



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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The background of the cover is a large, circular, fisheye-style photograph showing a city in ruins. The scene is filled with smoke, dust, and the remains of destroyed buildings. The color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and a bright orange-red smoke plume in the upper right. The title text is overlaid on this image.

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA AND 250 DAYS OF FULL-SCALE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Kyiv • 2022

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**CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP**

5:00 AM

COALITION

The CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (CHRG)¹ is a public non-profit organization of the Crimean human rights defenders and journalists, aimed at promoting the observance and protection of human rights in Crimea by attracting wide attention to problems of human rights and international humanitarian law in the territory of the Crimean peninsula, and the search for and development of mechanisms for the protection of human rights in Crimea.

CHRG has been documenting human rights violations, crimes against humanity, war crimes in the occupied Crimea, since 2014, and has been efficiently cooperating for many years with the Ukrainian prosecutor's office in investigating war crimes and reporting this information to the ICC.

CHRG is a member of the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition.² Ukraine 5 AM Coalition is a coalition of human rights organizations that collect and document war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Russian armed aggression in Ukraine.

Human Rights Situation in Crimea and 250 Days of Full-Scale Russian Invasion of Ukraine. — Kyiv, the Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG), 2022. — 28 p.

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

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en>

² <https://www.5am.in.ua/en>

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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. Kidnapped people are subjected to torture both by the Russian military in the newly occupied territories and by the Russian FSB in Crimea.

A new detention center was opened in Crimea at the address of the Simferopol Penal Colony. According to the CHRG, this pre-trial detention center is for 458 persons, and is controlled by the FSB of the Russian Federation. Currently, according to the CHRG data, there are more than 110 persons in this detention center, most of whom are civilians of the Ukrainian territories occupied after February 24, 2022, in particular, from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions. Among those illegally detained are public activists, volunteers, and representatives of local authorities.

The Crimean Human Rights Group has information on at least 34 persons held in this pre-trial detention center, including abducted Kherson region residents.



Sergiy Tsyhipa
Zmina HRC



Appaz Kurtamet
Facebook, Refat Chubarov



Iryna Horobtsova
Facebook

For instance, **Mr. Sergiy Tsyhipa**, a public activist from the city of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson Region, head of the ‘KAKHOVSKY PLATSDARM’ (Kakhovka Bridgehead) NGO, a civic journalist, abducted on March 12, 2022, is being held in the Pre-Trial Detention Center No 1 in Simferopol. However, responding officially lawyer’s requests, the RF FSB is denying the fact of his staying in the Pre-Trial Detention Centre.¹

Mr. Appaz Kurtamet, a 20-year-old Crimean Tatar, a teacher of the Crimean Tatar language from the village of Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region, left on July 23 Novooleksiyivka for Crimea to visit his relatives. His communication with the relatives was inter-

rupted at the Russian controlled checkpoint between the occupied Crimea and the Kherson Region. On October 10, ‘Kievskiy District Court’ of Simferopol imposed a pre-trial restriction on Kurtamet: keeping in custody until December 5. He is accused of financing CRIMEA battalion (*RF CC Article 208-1 ‘establishment of an illegal armed formation or service in it’*).² Mr. Kurtamet has been transferred to the newly established Pre-trial Detention Center no 2 in Simferopol.

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.³ After February 24, the woman volunteered in the city. In

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/abducted-activist-sergey-tsygipa-is-being-held-in-simferopol/>

² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/appaz-kurtamet-a-crimean-tatar-from-novooleksiyivka-was-indicted/>

³ <https://zmina.info/news/u-hersoni-okupanty-vykraly-miscevu-meshknku-v-den-yiyi-narodzhennya/>



Pavlo Zaporozhets'
Natalia Bimbirayte



Mariano Cala Tayud Garcia
Kherson Daily



Ihor Prokotovylo
Kakhovka City
territorial community

social networks, she published posts in support of Ukraine and the Armed Forces of Ukraine, openly condemned the Russian invasion and occupation of Kherson, collected funds for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and called for saving AZOVSTAL.⁴ On May 13, she was abducted by armed men who arrived at two black 'Z' letter marked jeeps. Later the RF FSB confirmed the parents that the woman was held in Simferopol. Now Ms.Horobtsova is being held in Pre-trial Detention Center no 1 in Simferopol. According to the lawyer, she has been held there at least since May 25 because it was the day when she was fingerprinted in

the Pre-trial Detention Center.⁵

Pavlo Zaporozhets', a 32-year-old resident of Kherson, an ATO participant, was abducted in May. On August 12, after three months of capture and torture, the Russian military moved him to Crimea. A case was initiated against Mr.Zaporozhets' under RF CC Article 30-3 (*attempt*) and Article 361-1 (*act of international terrorism*),⁶ and he was taken into custody. On September 28, Denys Didenko, a judge of the 'Kievskiy District Court of Sevastopol' extended a detention period for Mr.Zaporozhets' for 3 months, and Yuriy Latynin, a judge

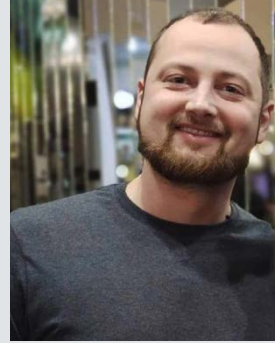
⁴ https://mipl.org.ua/vikrali-v-den-narodzhennya-rosijski-okupanti-zvinuvachuyut-xersonsku-bloggerku-v-koriguvanni-vognyu-po-aeroportu-v-chornobaivci/?fbclid=IwAR0v3oGk7C4PMJxEFlhEQKJMF44inWSbMkMpTn12xiShm2xMfAKKIJ_Ox_Y

⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikradena-u-travni-aktivistka-irina-gorobczova-utrimuetsya-v-sizo-1-simferopolya/>

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-vikradenogo-aktivista-sudyat-u-krimu-za-terroristichnyu-statteyu/>



Oleksandr Babych
Family photo archive



Yaroslav Zhuk
Family photo archive

of ‘Supreme Court’ of Crimea, upheld this decision.⁷ According to the CHRГ, Pavlo Zaporozhets’ is now undergoing a compulsory mental health assessment at the psychoneurological dispensary.

Mariano Cala Tayud Garcia, a volunteer, who acted in Kherson after the full-scale invasion. He helped children who remained without parents’ care and attended anti-occupation rallies. On July 26, 2022, Mariano’s fiancée reported that he had been captive since March 19.⁸ According to the CHRГ information, Mariano is being held in the Pre-Trial Detention Center No 2.

Representatives of the local author-

ities are also being kept in Crimea. For instance, **Ihor Prokotovylo**, a member of Novokakhovka City Council, a head of summer cottage settlement community, was abducted on April 19.⁹ The Russian military men were looking for his brother — an ATO participant (ATO — *Anti-Terrorist Operation on the occupied part of Donetsk and Luhansk region during the first years of the Russian aggression against Ukraine*). On April 28 the wife was informed that Ihor had been moved to Crimea.

Oleksandr Babych, Mayor of town of Hola Prystan’, Skadovsk District, Kherson Region, was abducted by the Russian military men on March 28, 2022, according to the data of the Office of Prosecutor

⁷ http://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=doc&number=11300894&delo_id=4&new=4&text_number=1

⁸ <https://vikna.tv/istorii/rozpovidi/mariano-garsiya-kalatayud-istoriya-ispanczya-shho-potrapiyv-u-polon-do-rosiyan/>

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501372487206777/posts/1030805787596775>

General of Ukraine.¹⁰ His house was searched. In November the CHRГ was informed that Mr. Babych was being held in the Pre-Trial Detention Center of the City of Simferopol.

Some residents of Zaporizhzhia Region, when abducted, were also moved to Crimea. For instance, in June, in occupied Melitopol', the Russian military abducted two Ukrainian volunteers — Yaroslav Zhuk and Illia Yenin.¹¹ On July 12, Vladimir Rogov, the 'mayor' of Melitopol' appointed by the Russian power, posted a video with staged confession of Yaroslav Zhuk: he was saying that on June 17, 2022, he attempted to assassinate Yelena Shapurova, director of city's department of education. Yaroslav was moved to Crimea, accused of committing a crime under Russian Federation Criminal Code Article 361-1 (*act of international terrorism*), and taken into custody.¹² On August 26, 2022, the 'Supreme Court' of Crimea upheld this decision, and then extended a detention period.

As reported later by Yaroslav Zhuk in the statement that the

Crimean Human Rights Group has at disposal, he was tortured with electric current, forced to learn and record a video with confessions, kept in the basement from June 17 to August 8.¹³

Dmytro Holubiev, a resident of Zaporizhzhia, was abducted by the Russian military and moved to Crimea. The CHRГ is informed that he is being held in the Pre-Trial Detention Center of the City of Simferopol and accused of terrorism.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PERSECUTION

At least 144 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.¹⁴

After February 24, 2022 **politically reasoned persecution of Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian activists** has continued. The information on deten-

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/pgo.gov.ua/posts/339910538171786>

¹¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikradenogo-v-melitopoli-volontera-yaroslava-zhuka-sudyat-u-krimu/>

¹² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikradenogo-v-melitopoli-volontera-yaroslava-zhuka-sudyat-u-krimu/>

¹³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikradenij-volontar-yaroslav-zhuk-rozpoviv-pro-torturi-u-poloni/>

¹⁴ https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/lisheniya-svobody-ls-analiz-250-dniv.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1hrIWMKhxi1w_Bn1wVtV6hPCrK7JmHp5bry9Cq-M038KAs7XNb6zRMC_8

tions during the first 200 days of a full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has been presented in the review of the situation of human rights in Crimea and 200 days of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and published at: <https://crimeahrg.org/en/human-rights-situation-in-crimea-and-150-days-of-full-scale-russian-invasion-of-ukraine-2/>.

«CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS»

The defendants in the case are accused of affiliating to Islamic organizations¹⁵ 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 — November 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 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;

¹⁵ In most cases this is ‘Hizb-ut-Tahrir’

- 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.¹⁶
- 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;
- Yashar Shykhmetov — 11 years in the maximum security penal colony 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, Seitay 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*).

The RF FSB men beat and tortured activist Enver Krosh in the vehicle on the way from Dzhankoy to Simferopol.¹⁷

On August 12, the «Kievskiy District Court» of Simferopol decided to keep the detained Crimean Tatars in custody until October 10, 2022.¹⁸ Later it has become known that Seitay Abbozov is on house arrest. On October 4, their detention was extended until January 10, 2023.

On October 6 Mr.Enver Krosh was to be present at the 'Kievskiy District Court' hearing on the extension of his pre-trial restriction in the pre-trial detention center, but the court held the meeting without his attendance. Mr.Krosh turned out to be undergoing a psychiatric examination in the M.I.Balaban Crimean

¹⁶ More details on sentences passed in March 2022 at: <https://crimeahrg.org/en/human-rights-situation-in-crimea-and-100-days-of-full-scale-russian-invasion-of-ukraine/>

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/envera-krosha-yakogo-zatrimali-v-krimu-katuvali-rosijski-siloviki/>

¹⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-zareshthuvali-zatrimanih-shistoh-krimskih-tatar/>

Republican Mental Hospital No 1 at the request of the RF FSB.¹⁹

Also, citizen journalist Vilen Temeryanov turned out to be undergoing a psychiatric examination in the hospital at the request of the RF FSB, after which he will be returned to the pre-trial detention center.²⁰

CASE OF NARIMAN DZHELIAL

On September 21, the “Supreme Court of Crimea” convicted Nariman Dzhelial, the deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, and the Akhtemov brothers, Azan and Aziz, activists. The court found them guilty of involvement in the “blow-up of the gas pipeline in the village of Pereval’ne” and sentenced them under three articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation: Article 281-2 a), b) (*sabotage by an organized group*); Article 222.1-4 (*illegal acquisition, storage and transportation of explosive devices committed by an organized group*); Article 226.1-3 (*illegal transfer of an explosive device across the customs border committed by an organized group*).²¹

The sentences were: 17 years in the maximum security regime penal colony for Nariman Dzhelial; 15 years in the maximum security regime penal colony for Asan Akhtemov, and 13 years in the maximum security regime penal colony for Aziz Akhtemov. In addition, they all were sentenced to paying fines: RUR700,000 for Nariman Dzhelial; and RUR500,000, for each of the Akhtemov brothers. The persecution evidence was based on statements of defendants received under torture or a real threat of torturing.

«CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

At least 16 persons (Mr. Andriy Zakhtei, Mr.Volodymyr Dudka, Mr. Oleksiy Bessarabov, Mr.Dmytro Shtyblikov, Mr.Hennadiy Limeshko, Mr. Leonid Parkhomenko, Mr.Kostiantyn Davydenko, Mr. Dmytro Dolhopolov, Ms. Anna Sukhonosova, Mr. Yunus Masharipov, Mr.Ivan Yatskin, Mr. Konstantin Shyrinh, Ms.Galina Dovgopola, Mr. Vladyslav Yesypenko, Mr.Yevhen Petrushyn, Mr. Stanislav Stetsenko (Khudoley), who were accused by

¹⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/enver-krosh-a-crimean-tatar-activist-placed-at-mental-hospital-lawyer/>

²⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zhurnalyst-vilen-temeryanov-primusovo-prohodit-psihiatrichnu-ekspertizu-advokat/>

²¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/occupiers-convicted-nariman-dzhelial-and-the-akhtemov-brothers/>

the RF FBS during the detention “of preparing subversions, possession of weapons and espionage”, were in custody under the ‘cases of Ukrainian Commandos and Spies’. 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.

PERSECUTION ON CHARGE OF BEING IN N. CHELEBIDZHICHA 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 Chelebidzhichan 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 Chelebidzhichan Volunteer Battalion” as “terrorist” and banned it on the territory of the Russian Federation.²² On July 21, 2022, the Russian FSB included the ‘Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhichan 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**,²³ a 31-year-old resident of Azov’ske, Kherson Region, **Mamed Dovgoplov**,²⁴ a resident of Kherson Region, who were deported to Crimea. The persecution under this article continues.

On July 22, **Oleksiy Kyseliyov**, Retired Reserve 1st Rank Captain, and Former Commander of the HQ Ukrainian Navy MS SLAVUTICH, Volunteer and Activist, was detained in occupied Henichesk and taken out to Crimea. On July 29, the “Kievskiy District Court” in Simferopol imposed a pre-trial

²² https://n.tass.ru/obschestvo/14789255?utm_source=ru.krymr.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ru.krymr.com&utm_referrer=ru.krymr.com

²³ https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/100_bookua-1.pdf

²⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/krim-ta-150-dniv-ua.pdf>

restraint on him — two months of detention under RF CC Article 208-2.²⁵ According to the FSB, Oleksiy Kiseliy *‘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. Kyseliy informed the lawyer that he had been tortured with electric current during the interrogations.²⁶

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.²⁷

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.²⁸ Mr. Abdurakhmanov was accused of being directly involved in the food blockade of Crimea and allegedly serving as a bodyguard of Lenur Isliamov.

On October 18, the occupation ‘Kievsky District Court’ of Simferopol sentenced **Artur Memetshayev**, a 33-year-old Crimean Tatar, to 6 and a half years in custody for serving in the battalion.²⁹

On October 25, **Rustem Gugurik**, a Crimean Tatar and a resident of Novooleksiyivka, was sentenced by Olga Kuznietsova, a judge of ‘Kievsky District Court’ of Simferopol to 8 and a half years in the maximum security regime penal colony for serving in the battalion.³⁰

²⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/eks-komandira-korablya-slavutich-vikrali-j-sudyat-u-krimu/>

²⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/oleksiy-kiseliy-ex-captain-of-ms-slavutich-told-about-torture-after-abduction/>

²⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/6-years-sentence-for-a-crimean-tatar-for-alleged-service-in-chelebidzhikhan-battalion/>

²⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-crimean-tatar-sentenced-to-5-years-in-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

²⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/artur-memetshayev-sentenced-to-6-5-years-in-penal-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

³⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/rustem-gugurik-sentenced-to-8-5-years-in-penal-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

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 51.³¹ Men were

accused of organizing the activities of a banned organization (*RF Criminal Code, Article 282.2-1*).

On September 28, 8 houses of Jehovah's Witnesses in the settlements of Nyzhnioghirs'kyi and Krasnohvardiys'ke as well as in the village of Petrivka were searched in Crimea.³² According to the organization, Mr.Serhiy Parfenovych aged 50, and Mr.Oleksandr Vynychenko, aged 49, were detained and taken to Simferopol. Late in the evening Mr.Vynychenko was released. A case under RF CC Article 282.2 was opened against Mr.Parfenovych.

On October 2, 2022, Olga Berdnikova, 'judge' of 'Nakhimovsky District Court' of Sevastopol, found three Jehovah's Witnesses guilty of extremism.³³ **Mr.Yevhen Zhukov, Mr.Volodymyr Maladyka and Mr.Volodymyr Sakada** were sentenced to 6 years in the penal colony each. In addition, the "court" imposed a 1 year's restriction on travel after serving the sentence. They were also banned to publish anything in the media and the Internet for 7 years. According to the 'Jehovah's Witnesses' data, at least 16 'Jehovah's Witnesses' have been persecuted for the faith in Crimea, including 4 serving already the sentence in the penal colonies.

³¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/searches-at-4-jehovahs-witnesses-in-sevastopol-two-arrested/>

³² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/8-houses-of-jehovahs-witnesses-searched-in-crimea/>

³³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/three-jehovahs-witnesses-sentenced-to-6-years-in-the-penal-colony/>

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Curtailling 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 of Administrative Offences, Article 20.3.3*) is also being applied for persecutions. The maximum penalty may amount to RUR100,000. For 250 days of invasion the CHRG has documented information about **at least 127 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 29.³⁴ 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.



Iryna Danylovych
Facebook

³⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/in-crimea-security-service-agents-arrested-citizen-journalist-iryna-danylovych/>

On August 23, ‘Feodosiya City Court’ retained Iryna Danylovych in detention till February 2, 2023.³⁵ On August 29, the same court started considering the case of Iryna Danylovych,³⁶ 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.

The trial of Ms.Iryna Danylovych is ongoing in the ‘Feodosia City Court’. On October 25, ‘judge’ Nataliya Kulinskaya began examining the evidence in the case.

CASE OF JOURNALIST VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO

Vladyslav Yesypenko, a freelance journalist of the “Krym.Realii” project, detained on March 10 in Crimea during an editorial assignment, is still behind bars. Mr.Vladyslav Yesypenko, a free-lance journalist of KRYM.REALII project, detained in



Vladyslav Yesypenko
Family photo archive

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 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.³⁷ The decision made by the «Supreme Court» was a 5-years’ sentence to be

³⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/irina-danilovich-kept-in-custody-for-6-months/>

³⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/danilovich-accused-of-making-an-explosive-device-with-medical-needles/>

³⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/court-of-appeal-reconsidered-yesypenkos-sentence-service-period-reduced-by-year/>

served in the general regime penal colony, and a fine of RUR105,000.

In September journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko was convoyed to the general regime penal colony no 2 in Kerch, where political prisoner Volodymyr Balukh had been held earlier.

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 discrediting 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.³⁸

The Crimean Human Rights Group documented the facts of applying the article «For discrediting the army» in Crimea from early March to November 1, 2022. For this period the occupation authorities sent **at least 151 administrative cases** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 for consideration by Crimean ‘courts’. For 127 of them a punishment verdict was passed, with the amount of fines totalling more than RUR2mln.

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

As of November 1, 2022

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

For **127** of them a punishment verdict
was passed amount of fines totalling
about RUR**2**mln

³⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/first-fine-in-crimea-for-no-war-slogan/>

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 “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.³⁹

The wording of “court” decisions demonstrates that denunciation is the most common reason for initiating a case. For example, in September, six Crimean Tatars were held administratively liable due to the

Ukrainian song ‘Oy, u luzi chervona kalyna’ (*Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow*). The ‘Bakhchisarai District Court’ decided on fines in the amount of RUR50,000, and administrative arrests of 5 to 15 days. They were convicted under Articles of the Code of Administrative Offences: 20.3-1 (*Incitement of hatred or enmity*) and 20.3.3-1 (*Public events aimed at discrediting the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*).⁴⁰ The ‘Supreme Court’ of Crimea upheld this judgement referring to the opinion of FSB experts that the ‘Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow’ song was extremist.⁴¹

In Bilogirsk, **Mr. Andriy Bieleziov**, a technical high school teacher, was fired for switching the Ukrainian song “BAYRAKTAR” in the premises of the educational institution. The report on the teacher was made by the technical high school students.⁴²

Previously, 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 class-

³⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/talks-about-war-i-am-for-peace-posters-painting-over-symbols-how-is-persecuted-for-discrediting-the-russian-armed-forces-in-crimea/>

⁴⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/cherez-pisnyu-na-vesilli-shistoh-krimskih-tatar-oshtrafuvali-j-zareshthuvali/>

⁴¹ http://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=12473888&case_uid=6552b18a-1088-4d0f-9d18-538f4bf2c250&delo_id=1502001

⁴² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-krimu-zvilnili-vikladacha-tehnikumu-cherez-pisnyu-bajraktar/>

room. 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!".⁴³

It was also in September that 'Yevpatoria District Court' fined a **36-year-old local resident** RUR30,000 'discrediting' the Russian army. According to the Russian police, the man, having joined one of the video chats, made statements that «*discredited the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*». One of the video chat participants reported this to the Russian police.⁴⁴

On October 14, Russian security men raided the home of former political prisoner Asan Chapukh in Koreiz. The reason was a denunciation of blogger Talipov: allegedly, using another chat name, Asan Chapukh made reposts discrediting the Russian army on Facebook. The day before, Asan Chapukh buried his brother, and he himself has been suffering from cancer he got after the arrest and imprisonment, for a long time. After the search, his wife — Asiye Chapukh was detained. Two administrative reports were drawn up on her under

RF CoAO Articles 20.3.3 and 20.1 (*Petty hooliganism*). The same day, in the evening, the "Yalta Town Court" found Mrs. Asiye Chapukh guilty of committing these administrative violations and imposed the cumulative fine of RUR61,000.⁴⁵

In addition, the reason for persecution under TF CoAO Article 20.3. is performing the national anthem of Ukraine or pronouncing the slogan 'SLAVA UKRAYINI' (*Glory to Ukraine*). The 'judges' explain this stating that though there is no official war, 'pronouncing a greeting message used by the Armed Forces of Ukraine that is an opposing side of the Russian Federation in the 'special operation' is discredit on the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.'

Crimeans who publicly demonstrate their disagreement with Russia's war against Ukraine are also persecuted within criminal cases.

Thus, on October 21, the 'Alushta Court' decided to sentence **Oleksandr Tarapon**, a local resident, to two and a half years in the maximum security regime penal colony in the case of a "fake about the Russian army" (*Article 207.3 of the RF Criminal Code*). According to the

⁴³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-sevastopoli-zvilnili-vchitelku-cherez-zhovto-blakitni-povitryani-kulki/>

⁴⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-meshkanczya-%d1%94vpatori%d1%97-oshtafuvali-za-diskreditacziyu-armi%d1%97-rf-v-interneti/>

⁴⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-budinku-vazhkohvorogo-asana-chapuha-vidbuvsya-obshuk-druzhinu-oshtafuvali-za-diskreditacziyu-armi%d1%97/>

investigation, a 31-year-old man disseminated leaflets around the town about his wife's relative, who is participating in the war with Ukraine. To stop him and prevent family members from participating in the war, Mr. Tarapon produced leaflets with the inscription "Here lives Orlenko Yu, a war criminal — the murderer of children" (*Zdes' zhyVet Voyennyi Prestupnik — Ubiyttsa Detey Orlenko Yu. — Z and V are symbols used for the Russian military equipment*) and posted them in the town.⁴⁶

Also in October, a 30-year-old resident of Kerch was detained for 'wishing death to the Russian military.' The RF FSB stated that 'a resident of Kerch published text comments in the group chat of the Telegram messenger with calls to commit violent acts against a nationally identified group of people (Russians).' A criminal case was initiated against her under RF CC Article 280-5. She may be facing up to 5 years' sentence.⁴⁷

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».

After the detention the charges of Mr. Bohdan Ziza has been increased with new and new articles. As of the end of November, he was accused under Article 205-1 (*act of terror*), Article 205.2-2 (*calls to terrorist activities*), Article 214-2 (*vandalism*).

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.

⁴⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/meshkanecz-alushti-otrimav-25-roki-koloni%d1%97-za-fejki-pro-rosijskih-vijskovikov/>

⁴⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/fsb-zatrimala-kerchanku-za-pobazhannya-smerti-rosijskim-vijskovikom/>

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.

On October 27, Igor Brazhnik, a ‘judge’ of ‘Sovietskiy District Court’, found Mr. Faizulayev guilty and sentenced to 3 years in the penal colony.⁴⁸ Mr. Faizulayev is currently being held in the Simferopol Pre-trial Detention Center.

⁴⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimskij-tatarin-otrimav-z-roki-kolonii-za-pidpal-silradi-cherez-nezgodu-z-vijnoyu/>

USING CRIMEA AS RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE

CONSCRIPTION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY RESIDENTS TO ARMED FORCES OF OCCUPYING POWER, AND MOBILIZATION

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 of 2021, the Russian Federation forcibly mobilized 3,000 Crimeans. Some of them were

sent to participate in hostilities against Ukraine after February 24. Another forced conscription campaign was held in the spring of 2022. However, in Crimea, the figures of conscription are concealed, and Yuriy Lymar, the “military commissar of Crimea”, refused to announce plans for this year’s conscription campaign.⁴⁹

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*».⁵⁰ Later Yevgeniy Kutuzov, acting as Military Commissar for

⁴⁹ <https://feo.rk.gov.ru/ru/article/show/10084>

⁵⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-sotnyu-krimchan-vidpravlyayut-na-vijnu-aksonov/>

Crimea, stated that ‘about 2,500 Crimeans had volunteered’ to fight against Ukraine. Among the first to leave for the front, as he said, were Kazaks of the ‘Black Sea Kazak Army’.⁵¹

After V. Putin’s edict on partial mobilization, many residents of villages were mobilized in Crimea, conscription notices were handed at check posts, and persons with disabilities as well as cancer patients were among the mobilized, too.⁵² On September 23, in Kerch, CHRG monitors documented the departure of the mobilized to the Russian army in ‘Z’ marked buses near the Military Commissariat building.⁵³

It was in August that Russian President V. Putin signed an edict increasing the size of the Russian Armed Forces by 130,000 starting from January 1, 2023. After the start of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine a mobilization commission was re-established in Crimea. Also, 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 in the summer of 2022. These places will be used for Russian military participating in the hostilities against Ukraine.

On September 25, Sergey Aksionov, an occupation ‘head’ of Crimea, announced ‘the end of mobilization campaign’ on the territory of Crimea.

However, on October 1, a new forced conscription campaign started. The number of Crimeans drafted usually by the occupation authorities to the Russian Armed Forces, is 3,000.

In this situation, persecutions for evading service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continue in Crimea. As of November 1, the Crimean Human Rights Group registered **423 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, including:

- 301 guilty verdicts in the “courts” of the first instance, with **80 verdicts handed down already after February 24, 2022;**
- 33 decisions of appellate “courts” on upholding the sentences;
- 22 decisions on returning the case to the investigator or on the continuation of the consideration of cases.

⁵¹ <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/krym-krymchny-mobilizatsia-pilhy-viyna/32116123.html>

⁵² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/mobilizacziya-u-krimu-zabirayut-meshkancziv-sil-povistki-vruchayut-na-blopostah/>

⁵³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/mass-mobilization-in-kerch/>

CRIMEANS ARE PERSECUTED FOR EVADING SERVICE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY

As of November 1, 2022

Crimean Human Rights Group registered
423 criminal cases under RF CC Article
“Evasion of service in the Armed Forces
of the RF” in Crimea

including **80** overdicts
handed down already
after February 24, 2022

In addition, regarding 67 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 November 1, the CHRG documented **at least**

124 dead and 24 captured Crimeans who fought on the side of the Russian Federation. According to the General Staff of Ukraine, at least 139 Crimeans who were in the armed forces of the Russian Federation died in the war against Ukraine.

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.⁵⁴

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.

⁵⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/kontrakt-prodlevat-ne-budu-chto-zhdet-byvshih-voennoplennyh-iz-kryma/>

The 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. 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 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, 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.⁵⁵

Since the end of September, the Russian Federation has begun using actively Iranian-made SHAHED-136 kamikaze drones for attacks on civilian infrastructure. These drones are also launched from the territory of the occupied Crimea.⁵⁶ To train drone operators, the Iranian authorities sent their trainers to the peninsula.⁵⁷

On September 29, Russian troops attacked the southern Ukraine with seven SHAHED-136 kamikaze drones from the Black Sea direction,

⁵⁵ <https://www.president.gov.ua/news/z-krimu-vse-pochalosya-nim-i-zavershitsya-potribno-zvilniti-77237>

⁵⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/PvKPivden/posts/7970450653030326>

⁵⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/18/us/politics/iran-drones-russia-ukraine.html>

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

Also SHAHED-136 kamikaze drone operators are trained in Crimea

with 5 of them being shot down by the air defense forces of Ukraine.⁵⁸

Since October 10, the Russian Federation has launched a number of massive attacks on civilian infrastructure, including sea-based KALIBR cruise missiles and kamikaze drones launched from the territory of the occupied Crimea.⁵⁹ More than 100 missiles were fired at energy infrastructure facilities. The Russian Armed Forces deliberately targeted those facilities where they could cause the most damage and leave many Ukrainian civilians

without light and heat⁶⁰. Footage of missile launches from the Black Sea Navy ships was disseminated by the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.⁶¹

On October 13, the Russian troops attacked critical infrastructure facilities in the western region of Ukraine with KALIBR cruise missiles from the Black Sea water zone.⁶²

On October 17, two KALIBR cruise missiles were shot down during a missile attack from the Black Sea water zone.⁶³ However, the attack

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/kpszs/1985>

⁵⁹ https://t.me/ministry_of_defense_ua/2224

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/npcukrenergo/videos/441918591417344/>

⁶¹ https://t.me/rian_ru/181154

⁶² <https://www.facebook.com/100069092624537/posts/432809482365469/>

⁶³ https://t.me/ministry_of_defense_ua/2390

resulted into damaging the energy infrastructure facilities in the central and northern regions of Ukraine.⁶⁴

On October 18, Russia again launched a massive missile attack on the Ukrainian energy infrastructure facilities,⁶⁵ namely in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Zhytomyr, and Dnipro.⁶⁶

On October 22, the critical infrastructure facilities of Ukraine were again attacked with KALIBR cruise missiles from the Black Sea water zone.⁶⁷ Dozens of SHAHED-136 kamikaze drones were also launched from Crimea.⁶⁸ According to the information of UKRENERGO NEC, the scale of damage was comparable to the consequences of the attack on October 10-12.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/npcukrenergo/posts/480699454098885>

⁶⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/npcukrenergo/posts/481443917357772>

⁶⁶ https://t.me/ministry_of_defense_ua/2396

⁶⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/okPivden/posts/2184077525096822>

⁶⁸ https://defence-ua.com/news/nichna_ataka_iranskimi_dronami_z_krimu_zbito_majzhe_dva_desjatki_pomicheno_molodshu_versiju_geran_1-9383.html

⁶⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/npcukrenergo/posts/484444530391044>

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