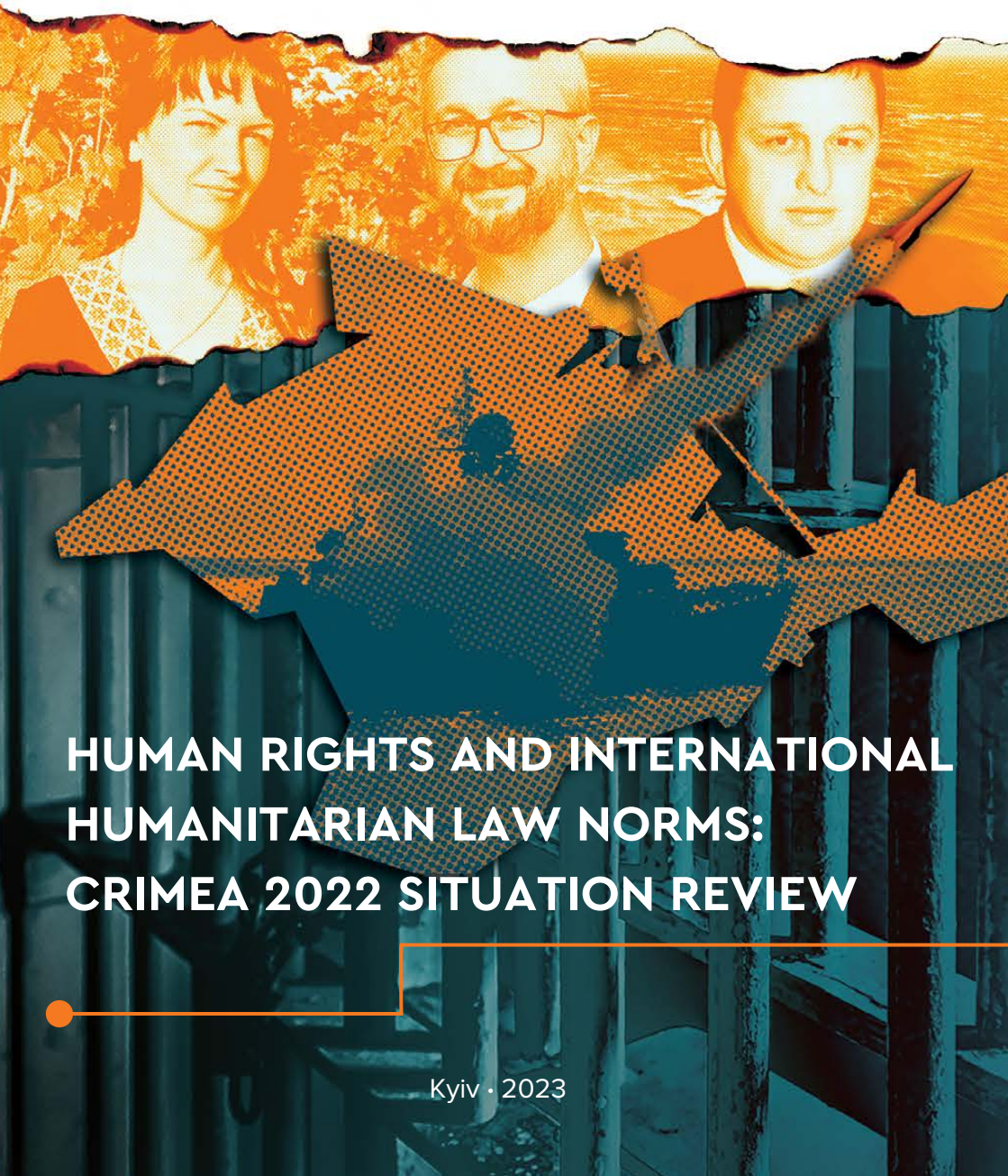




CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP



HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS: CRIMEA 2022 SITUATION REVIEW

Kyiv • 2023



**CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP**

The CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (CHRG) 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.¹

CHRG has been documenting human rights violations, crimes against humanity, war crimes in the occupied Crimea, since 2014.



CHRG is a member of the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition . 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.²

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/>

² <https://www.5am.in.ua/>

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS: CRIMEA 2022 SITUATION REVIEW

Kyiv
January 2023

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS | 3 |
| Forced Disappearances | 3 |
| Politically Motivated Criminal Prosecution | 7 |
| “Case of Crimean Muslims” | 8 |
| Case of Mustafa Dzhemiliev | 11 |
| Nariman Dzhelial’s case | 11 |
| Case of Ukrainian commandos | 12 |
| Persecution on charge of being in N. Chelebidzhikhan battalion | 13 |
| Persecution of Jehovah’s Witnesses | 15 |
| Freedom of Speech and Expression | 17 |
| Case of Iryna Danylovych, citizen journalist | 19 |
| Case of journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko | 20 |
| Persecution for supporting Ukraine and anti-war position..... | 20 |
| Case of Bohdan Ziza | 25 |
| Case of Aziz Fayzulayev | 25 |
| VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW | 26 |
| Conscription of Occupied Territory Residents to Armed Forces of Occupying Power and Mobilization | 26 |
| Militaryization of Children | 29 |
| Attacks on Ukrainian Civilians from Crimes | 30 |
| GOVERNMENTAL POLICY OF UKRAINE TO PROTECT CITIZENS UNDER OF OCCUPATION OF ARC AND SEVASTOPOL | 34 |
| INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS ON CRIMEA | 39 |

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Since the start of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, the occupied Crimea has been used by the Russian authorities to hold Ukrainian citizens abducted from the newly occupied territories, in particular the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions. In these territories, people are abducted by the Russian military, Rosgvardiya (Russian Guard), or the FSB of the Russian Federation, then they are held in places of unfreedom for some time, subjected to torture and inhumane treatment. Then, some of them are taken to Crimea, where they are again tortured by RF FSB men.

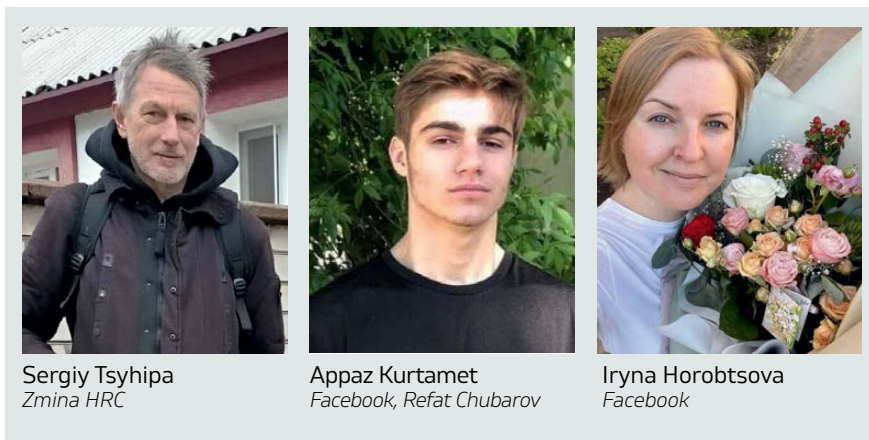
In March, human rights defenders recorded the first reports about people from the Kherson and Zaporizhia Regions held in Pre-trial Detention Center

CIVILIANS ABDUCTED IN THE KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA REGIONS AFTER FEBRUARY 24, 2022



New detention center in Simferopol for **458** persons

As of late 2022, more than **110** persons were held in new detention center, most of whom were civilians from the Ukrainian territories occupied after February 24, 2022



No 1. Later a new detention center was opened at the address of the Simferopol Penal Colony. According to the CHRG, this pre-trial detention center No 2 is for 458 persons, and is controlled by the FSB of the Russian Federation. As of late 2022, according to the CHRG data, more than 110 persons were held in this detention center, most of whom were civilians from the Ukrainian territories occupied after February 24, 2022, including public activists, volunteers, and representatives of local authorities. According to the CHRG information, the people have been held in this new Pre-trial Detention Center at least since July 2022.

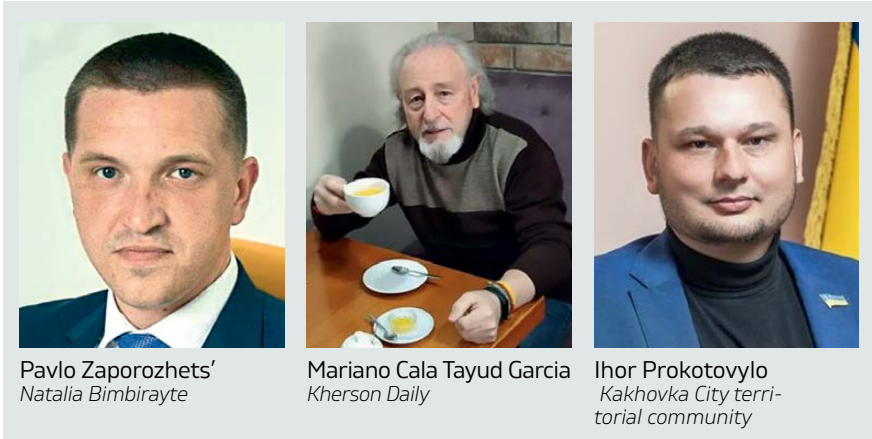
For instance, **Mr.Serhiy Tsyhipa**, a public activist from the city of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson Region, head of the 'KAKHOVSKY PLATSDARM' (Kakhovka Bridgehead) NGO, a civic journalist, abducted on March 12, 2022, is being held in Pre-Trial Detention Center No 2. He has been accused of espionage under Art. 276 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation that may cause a 10 to 20 years' sentence in custody.¹

Mr.Oleksandr Zarivnyi, Head of Humanitarian Policy Department of Kherson District State Administration , and Chairman of ATO Veterans Union, has been also accused under RF CC Article 276 and is being held in Pre-Trial Detention Center No 2.² He was abducted from his house in Oleshky on March 17, 2022.

Mr.Appaz Kurtamet, a teacher of the Crimean Tatar language from the village of Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region, left Novooleksiyivka for Crimea on

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/kidnapped-activist-serhiy-tsyhipa-is-accused-of-espionage/>

² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/the-head-of-the-ato-veterans-union-from-kherson-region-who-is-held-in-simferopol-has-been-accused-of-espionage/>



Pavlo Zaporozhets'
Natalia Bimbirayte

Mariano Cala Tayud Garcia
Kherson Daily

Ihor Prokotovylo
Kakhovka City territorial community

July 23, 2022 to visit his relatives, and was detained at the checkpoint when entering Crimea. He is accused of financing CRIMEA Islamic Battalion (*RF CC Article 208 'establishment of an illegal armed formation or service in it'*). He has been transferred to the new Pre-trial Detention Center No 2.³

Ms.Iryna Horobtsova, a resident of Kherson, an employee of one of the leading IT companies in Ukraine, who has become a volunteer since February, 24. On May 13, she was abducted in Kherson. According to her lawyer, she had been held in the Pre-trial Detention Center No 1 at least since May 25. Then she has been transferred to the new Pre-trial Detention Center No 2.⁴

Mr.Pavlo Zaporozhets', a resident of Kherson, an ATO participant, was abducted in May, and after three months of capture and torture, transferred to Crimea. A case was initiated against him under RF CC Article 30-3 (*attempt*) and Article 361-1 (*act of international terrorism*). According to the CHRG, Pavlo Zaporozhets' is now undergoing a compulsory mental health assessment at the psychoneurological dispensary.

Mr.Mariano Cala Tayud Garcia, a foreign citizen, a volunteer, who operated in Kherson after the full-scale invasion start and helped children who remained without parents' care and attended anti-occupation rallies. According to his fiancée, he was abducted on March 19, and how has been held in the Pre-Trial Detention Center No 2.

³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/poperedne-slidstvo-u-spravi-apaza-kurtameta-zakincheno/>

⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/abducted-in-may-activist-irina-qorobtsova-transferred-to-a-new-pre-trial-detention-center/>



Oleksandr Babych
Family photo archive



Illia Yenin
Facebook



Yaroslav Zhuk
Family photo archive

Representatives of the local authorities are also being kept in Crimea. For instance, **Mr.Ihor Prokotovylo**, a member of Novokakhovka City Council, a head of summer cottage settlement community, was abducted on April 19. On April 28 the wife was informed that Ihor had been moved to Crimea.

Mr.Oleksandr Babych, Mayor of town of Hola Prystan', Skadovs'k District, Kherson Region, was abducted by the Russian military men on March 28, 2022, according to the data of the Office of Prosecutor General of Ukraine. He has been held in the Pre-Trial Detention Centre No 2.

Some residents of Zaporizhzhia Region, when abducted, were also moved to Crimea.

In June, in occupied Melitopol', the Russian military abducted two Ukrainian volunteers — **Mr.Yaroslav Zhuk** and **Mr.Illia Yenin**. 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. He was moved to Crimea, and accused of committing a crime under Russian Federation Criminal Code Article 361-1 (*act of international terrorism*). Mr.Zhuk reported, the report is available for the CHRG, that he had been tortured with electric current, then forced to learn a confession text, and record a video. Yaroslav has become half deaf after the torture.⁵

⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikradenij-volonter-yaroslav-zhuk-chastkovo-vtrativ-sluh-cherez-torturi-list-narimana-dzhelyala/>

Mr.Dmytro Holubiev was abducted by the Russian military in Melitopol' in mid August, and moved to Crimea. He has been held in Pre-Trial Detention Centre No 2 and accused of terrorism.

Mr.Dmytro Zakharov is a resident of Henichesk, abducted on June 16 by the Russian military. The Russian mass media reported that Mr.Zakharov allegedly had texted a demand to surrender to the Armed Forces of Ukraine to the Russian military. In response to Mr.Zakharov's wife's application, the FSB of the Russian Federation in Crimea informed that *"Dmytro Zakharov's actions are currently being investigated in terms of causing a harm for the security of the Russian Federation in the course of the SVO (special military operation)."*⁶ According to the CHRG, he is being held in Pre-Trial Detention Centre No 2.

According to the CHRG, the occupation authorities have not opened any criminal cases against some of the abducted people, and officially the Russian authorities do not recognize that they are being held in pre-trial detention centers. These people are deprived of the opportunity to get even an appointed lawyer.

Victims of torture report that almost no medical care is provided, and parcels from relatives are not accepted. The CHRG also knows that people abducted in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions are transferred to the territory of the Russian Federation after temporary detention in Crimea.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Before the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine **at least 116 citizens of Ukraine** were deprived of liberty due to politically and/or religiously motivated criminal persecution

As of the end of 2022, **at least 149 citizens of Ukraine** were deprived of liberty due to politically and/or religiously motivated criminal persecution. The list is published on the CHRG's website: https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/spisok.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0tU3H6_BkAlfWlyA2dlvjDo9ZTWbhvAHQz-QkyZLo3Xp98J2bn_EUZ7xg

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/meshkanecz-genichesku-dmitro-zaharov-vikradenij-u-chervni-perebuvaє-narazi-u-krimu/>

For the purpose of politically motivated persecution, the occupation authorities kept on “cooking” criminal cases under ‘terrorist’ and ‘extremist’ articles, articles related to illegal military units, acts of sabotage, espionage, and illegal storage of arms or explosive. In addition, 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” ranging from a fine to a 15-years’ sentence.

“CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS”

The defendants in the case are accused of affiliating to Islamic organizations⁷ 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.

As of the late 2022, the number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty within the ‘Case of Crimean Muslims’ reached at least 88 persons.

In 2022, the Russian courts passed 26 sentences:

- **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;

⁷ In most cases this is ‘Hizb-ut-Tahrir’

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PERSECUTION

2022

88 persons deprived of liberty within the 'Case of Crimean Muslims'

26 convictions
Sentences
of **11** to **19** years

- **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;
- **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.⁸
- **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;

⁸ 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/>

- **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.
- **Enver Ametov** — 13 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- **Yashar Muedinov** — 13 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- **Osman Arifmemetov** — 14 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- **Ruslan Suleimanov** — 14 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- **Rustem Sheikhaliiev** — 14 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- **Marlen Mustafaiev** — 17 years in the maximum security penal colony;
- **Ernes Ametov**, citizen journalist — 11 years in the maximum security penal colony;

It should be noted that the court revised the acquittal of Ernes Ametov in September 2020. He was arrested on October 11, 2017, together with Seyran Saliyev, Marlen Asanov, Timur Ibrahimov, Server Zekiryayev and Memet Belialov. On September 16, 2020, Ametov was acquitted and released in the hall of the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov due to lack of evidence. In March 2022, the Court of Appeal of Vlasikha revised this judgement and sent the case for a new trial, that resulted into a conviction.

In 2022 new people were detained on charges of Hizb ut-Tahrir membership. Totally, 10 Crimean Tatars were detained, 9 of them have been kept in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1.

On February 9, **Marlen Mustafayev, Ernest Seytosmanov, Ansar Osmanov, and Ametkhan Abdulvapov** were detained and placed in custody after searches of Crimean Tatar houses in Simferopol, Bakhchisarai, Bilohirs'k, and Balaklava districts.⁹

⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zvernennya-ukra%d1%97nskih-pravozahisnih-organizacij-z-privodu-novih-obshukiv-i-areshtiv-krimskih-tatar/>

On August 11, after searches of four Crimean Tatar families in Dzhankoy and Dzhankoy District, **Vilen Temeryanov**, a citizen journalist, **Enver Krosh**, **Seitiy Abbozov**, **Murat Mustafayev**, **Edem Bekirov** and **Rinat Aliyev** were detained. RF FSB men tortured activist Enver Krosh in the vehicle on the way from Dzhankoy to Simferopol.¹⁰ On August 12, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol decided to keep the detained Crimean Tatars in custody, while Seitiy Abbozov was placed on house arrest.

Enver Krosh and Vilen Temeryanov were to undergo a psychiatric examination in the M.I.Balaban Crimean Republican Mental Hospital No 1 in Simferopol at the request of the RF FSB.

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.”¹¹

NARIMAN DZHELIAL’S CASE

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

¹⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/envera-krosha-yakogo-zatrimali-v-krimu-katuvali-rosijski-siloviki/>

¹¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/crimean-court-passed-sentence-on-mustafa-dzhemiliev-in-absentia/>

*(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).*¹²

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 citizens of Ukraine detained before the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, are in prison within the cases of ‘Ukrainian commandos and spies’, including: Andriy Zachtei, Volodymyr Dudka, Oleksiy Bessarabov, Dmytro Shtyblikov, Hennadiy Limeshko, Leonid Parkhomenko, Kostiantyn Davydenko, Dmytro Dolhopolov, Anna Sukhonosova, Yunus Masharipov, Ivan Yatskin, Kostiantyn Shyring, Halyna Dovhopola, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Yevhen Petrushyn, Stanislav Stetsenko (Khudolei). When detained, they were accused by RF FSB of ‘preparing sabotage, storing arms and spying.’ Within these cases, illegal methods of investigating and torturing to obtain confessions, violation of the presumption of innocence, distribution of “confession” videos by the FSB of the Russian Federation through the Russian media were recorded.

On April 27, the court in Rostov-na-Donu announced a new verdict of **Dmytro Shtyblikov**, 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*). The previous sentence expired in November 2021, but due to a new faked case, Mr.Shtyblikov has been kept in custody.¹³

In December, it became known that the “court” of Sevastopol sentenced 24-year-old Yevhen Petrushyn to 12 years in custody under Article 275 of the

¹² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/occupiers-convicted-nariman-dzhelial-and-the-akhtemov-brothers/>

¹³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/one-more-sentence-passed-for-dmytro-shtyblikov-defendant-of-crimean-commandos-case/>

Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (*High Treason*). The FSB of the Russian Federation accused him of allegedly ‘collecting and transferring highly classified information on the Black Sea Navy operations to the main intelligence department of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine’.¹⁴ In June 2021, Mr. Petrushyn was convoyed from Sevastopol to Moscow Pre-trial Detention Center.¹⁵

PERSECUTION ON CHARGE OF BEING IN N. CHELEBIDZHICAN 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 Chelebidzhikan 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 Chelebidzhikan Volunteer Battalion” as “terrorist” and banned it on the territory of the Russian Federation.¹⁶ On July 21, 2022, the Russian FSB included the ‘Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhikan Volunteer Battalion’ in the register of terrorist organizations.

As of the end of 2022, at least **15 persons** including Ukrainian citizens abducted by the Russian military in the south of Ukraine after February 24, 2022, were deprived of liberty on charges of serving in the N.Chelebidzhikan Battalion. In 2022 **at least 7 persons** were convicted:

- **Rustem Osmanov**, abducted from Heniches’k, Kherson Region, and sentenced in Crimea to 6 years in custody;¹⁷

¹⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/cevastopolczya-evgena-petrushina-zasadili-do-12-rokiv-pozbavleniya-voli-nibito-za-derzhzradu/>

¹⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/sud-u-moskvi-zalishiv-pid-vartoyu-sevastopolczya-zvinu-vachuvanogo-v-derzhzradi/>

¹⁶ https://n.tass.ru/obschestvo/14789255?utm_source=ru.krymr.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ru.krymr.com&utm_referrer=ru.krymr.com

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zasudzhenij-na-6-rokiv-krimskij-tatarin-rozpoviv-pro-te-yak-jogo-vikrali-u-genichesku-ta-katuvali/>

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PERSECUTION

2022

15 persons at least in custody on charges of serving in the N. Chelebidzhikhan Battalion

7 custody sentences at least
1 sentence in absentio

- **Ruslan Abdurakhmanov**, abducted from the village of Azovs'ke, Kherson Region and sentenced in Crimea to 5 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;¹⁸
- **Mamed Dovgopolov**, abducted in Kherson Region and sentenced in Crimea;¹⁹
- **Artur Memetshaev**, abducted in Heniches'k, Kherson Region, and sentenced in Crimea to 6.5 years in custody;²⁰
- **Rustem Gugurik**, a resident of Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region, detained in Chongar when he attempted to enter Crimea and sentenced to 8.5 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;²¹
- **Arsen Ibragimov**, detained at the administrative border between Crimea and Kherson Region, and sentenced in 10 years in custody.²²

¹⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/mene-vikrali-katuvali-nezakonno-dopravili-do-krimu-stali-vidomi-podrobiczzi-zatrimannya-ruslana-abdurahmanova/>

¹⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimskij-sud-zaareshtuvav-shhe-odnogo-meshkanczya-hersonshhini-za-zvinuvachennnyam-v-uchasti-u-krimskotatarskomu-bataljoni/>

²⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/artur-memetshayev-sentenced-to-6-5-years-in-penal-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

²¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/rustem-gugurik-sentenced-to-8-5-years-in-penal-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

²² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-krimskogo-tatarina-zasudili-za-nibito-uchast->

- **Ayder Umerov**, abducted in the village of Partyzany, Heniches'k District, Kherson Region, and sentenced in Crimea to 6 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;²³

In addition, in April 2022 'Kievskiy District Court of Simferopol' sentenced Izet Gdanov, ex-First Deputy Permanent Representative of President of Ukraine to AR of Crimea, in absentio to 8 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony.

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 CC Article 208-2.²⁴ According to the FSB, Oleksiy Kiseliov *'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.Kyseliov informed the lawyer that he had been tortured with electric current during the interrogations.²⁵

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'

[u-bataljoni-imeni-nomana-chelebidzhikhan/](https://crimeahrg.org/en/one-more-crimean-tatar-sentenced-to-6-years-in-penal-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/)

²³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/one-more-crimean-tatar-sentenced-to-6-years-in-penal-colony-on-charges-of-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

²⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/former-commander-of-the-ms-slavutich-was-abducted-and-is-being-judged-in-crimea/>

²⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/oleksiy-kyseliov-ex-captain-of-ms-slavutich-told-about-torture-after-abduction/>

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PERSECUTION

2022

12 persons at least deprived of liberty – persecution of 'Jehovah's Witnesses'

6 sentences at least including **5** deprivation of liberty ones

persecution started. In 2020, the first imprisonment sentences were passed on the members of the 'Jehovah's Witnesses' organization.

As of the end of 2022, at least **12 persons** were deprived of liberty on the charges of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' religious organization membership.

In 2022 **at least 6 persons** were convicted:

- **Artem Shablii**, 2 years in custody suspended, with a 3-years' probationary period;²⁶
- **Yevhen Zhukov**, 6 years in the penal colony;
- **Volodymyr Maladyka**, 6 years in the penal colony;
- **Volodymyr Sakada**, 6 years in the penal colony;²⁷
- **Oleksandr Lytvyniuk**, 6 years in the general regime penal colony;
- **Oleksandr Dubovenko**, 6 years in the general regime penal colony.²⁸

²⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/svidku-egovi-z-kerchi-artemu-shabliyu-uhvalili-virok/>

²⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/three-jehovahs-witnesses-sentenced-to-6-years-in-the-penal-colony/>

²⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/dvoh-svidkiv-egovi-z-armyanska-zasudili-do-6-rokiv-kolonii/>

In addition, in 2022, the homes of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' supporters were being searched, and new detentions took place. There were searches on August 24, followed by the arrests of Viktor Kudinov, aged 53, and Serhiy Zhyhalov, aged 51. On September 28, 8 houses were searched in the villages of Nyzhniihirs'kyi and Krasnohvardiyske as well as in the village of Petrivka, followed by the arrests of Serhiy Parfenovych, aged 50, and Oleksandr Vynnychenko, aged 49. Later Mr.Vynnychenko was released, and Mr.Parfenovych was transferred to house arrest after a month spent in the pretrial detention center.

On December 12, about 20 'Jehovah's Witnesses' homes were searched in Simferopol and the district followed by placing Dmytro Naukhatsk'ky, aged 53, under house arrest.²⁹ Totally, about 40 persons are under these investigations.

As reported by the 'Jehovah's Witnesses', at least 19 organizations members are being criminally persecuted in Crimea for the faith. In addition, according to the organization's information, 28 'Jehovah's Witnesses' homes were searched in Crimea in 2022.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

In 2022 freedom of speech was being curtailed, and journalists were being persecuted in Crimea. In addition, new legislative restrictions came in force after March 4, that criminalized so called 'fakes' about the Russian army actions in Ukraine. A new RF CC article — 207.3 — introduced punishment for disseminating "knowingly false information about the activities of the Russian Armed Forces."

The persecution under the new administrative article on 'public actions aimed at discrediting the Russian army' (*Article 20.3.3 of the CoAO of the Russian Federation*) also continued. The maximum penalty is a fine of up to RUR100,000. For 2022, the CHRG documented at least **168 judgements of occupation 'courts'** on administrative punishment under Art. 20.3.3 of RF CoAO.

The occupation authorities also kept on prosecuting citizen journalists on trumped-up charges of terrorism (*alleged Hizb ut-Tahrir membership*) or

²⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnomu-svidku-egovi-z-simferopolya-predyavili-obvinuvachennya/>

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

2022

15 Crimean journalists deprived of liberty for political reasons



storage of arms or explosives. According to human rights activists, at least 15 Crimean journalists are behind the bars within such cases (Oleksiy Bessarabov, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Seyran Saliyev, Marlen (Suleyman) Asanov, Timur Ibrahimov, Server Mustafayev, Osman Arifmemetov, Remzi Bekirov, Ruslan Suleymanov, Rustem Sheikhaliyev, Amet Suleymanov, Asan Akhtemov, Iryna Danylovyh, Vilen Temeryanov, Ernes Ametov).

In addition, the occupation authorities also persecuted Crimean Tatar public figures. Thus, on March 16, **Abdureshyt Dzhepparov**, a Crimean human rights activist and veteran of the Crimean Tatar national movement, was placed under a 15-days' administrative arrest for a publication on the Internet. He was accused of RF Code of Administrative Offence Article 20.3-1, "Propaganda or public display of Nazi attributes or symbols" because in 2019 he had published a video on Facebook where a Russian march was compared to Nazi one.³⁰

Zair Smedliayev, Head of the CEC of the Kurultay of the Crimean Tatar people, was arrested for 2 days under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1 (*Propaganda or public display of Nazi attributes or symbols*) for the publication on Facebook on March 1, 2014, and fined RUR40,000 under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3-1 (*Public actions aimed at discrediting the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*).³¹

³⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/abdureshyt-dzhepparov-arrested-for-15-days/>

³¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zaïra-smedlyayeva-areshtuvali-na-2-dobi-j-oshtrafuvali-na-40-tisyach-rubliv-za-post-8-richnoi-davnini/>

CASE OF IRYNA DANYLOVYCH, CITIZEN JOURNALIST

Ms.Iryna Danylovych, a health care worker and a citizen journalist, abducted by FSB officers at a bus stop on April 29. 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 torture, and other 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*).



Iryna Danylovych
Family archive

On December 28, 'Feodisiya City Court' read out the conviction: 'judge' Natalia Kulinskaya sentenced Ms.Danylovych to 7 years in confinement, and a RUR50,000 fine.³² The activist is now being kept in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1.

The trial of Iryna Danylovych demonstrated numerous violations of the right to a fair trial. Thus, one of the witnesses, who during the court session introduced himself as a self-employed person and stated that he 'had seen' explosives found in Iryna's possession, turned out to be an occupation police serviceman. The "judge" refused the defense to interrogate 15 witnesses, allowing only one to be questioned.

Being detained, Iryna Danylovych was repeatedly subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment. Due to constant complaints against the administration of the pre-trial detention center, she was moved to a cell without heating, that resulted into her contracting otitis media and almost losing hearing due to the lack of medical care.

³² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zayava-pravozahisnih-organizaczij-shhodo-viroku-irini-danilovich/>

CASE OF JOURNALIST VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO



Vladyslav Yesypenko
Family archive

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 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.³³ 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.

Vladyslav Yesypenko was conveyed to the general regime penal colony No 2 in Kerch.

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

On March 9, 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.³⁴

³³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/court-of-appeal-reconsidered-yesypenkos-sentence-service-period-reduced-by-year/>

³⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/first-fine-in-crimea-for-no-war-slogan/>

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

2022

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

For **168** of them a punishment verdict
was passed amount of fines totalling
about RUR**2.2 mln**

The Crimean Human Rights Group documented the facts of applying the article "For discrediting the army" in Crimea during 2022. For this period the occupation authorities sent **at least 200 administrative cases** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 for consideration by Crimean 'courts'. For 168 of them a punishment verdict was passed, with the amount of fines totalling more than RUR2.2 mln.

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.³⁵

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

³⁵ <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/>

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

2022

Slogan 'Slava Ukrayini! Heroyam slava!' –
RUR50,000 fine
 Song 'Oy, u luzi chervona kalyna' –
15 days' arrest
 Anthem of Ukraine – **13** days' arrest



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 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*). The 'judges' referred to the FSB experts who had assessed 'Oy, u luzi chervona kalyna' song extremist.

On December 27, 'Kirovskiy District Court' sentenced three residents of village of Zolote Pole: Yunus Budzhkek, Diliaver Memetov, and Valentyn Komisarenko, to 11, 12, and 13 days of administrative arrests. Two of them were also fined RUR30,000 and 35,000. Men were signing the Anthem of Ukraine and Ukrainian songs: 'Stephania' (*KALUSH ORCHESTRA Ukrainian band with 'Stephania' song won EUROVISION 2022 International Contest*) and 'Oy, u luzi chervona kalyna' late in the evening.

In Bilohirs'k, Mr.Andriy Bilozerov, a technical high school teacher, was fired for switching the Ukrainian song "BAYRAKTAR" in the premises of the educational institution. The report was made by his students. On October 28, he was placed under a 14-days' administrative arrest for publishing the song 'Oy, u luzi chervona kalyna' on the VKontakte social network. When being detained, he was beaten by police.³⁶ On December 23, the "Central District Court of Simferopol" placed Mr. Bilozerov under house arrest for two months

³⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-technical-high-school-teacher-fired-for-a-ukrainian-song-was-arrested-for-another-one/>

for “repeated discrediting” of the Russian Army (*Article 280.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation*): in his post on the VKontakte social network he wrote: *“innocent children and women of Ukraine were being bombed in Donbas for 8 years by the Armed Forces of Russian Federation who turned their cannons from the frontline towards Donetsk, and the last six months the same Armed Forces of the Russian Federation have been bombing Ukrainian cities and killing Ukrainian residents.”*³⁷

In December, the “Sudak City Court” fined a Crimean Tatar woman RUR30,000 for a post on the social network “Genocide of the Crimean Tatars under the guise of mobilization,” having found it “discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation.”

In addition, the reason for persecution under RF 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.”* For instance, in December ‘Kievskiy District Court’ of Simferopol fined a man RUR50,000 for declaring slogans ‘Slava Ukrayini! Heroyam slava!’ (*Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Heroes!*) in the street.

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

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. The ‘Sudak City Court’ considered the request of the “investigation” to impose a pre-trial restriction and took the woman into custody.

On June 8, Ms. Goldenberg was sentenced to 2 years in the penal colony-settlement, and a RUR500,000 fine.³⁸ The woman was sentenced to an unjustified harsh punishment, which indicates the political motive of the persecution.

³⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vikladacha-yakogo-zvilnili-j-pobili-za-ukraïnski-pisni-vidpravili-pid-domashnij-aresht/>

³⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/litnya-krimchanka-otrimala-dva-roki-za-splyundruvannya-mogili/>

On October 21, the ‘Alushta Court’ sentenced **Oleksandr Tarapon** 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 investigation, the man disseminated leaflets around the town about his wife’s relative participating in the war with Ukraine. To 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 — Ubiytza Detey Orlenko Yu. — Z and V are symbols used for the Russian military equipment*) and posted them in the town. Later he was convoyed to the Russian Federation.³⁹

On November 16, the ‘Kirovskiy District Court’ in Crimea sentenced a 42-year-old local resident to forced labor for 5 months with 15% of his salary to be deducted for the RF national income, for “anti-Russian messages in messenger.”⁴⁰

On November 22, the ‘Kerch City Court’ sentenced **Serhiy Yarovyi**, a 36-year-old Yevpatoria resident, to one year in prison on charges of extremist activity for allegedly calling to “kill Russians.”⁴¹

A criminal case under Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on “fakes about the Russian army” was started against **Illia Hantsevs’ky**, a Kerch resident, who had been persecuted by the occupation authorities for a long time due to his anti-war publications. The reason was his re-post of shelling Kramatorsk Railway Terminal on April 8 (*that day 59 civilians were killed due to actions of Russian military*). Mr.Hantsevs’ky managed to leave Crimea for Denmark.⁴²

A criminal case under Article 280 (*Public appeals to extremist activities*) was started against a woman who published comments supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine on the social network.

³⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/oleksandr-tarapon-was-left-in-a-colony-for-25-years-for-the-fakes-about-the-russian-military/>

⁴⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-crimean-sentences-to-forced-labor-for-anti-russian-messages/>

⁴¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-sailor-sentenced-to-a-year-in-kerch-for-alleged-calls-to-kill-military-men/>

⁴² https://zmina.info/news/krymskomu-onlajn-aktyvistovi-illi-ganczevskomu-proty-yakogo-okupanty-porushyly-kryminalnu-spravu-za-antyvoyenni-dopysy-vdalosyavvyihaty-v-daniyu/?fbclid=IwAR2vzjzS7RSjq3eJdX9RU7Ed2naFqqHiLZzNchytCgLaCoJFPXVVHVE_RRw

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*).

After the investigation, his case was transferred to Rostov-on-Don, where the trial began. 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.



Bohdan Ziza
Instagram

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. 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.

On October 27, Igor Brazhnik, a ‘judge’ of ‘Sovietskiy District Court’, found Mr.Fayzullayev guilty and sentenced to 3 years in the penal colony.

II. VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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

Pursuant to the Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, Article 51, the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. The International Criminal Court Rome Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xv), establishes that compelling the nationals of the hostile party to take part in the operations of war directed against their own country shall be a war crime.

The Russian Federation has been involving Crimeans in a full-scale war against Ukraine. In 2022, the forced conscription of Crimeans into the ranks of the Russian Federation armed forces continued. Some of the Crimeans, drafted in the autumn of 2021, were sent to participate in hostilities against Ukraine after February 24, 2022. During Year 2022, two scheduled though forced conscription campaigns were held in Crimea. However, this time the occupation authorities concealed the draft figures, and the “Military Commissar for Crimea” Yuriy Lymar refused to announce plans for the 2022 draft campaign. Given the previous years’ practice, at least 3,000 Crimeans may have been conscripted in one campaign. Thus, during the occupation period 16 conscription campaigns have been held and at least 40,000 Crimeans have been drafted to the RF armed forces.

In addition, the occupation authorities sent volunteers to participate in the hostilities against Ukraine. Sergey Aksionov, the so-called “head” of

ILLEGAL CONSCRIPTION IN CRIMEA

2022

16 conscription campaigns during the occupation period

at least **40,000** Crimeans have been drafted to the RF armed forces

Crimea, stated in July that at least one “Crimean battalion” of 1,200 volunteers, including representatives of the “Kazaks”, had been sent to war.⁴³ Later Yevgeniy Kutuzov, acting as Military Commissar for 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’.

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. 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.⁴⁴

In August 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. It was also in summer that 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, as established by mobilization action plan. These places will be used for Russian military participating in the hostilities against Ukraine.

⁴³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/crimean-battalion-of-1200-persons-sent-to-war-aksionov/>

⁴⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/mass-mobilization-in-kerch/>

CRIMEANS ARE PERSECUTED FOR EVADING SERVICE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY

2022

Crimean Human Rights Group registered **429** criminal cases under RF CC Article 'Evasion of service in the Armed Forces of the RF' in Crimea

including **86** verdicts handed down already after February 24, 2022

On September 19, 2022, restrictions on the departure of men of "mobilization" age from the peninsula were imposed in Crimea. In order to leave, the men were required to obtain an appropriate permit from the local military commissariat. However, when applying to the Military Commissariat for such permission, the men risked being mobilized.

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.

During 2022 the persecutions for evading service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continue in Crimea. As of December 30, 2022, the Crimean Human Rights Group registered **429 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:

- 307 guilty verdicts in the "courts" of the first instance, with **86 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.

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 sent to participate in hostilities in the other territory of Ukraine. Starting from the date of invasion, the CHRG has documented at least 202 dead and 24 captured Crimeans assigned to the military units in Crimea 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. As to the dead, most were servicemen of the 810th Separate Guards Brigade of the Black Sea Navy of the Russian Federation and the 127th Separate Intelligence Brigade, Special Forces of the Main Intelligence Department of the Black Sea Navy of the Russian Federation.

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.

MILITARIZATION OF CHILDREN

The policy of destroying the Ukrainian identity, militarizing the consciousness of the peninsula residents, and glorifying the participants in the war in Ukraine went on in Crimea during Year 2022. The Russian occupation authorities spread military propaganda among the population of Crimea, in particular appeals to serve in the Russian army and the values of “Russian World.”⁴⁵

For instance, in November Sergey Aksionov, the so-called the “head” of Crimea, announced the elementary military training course program in local schools for 2022-2023.⁴⁶ The curriculum includes a wide range of activities related to military affairs, knowledge in the field of defense and military service. Crimean schoolchildren will be trained at military unit bases, will

⁴⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/deliberate-militarization-of-education-language-culture-weapon-of-russians-in-occupied-territories/>

⁴⁶ <https://rk.gov.ru/ru/document/show/37037>

participate in firing exercises and foot drills, attend classes on physical, and military medical training, radiological, chemical and biological protection. The curriculum includes propaganda campaign events, educational excursions and military sports competitions: “ZARNITSA”, “ZARNICHKA” and “ORLIONOK.” Teachers of the elementary military training are to be also trained in Crimea throughout the academic year. The military training course is introduced in parallel with extracurricular activities at “YUNARMIIYA”, a paramilitary children’s and youth organization which declared goal is “to raise a generation capable of defending the homeland arms in hand.” According to the information of ALMENDA Center for Civic Education, as of early 2022, 29,000 children in 874 units were enlisted in YUNARMIIYA of Crimea (including Sevastopol’).

On December 19, the so-called “State Council” of Crimea adopted a “*regional law on patriotic education ... to educate citizens in patriotic values, to develop their high social activity, civic responsibility, ability to show themselves in strengthening and protecting the State, ensuring its vital interests and sustainable development.*”⁴⁷

Within the year, various events were held in educational institutions to glorify the soldiers fighting against Ukraine and to justify the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by them. Thus, “New Year’s Card to Soldier” campaign took place in pre-schools of Crimea, that was “actively contributed to by children of all age groups together with their teachers and parents in order to support the spirits of the military combatting on the front line”, i.e. in Ukraine. “Heroes’ desks” named after peninsula residents who, fighting in the Russian armed forces, died in Ukraine, has become a common phenomenon in the schools of the occupied Crimea.⁴⁸

ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMES

Since February 24, 2022, 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 en masse from

⁴⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/the-law-on-patriotic-upbringing-militarization-of-children-glorifying-of-those-killed-in-the-war-how-russia-is-destroying/>

⁴⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/militarizacziya-detey-v-shkolah-poyavilis-party-geroev-s-imenami-pogibshih-krymchan/>

Russia to the occupied Crimea via the Kerch Bridge. The military equipment from Crimea used in the further occupation of Ukrainian territories, was marked with the letter Z during the first war weeks.

From the territory of the occupied Crimea and the Black Sea water zone, the Russian Federation has been launching missile and air strikes on many civilian facilities in Ukraine, that have caused deaths or injuries of the civilians.

For example, on July 14, a fast attack craft launched three Kalibr missiles from the area of Cape Fiolent that hit the center of Vinnytsia City.⁴⁹ The missile strike killed **26 people**⁵⁰ **including 3 kids**, and damaged and destroyed 55 multi-apartment buildings and private residences, 40 cars and 2 trams.⁵¹ On the night of July 19, Odesa region was attacked by seven Kalibr missiles from the Black Sea. The missile attack caused injuring **6 civilians**, including **a 5-month-old infant**.⁵²

Over 800 cruise missiles of various types launched from Crimea and the Black Sea water zone have destroyed at least hundreds of civilian facilities: schools, universities, ordinary residential buildings, hospitals.

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.⁵³ Drone operators were also trained on the peninsula.⁵⁴ For instance, on September 29, Russian troops attacked the southern Ukraine with seven SHAHED-136 kamikaze drones from the Black Sea direction, with 5 of them being shot down by the air defense forces of Ukraine.⁵⁵

Since October 10, the Russian Federation has been attacking the civilian infrastructure of Ukraine on a massive scale and on regular basis, including sea-based KALIBR cruise missiles and kamikaze drones launched from the territory of the occupied Crimea.⁵⁶ Footage of missile launches from the Black

⁴⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=451915109788655>

⁵⁰ <https://espreso.tv/rosiyskiy-raketniy-udar-po-vinnitsi-kilkist-zagiblikh-zrosla-do-26>

⁵¹ https://t.me/dsns_telegram/8394

⁵² <https://www.facebook.com/pgo.gov.ua/posts/415545453941627>

⁵³ <https://www.facebook.com/PvKPivden/posts/7970450653030326>

⁵⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/18/us/politics/iran-drones-russia-ukraine.html>

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/kpszs/1985>

⁵⁶ https://t.me/ministry_of_defense_ua/2224

ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMEA

2022

More than **800** different cruise missiles were launched from the occupied Crimea and the Black Sea that caused deaths and injuries of the civilians.



Sea Navy ships was disseminated by the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.⁵⁷ These attacks lasted till the end of the year. For instance, on November 15, about 20 sea-based KALIBR missiles were launched from the Black Sea water zone.⁵⁸ On December 5, the attack included 22 cruise missiles from craft in the Black Sea.⁵⁹

On December 16, during a mass missile attack on the Ukrainian critical infrastructure and power and fuel sector facilities, launches of cruise missiles from ADMIRAL MAKAROV frigate in the Black Sea water zone were recorded.⁶⁰ On the night of December 31, 2022, — January 1, 2023, the Russian troops attacked Ukraine with SHAHED-131/136 kamikaze drones.⁶¹

At the same time, the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) carried out several strikes on Russian military facilities in Crimea. One of the first of them, a series of explosions 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

⁵⁷ https://t.me/rian_ru/181154

⁵⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsus/posts/506888011479152>

⁵⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsus/posts/520924983408788>

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsus/posts/530199905814629>

⁶¹ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsus/posts/542472747920678>

of Ukraine announced the destruction of 9 Russian planes.⁶² All strikes by the Armed Forces of Ukraine were on military facilities only.

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.

⁶² <https://www.facebook.com/kpszs/posts/433185778849376>

III. GOVERNMENTAL POLICY OF UKRAINE TO PROTECT CITIZENS UNDER OF OCCUPATION OF ARC AND SEVASTOPOL

Due to the full-scale Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine, that was supported by the Republic of Belarus, the Government of Ukraine had to respond to humanitarian challenges, including the **internal displacement of persons** from the territories of Ukraine that had been occupied or became an arena for hostilities. The people also moved from Crimea to the Ukraine controlled territory. According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, 65 residents of Crimea were officially registered as internally displaced persons (*hereinafter — IDPs*) after February 24, 2022. It should be taken into account that some of these IDPs were not officially registered, accordingly, the information of the Ministry may not generally present the actual displacement situation. The number of Crimeans registered as IDPs before the full scale invasion totalled over 45,000.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (*hereinafter — the CMU*) initiated some actions to **simplify the IDP status procedure**. According to CMU Resolution no 269 of March 13, 2022,⁶³ IDP status may be registered via DIYA portal or at the administrative service centers and through an authorized person of the village/ town / city council executive body. According to CMU Resolution no 755 of July 1, 2022, to be IDP registered it shall be sufficient to verify the identity via

⁶³ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/269-2022-%D0%BF#Text>

DIYA or eDOCUMENT application or a certificate of submitting the documents to apply for a Ukrainian national passport.

In addition, the value of financial help for the IDPs has increased. CMU Resolution no 332 of March 20, 2022, introduced a new procedure for assigning and paying IDP living allowance. The allowance increased to UAH2,000 for an adult, and to UAH3,000 for a minor and a disable person. The ceiling for allowance per family was cancelled. In addition, according to CMU Resolution no 363 of March 25, 2022, the financial help may be paid not only by OSCHADBANK, but by any other bank or UKRPOSHTA office. According to CMU Resolution no 457 of 16 April 2022, the financial help may be applied for by persons whose dwellings were destroyed or uninhabitable due to damage.

However, despite these positive initiatives, the Government adopted Resolution no 1168 of October 14, 2022, amending the Procedure for assigning an IDP living allowance: **a verification of actual IDP place of residence/stay was introduced**. This amendment introduced a random check of the actual place of residence/stay, with issuing a related certificate. According to the verification procedure, if an IDP is absent at the actual place of residence/stay, they shall have ten calendar days to undergo an identification procedure at the social security office they are registered at. In addition, if the person has failed to be identified by the social security office, a decision to stop paying the living allowance starting from the next month shall be taken.

Such verifications had been held earlier in accordance with the Procedure for Monitoring Social Transfers to IDPs at Actual Residence/ Stay Place approved by CMU Resolution no 365 of June 8, 2016, causing the unlawful termination of transfers. The Area Administrative Court of the City of Kyiv considered the issue within Case no 640/18720/18, and, by its judgement of June 11, 2019, recognized these verifications illegal and void. Nevertheless, the norms of the same contents were included into the Procedure for assigning an IDP living allowance.

In addition, the issue of **pension payments to Ukrainian citizens, with a registered residence in Crimea**, who applied for such payments after the start of the full-scale invasion is still unresolved by law. When applying to the Pension Fund of Ukraine bodies, Crimeans are rejected a pension payment because it is impossible to grant a pension payment as established by CMU Resolution no 234 of July 2, 2014: according to the procedure, a request for a pension case shall be sent to the Russian Federation competent authorities.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/234-2014-%D0%BF#Text>

In addition to the fact that the requirement to request a pension case at the Russian Federation competent authorities is unlawful itself — this is an extra pension case demand to Ukrainian citizens living in the territory of Crimea which is not stipulated by the Ukrainian law — the Pension of Fund of Ukraine can't address the Russian Federation competent authorities with the pension case request due to the full-scale Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine and the diplomatic break with the aggressor country. Such a requirement completely deprives such persons of the opportunity to be paid a pension. This, in turn, violates their property rights and their right to social protection, and leaves them without any means of subsistence.

Another essential issue focused on by law makers in 2022 was **protection of people deprived of personal liberty due to the RF aggression**. For instance, Law of Ukraine *“On social and legal protection of persons proven to have been deprived of personal liberty due to the armed aggression against Ukraine, and their family members”* was approved in January 2022, and came in force on November, 19, 2022.⁶⁵ This law, inter alia, defines the legal status, provides legal protection and assistance to political prisoners, persons imprisoned for political reasons, and their families. The law also stipulates that political prisoners, victims of politically motivated persecution in the occupied Crimea and their relatives may apply for financial, medical and other types of assistance. However, as of the end of 2022, CMU resolutions on assigning all types of assistance established by law were not adopted. Only procedures for allocating funds to reimburse the costs of professional legal assistance and for obtaining state financial assistance by such persons were.⁶⁶ The procedure for providing medical and rehabilitation aid was not approved in 2022. The Unified Register of Persons proven to be deprived of personal liberty due to the armed aggression against Ukraine has not been launched.

The Interdepartmental Commission on Recognizing Persons to Be Deprived of Liberty due to the RF Armed Aggression against Ukraine and Implementing Actions for Their Social Protection kept on working in 2022. The Commission also includes representatives of civil society, the Crimean Human Rights Group members being among them. The **financial help** is paid to such categories of persons based on the commission's decision. The total amount paid by the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, under these decisions, in 2022, was over UAH 190 million including UAH 144.8 million paid to persons released from the Russian captivity (*places of unfree-*

⁶⁵ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2010-20#Text>

⁶⁶ https://minre.gov.ua/sites/default/files/nakaz_formy_zayav_f.pdf

GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS DEPRIVED OF FREEDOM DUE TO THE ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

2022

1,448 released from captivity
received one-time financial help

462 families of persons deprived of
liberty for political reasons received
an annual financial help

The year's financial help payment
reached over UAH **190** million



dom in the territory of the Russian Federation or territories occupied by it); UAH 46.2 million hryvnias were allocated to the families of Ukrainian citizens illegally detained by the Russian authorities. Thus, 1,448 persons released from the captivity and 462 families of persons deprived of liberty for political reasons due to the armed aggression, in particular in the occupied Crimea, received one-time financial help in the amount of UAH 100,000. It should be noted that in 2022 the appeals of those persons who were captured after February 24 were considered, too.

With Law of Ukraine “On social and legal protection of persons proven to have been deprived of personal liberty due to the armed aggression against Ukraine, and their family members” having come in force, a new commission was set up at the Ministry of Integration to verify a fact of deprivation of personal liberty due to the armed aggression as established by this law. The Commission started working in December, while the previously created Commission that had to suspend its work due to the full scale invasion, and restarted it in July 2022, had been active before the new one.

Pursuant to Edict of President of Ukraine no 579/2022 of August 15, 2022, **the Advisory Council for De-Occupation and Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territory of ARC and Sevastopol’** was set up as an instrument for de-occupying Crimea and implementing the provisions of Strategy for De-Occupation and Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territory of ARC and Sevastopol, and the Regulation on its legal status was approved.⁶⁷ The Advisory Council shall be

⁶⁷ <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/5792022-43629>

CRIMEA PLATFORM

2022

August 23 – Second Summit of the Crimea Platform, Kyiv

October 25 – First Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform, Zagreb

chaired by President of Ukraine and shall coordinate operations of governmental units and officials of various spheres to implement Crimea de-occupation actions. However, as of the end of 2022, the Council did not start acting.

The official events of the **Crimea Platform** set up in 2021 were held in the conditions of full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine. On August 23, 2022, the Second Summit of the Crimea Platform attended by representatives of about 60 foreign countries and international organizations, was held at the initiative of Mr. Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine. For security reasons, the summit was held online. Mr. Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland, personally came to Kyiv to attend the event.⁶⁸ On October 25, 2022 the First Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform co-chaired by Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ruslan Stefanchuk and Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Gordan Jandroković was held in Zagreb⁶⁹. The Summit was attended by delegations from over 50 countries and international institutions: representatives of parliamentary assemblies, international organizations, the European Parliament, the United States, Croatia, the United Kingdom, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Turkey, Norway, Sweden, Canada and Japan, from South America, Africa and Asia.

⁶⁸ <https://www.president.gov.ua/news/z-iniciativi-prezidenta-ukrayini-vidbuvsya-drugij-samit-krim-77249>

⁶⁹ <https://mfa.gov.ua/news/emine-dzhaparova-okupaciya-krimu-navchila-nas-yakshcho-agresora-ne-zupiniti-vin-pide-dali>

IV. INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS ON CRIMEA

Among the international legal documents and resolutions of 2021 related to the occupation of the AR of Crimea and Sevastopol City, these should be mentioned specifically:

21 February 2022

Council of the European Union

Council Regulation⁷⁰

EU sanctions five persons involved in the Russian State Duma elections of September 2021 in illegally-annexed Crimea

20 June 2022

Council of the European Union

Council Regulation⁷¹

The Council decision to renew the sanctions introduced by the EU in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, until 23 June 2023

25 July 2022

Report of the Secretary-General

Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine⁷²

⁷⁰ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/02/21/ukraine-s-territorial-integrity-eu-targets-five-more-individuals-with-restrictive-measures/>

⁷¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/20/crimea-and-the-city-of-sevastopol-eu-extends-sanctions-over-russia-s-illegal-annexation-by-one-year/>

⁷² <https://undocs.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=58646d5e4b0dd0323e8ce567b&iid=cc754a1c89&e=9be5a0b84b> <https://undocs.us10.list-manage.com/track/click>

The report covers the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, and is based primarily on the monitoring and documentation of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Crimea, carried out by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission.

15 December 2022

the UN General Assembly

Resolution “Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine”⁷³

The resolution condemned the unprovoked aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation and the use of Crimea for this aim and to support the attempted illegal annexation of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

New names of illegally imprisoned Ukrainian citizens — Iryna Danylovykh, Bohdan Ziza, Enver Krosh, Vilen Temerianov — were added to the names of political prisoners in the previous resolution (Emir-Usein Kuku, Halyna Dovhopola, Server Mustafaiev, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Nariman Dzhelial).

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⁷³ <https://undocs.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=58646d5e4b0dd0323e8ce567b&id=7a70819927&e=9be5a0b84b>



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