399879922325092>

⁴² <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsu/posts/433185778849376>

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/KOvsiany/status/1559582079154790403>

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/razvozhaev/901>

⁴⁵ <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3566162-ak-zabezpeciti-voennu-kampaniu-u-2023-roci-ukrainskij-poglad.html>

By striking Russian military infrastructure in Crimea, Ukraine exercises its right to self-defense in the event of an armed attack in accordance with Art. 51 of the UN Charter. It is worth noting that, unlike the Russian Federation, Ukraine does not apply terrorist and illegal Russian tactics of striking civilian objects. The above-mentioned infrastructure attacked in Crimea by the Armed Forces of Ukraine is undoubtedly military facilities that are not protected by the international humanitarian law norms, in particular, Art. 52-56 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.

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