



**CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP**

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REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA

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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 Crimea¹.

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



After the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the CHRG also joined the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition, that collects and documents war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Russian armed aggression in Ukraine².



CHRG is a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court³.

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/>

² <https://www.5am.in.ua/>

³ <https://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/>

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1 CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

ABDUCTIONS IN KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA REGIONS AND TRANSFER TO CRIMEA

When the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine started, 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. The abducted civilians are usually held in pre-trial detention centers (PTDC or SIZO) opened in Simferopol after 2022: PTDC no 2 and PTDC no 8. They become suspects in criminal cases or are held incommunicado without any legal assistance provided and any opportunity to inform their relatives of their whereabouts. The criminal cases against the abducted civilians that include civic activists, volunteers, and local government officials, are heard by “courts” in the occupied Crimea, courts in the territory of the Russian Federation (*including military courts of the Russian Federation*), or “courts” established after February 24, 2022, in the newly occupied territories.

According to the CHRG information, in addition to torture, the civilians are beaten up at each stop along their transportation from the occupied Crimea to Russia¹.

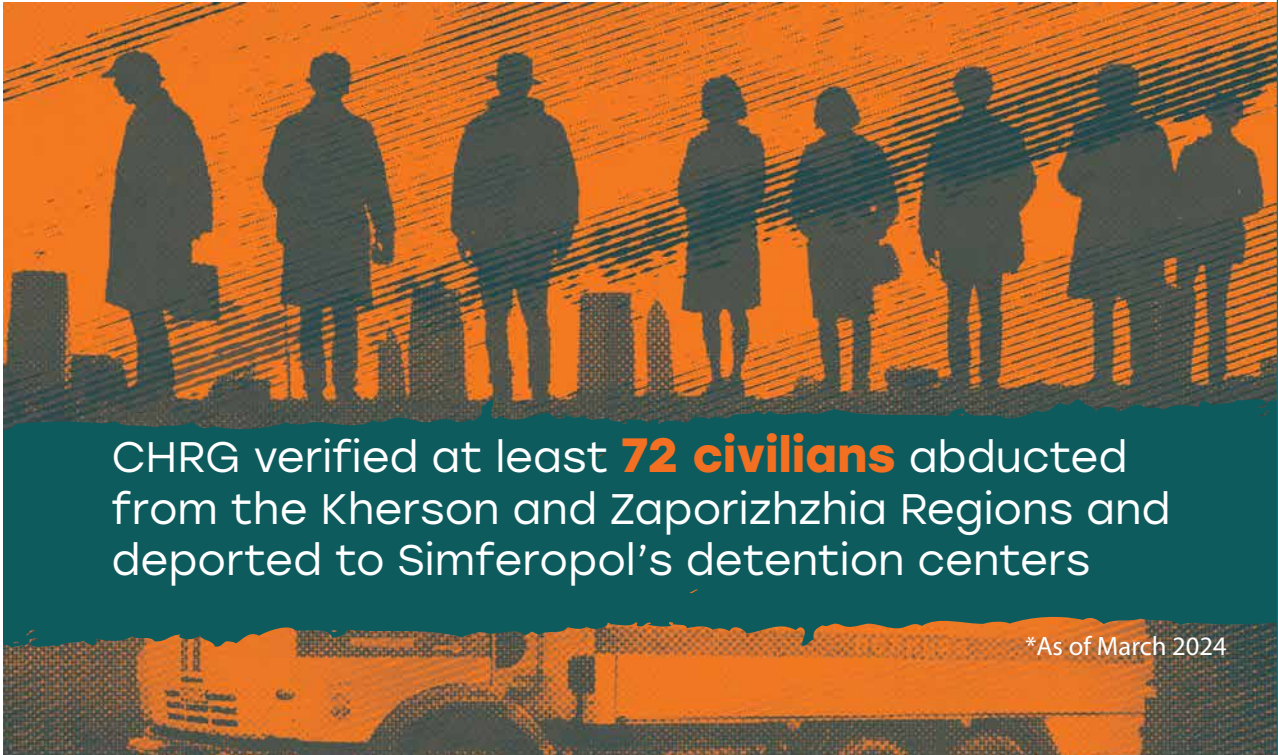
On January 9, 2024, the Southern Military Area Court (Rostov-na-Donu, Russia) extended a detention period for **Volodymyr Kryvtzun and Vitaliy Rastorhuyev** till 2 May 2024². They were abducted on July 13, 2022, in Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia Region, and some time later transported to Crimea. The men have been charged with an attempt, as said, to assassinate Aleksandr Saulenko, Berdiansk occupation “Mayor”, RF CC Article 30-3, Article 361-1. On September 4, 2023, both men were convoyed to PTDC no 1 in Rostov³.

On February 13, 2024, the 3rd Court of Appeal of Russian Federation denied the appeal against a 13-years’ liberty restraint sentence in the case of **Serhiy Tsyhipa**, a journalist and a writer abducted in Nova Kakhovka, Kherson Region, and upheld it. The appeal was considered in camera by judge Yelena Kaporina.

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/occupiers-transported-60-persons-out-of-simferopol-including-abducted-in-newly-occupied-territories/>

² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/ukraïnczi-yakih-rosiya-zvinuvachue-u-zamahu-na-okupaczijnogo-mera-berdyanska-otrimali-viroki/>

³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/two-ukrainians-accused-by-occupiers-of-assassination-attempt-on-berdiansk-occupation-mayor-were-convoyed-to-rostov/>



CHRG verified at least **72 civilians** abducted from the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions and deported to Simferopol's detention centers

*As of March 2024

On February 8, 2024, the Southern Military Area Court in Rostov-na-Donu sentenced **Artem Baranov** abducted in Nova Kakhovka on August 13, 2022, to 10 years and 6 months in custody. He was accused under RF CC Article 276 "Espionage". Only two court sessions were held, and the court did not listen to any witness statements. After the abduction, the man was held in the Kakhovka police station cellar, then transported to the POW camp in the occupied Sevastopol, and finally conveyed to Russia⁴.

In March 2024, the Southern Military Area Court again extended a detention period for **Yaroslav Zhuk** — till 2 July 2024. He was abducted in June 2022 from Melitopol and accused under RF CC Article 361-1 (*act of international terror*): he was said to have attempted to assassinate Yelena Shapurova, occupation Director of Melitopol Department of Education.

As of March 2024, the CHRG verified at least **72 civilians abducted** from the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions and deported to Simferopol. Most of them are held in PTDC no 2.

ABDUCTIONS IN CRIMEA

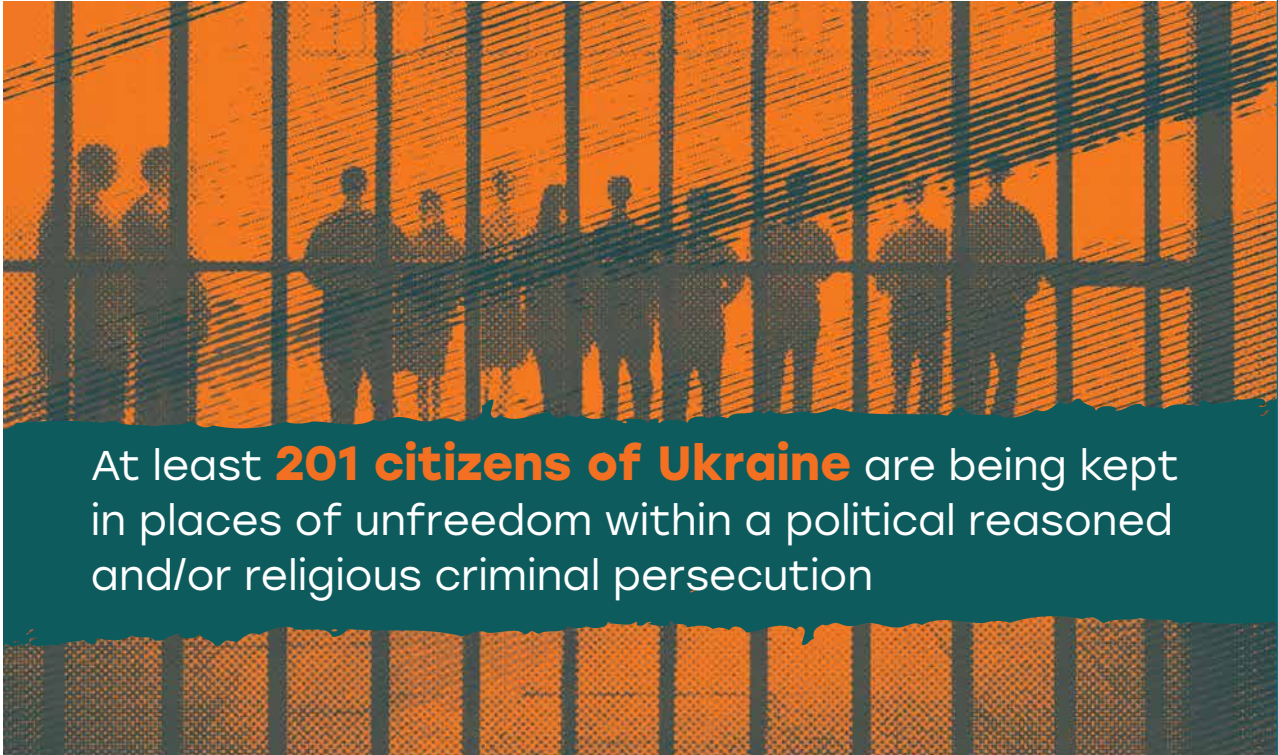
On January 26, 2024, the RF FSB men searched the residence of 28-years' old **Ismayil Shemshedinov** who lived in the village of Kirovske. After the search, the FSB men took him in the unknown direction and told his relatives that he would contact them in three days. The relatives were not informed about the grounds for search and detention, and no case statements were handed. Ismayil Shemshedinov's mother addressed all law enforcement agencies but did not get any answer about her son's detention place⁵. As of end of March 2024, the whereabouts of Ismayil Shemshedinov remained unknown.

⁴ <https://zmina.info/news/meshkanczya-novoyi-kahovky-artema-baranova-rostovskiy-sud-zasudyv-za-shpygunstvo-na-10-rokiv-ta-6-misyacziv/>

⁵ <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/03/04/mesyac-nazad-siloviki-poxitili-ismaila-shemshedinova-ego-seme-do-six-por-neizvestno-o-tom-gde-on-2876>

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

At least 201 citizens of Ukraine are being kept in places of unfreedom within a political reasoned and/or religious criminal persecution. The list of such persons is constantly updated on the CHRГ website: <https://dela.crimeahrg.org/uk/>



At least **201 citizens of Ukraine** are being kept in places of unfreedom within a political reasoned and/or religious criminal persecution

“CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS”

The persons involved in this case, most of whom are Crimean Tatars, are accused of membership in Islamic organizations or propaganda of actions of organizations declared terrorist or extremist in Russia though they do not have this status according to the Ukrainian laws. Cases are considered in violation of the right to a fair trial, the key evidence for the court is the testimony of anonymous witnesses (*many of them are the Russian Federation FSB staff*), pre-trial testimony of witnesses who later in the court declare having given them under pressure, and linguistic examinations of accused Muslims' conversations. Evidence provided by the defense is usually not taken into consideration by judges.

As of the end of March 2024, the number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty within the “Case of Crimean Muslims” reached **at least 109 persons**. In January – March 2024 the CHRГ documented at least **21 searches in the houses of Crimean Tatars**, including 10 within the criminal cases under RF CC Article 205.5 on the charge of Hizb-ut-Tahrir membership.

On the morning of March 5, 2024, 10 houses of Crimean Tatars were searched in Bakhchysarai, Dzhankoy and the Dzhankoy District in Crimea. After searches, **Remzi Kurtnezirov, Nariman Ametov, Enver Khalilayev, Arsen Kashka, Ali Mamutov, Vakhid Mustafayev, Mustafa Abduramanov, Memet Liumanov, Aziz Azizov and Rustem Osmanov**⁶ were detained on suspicion of Hizb ut-Tahrir membership. The detainees are activists of the CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/chergovi-obshuki-v-krimu-zatrimani-10-krimskih-tatar/>

initiative and religious figures. They are charged under RF CC Article 205.5 (*Management of a terrorist organization activity and participation in such organization actions*).

On the same day, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol placed Memet Liumanov, Aziz Azizov, Rustem Osmanov and Mustafa Abduramanov in detention until May 4, 2024⁷. Remzi Kurtnezirov, the former imam of the mosque in Lobanovo, according to the “court” decision, was placed under house arrest until May 4, 2024, since he was a Group 2 disability person and a diabetic, had suffered three strokes, and cranial trepanation.

On March 6, 2024, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol placed Enver Khalilayev, Nariman Ametov, Ali Mamutov, the imam of the Lobanovo village mosque, VaKhid Mustafayev, and activist Arsen Kashka in detention for two months.

PERSECUTION OF CRIMEAN TATAR PEOPLE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OFFICIALS

On January 23, 2024, men who introduced themselves as criminal investigation officers searched the home of **Nazim Memetov**, deputy chairman of the Central Election Commission for electing delegates at the Kurultay of the Crimean Tatar People. These men said that the search was being carried out as part of a criminal case on the illegal trafficking of weapons. The search resulted in seizing a mobile phone and a laptop, but no charges or suspicions were brought⁸.

On February 16, 2024, the RF FSB men searched the house of **Illias Muslimov**. While searching they asked Mr. Muslimov about his affiliation with the Crimean Tatar People Mejlis and membership in the parties forbidden in Russia. His son, Asan Muslimov, was detained after the search. Having been interrogated in the RF FSB unit in Kerch, he was allowed to go⁹.

On February 22, 2024, the RF MIA men searched the home museum of **Ilver Ametov**, a veteran of the Crimean Tatar national movement and Chairman of Sudak Regional Mejlis, in order to “find forbidden objects”. After the search, some iron objects were seized from the museum “for examination”. Mr. Ametov considers this to be a pressure on him as Chairman of regional Mejlis¹⁰.

On March 13, 2024, the RF FSB searched the house of **Edem Dudakov**, a Crimean Tatar activist and a member of Crimean Tatar People Kurultay Audit Commission, in Bakhchisarai. After the search he was transported to the RF FSB Department in Simferopol, interrogated, and then allowed to go¹¹.

CASE OF LENIYE UMEROVVA

Since December 4, 2022, **Leniye Umerova**, a 25-years-old Crimean woman, has been unlawfully deprived of liberty: she was detained on her way to the occupied Crimea to visit her father suffering from cancer. Until March 16, she was held in the Center for Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens near Vladikavkaz. The Prigorodnyi District Court found Ms. Umerova guilty of “violating

⁷ https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/03/06/chetyrex-aktivistov-iz-baxchisaraya-otpravili-v-sizo-do--maya-2877?fbclid=IwAR10X4vB1cJTrZuX8QWH2L9eP5NDoMBDYsjR5Ul1IQsdBfKBezj7rTslcM_aem_AbxBXslEmyiyG56dbS9cs-1oezL6jZsUGfKU_98yac0tUppyfSYaA3FFQ3DteDSE6BZGj-IVJV3d-y6NHAh8DtRz

⁸ <https://ua.krymr.com/a/news-krym-obshuk-zastupnyk-holovy-tsvk-kurultai-krymskotatarskohu-narodu-nazim-memetov/32788409.html>

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/100075672499111/posts/411443458054734/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

¹⁰ https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/02/27/policejskie-proveli-obysk-v-domashnem-muzee-ilvera-ametova-2872?fbclid=IwAR3oZtxCTowBW_7Xxum2Y8fMhTha6zwb8KrGpB54-zsmuW251YmfXmbuAUy_aem_AbxRPJ8nIDEu-z9PYEsbcIQFHqQ6B-tlKL3uwcEBg16j3L1alt0cgc_86i05yEgU4in-YZYCqjXiFBUEfHxfuqMm

¹¹ <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-krym-aktyvista-dudakova-vidpustyly/32861415.html>

the state border regime” (*Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation, Article 18.1*) and fined her RUR2,000. Then till the early May she was kept in the temporary containment cell of Vladikavkaz under falsified administrative cases for so called “disobedience to the RF MIA staff’s requirements.”

In early May 2023 Ms. Umerova was moved to Moscow, Lefortovo Pre-Trial Detention Center, and accused of espionage. Since then, the Lefortovo Court of Moscow has been extending her detention period. In March 2024, the detention in the PTDC was extended in camera for two months more – till May 4, 2024¹².

“CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS”

At least 37 citizens of Ukraine are held in confinement under the Crimean cases of “Ukrainian Commandos and Spies” including people detained in Crimea: **Volodymyr Dudka, Oleksiy Bessarabov, Dmytro Shtyblikov, Hennadiy Limeshko, Leonid Parkhomenko, Kostiantyn Davydenko, Dmytro Dolhopolov, Anna Sukhonosova, Yunus Masharipov, Ivan Yatskin, Halyna Dovhopola, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Yevhen Petrushyn, Stanislav Stetsenko (Khudoley), Kyrylo Barannyk, Serhiy Voynarovskyy, Viktor Podvalnyy, Vitaliy Talavira, Denys Petranov, Ihor Kupych, Oleksandr Lytvynenko, Serhiy Kryvosheyin, Kostiantyn Yevmenenko, Ihor Zorin, Mykhaylo Chupil, Mykola Onuk, Volodymyr Ananyev.**

This list includes also at least **10 persons** who were abducted in the Zaporizhzhia or Kherson Regions after February 24, 2022: **Artem Baranov, Oleksandr Novatskyy, Vitaliy Rastorhuyev, Volodymyr Kryvtzun, Oleksandr Zarivnyy, Hennadiy Lasinskyy, Serhiy Tsyhipa, Mykola Petrovskyy, Serhiy Kotov, Yaroslav Zhuk.**

In these cases, the RF FSB, detaining the people, accuses them of “preparing acts of sabotage, storing arms, and spying”. These are the cases in which illegal methods of investigating and torturing to obtain confessions, violation of the presumption of innocence, distribution of “confession” videos by the RF FSB through the Russian media have been recorded.

In January the RF MIA Extremism Counteracting Center men (E Center) detained a 28-years’ old resident of Simferopol district, with his first and family names kept undisclosed. The man was accused of collecting the information “about strategically important objects” in the territory of Crimea, which he was said to be publishing on the pro-Ukrainian public pages¹³. One of the pieces of “evidence” is a police video of unknown man riding a bicycle along the street. The case against the detained was opened under RF CC Article 222.1-1 (“*Illegal acquisition, transfer, sales, storage of explosive substances or explosive devices*”). The “Simferopol District Court” placed him in pre-trial detention.

In January one more criminal case was opened – against **Mykola Onuk**¹⁴, a Simferopol resident, accused of “carrying out direct actions in Crimea under handling of Center for Information and Psychological Operations staff”, RF CC articles 222.1, 214, 329 (“*illegal acquisition, transfer, sales, storage of explosive substances or explosive devices; vandalism; desecration of National Emblem or Flag of Russian Federation*”).

In February the Russian media informed about “preventing “a SBU act of terror” against one of Crimea leaders” and detaining three persons. According to the RF FSB version, the citizens of Ukraine were preparing to blow up a car. The detained persons are a woman with **Shevchenko**

¹² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/lenie-umerovu-znovu-zalishili-pid-vartoyu-u-moskovskomu-sizo/>

¹³ <https://ua.krymr.com/a/rosia-pidpillia-krymchany-viaznytsi-pidtrymka-ukrainy/32806234.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.voicecrimea.com.ua/main/mainnews/novi-zvinuvachennya-proti-ukraïncya-mikoli-onuki.html>

family name, a Zaporizhzhia region resident, and two men: **Volodymyr Ananyev**, and **Volodymyr Bodnar**. The video disseminated by the FSB presents Volodymyr Bodnar, born 1974 and registered in Zaporizhzhia, who is saying that “SBU men told him to bring an American or German-made explosive device to the territory of Melitopol.” The man is said to have cut a hole in the gas cylinder, placed a “mine” in the rag there and brought it to Crimea, passing through customs¹⁵.

Kyrylo Barannyk, a Simferopol resident, an orienteering master sportsman, detained by the occupiers on suspicion of blowing up railway tracks, was added new charges. He was detained on May 30, 2023, in Simferopol and accused of blowing up railway tracks on February 23, 2023, in the village of Poshtove, Bakhchisarai District. Kyryl reported torturing with electricity. Once he confessed, the FSB men kept on torturing to force him to confess in blowing up the railway at another village — Chystenke, Simferopol District, on May 18, 2023.

The man has been charged under three RF CC articles: 222 (*illegal acquisition and storage of ammunition*), 275 (*high treason*), 205.5-2 (*participation in the terrorist organization actions*). In addition, according to the CHRG information, the case of Kyrylo Barannyk was combined with some other so called “commando” cases.

PERSECUTION ON CHARGE OF SERVING IN N. CHELEBIDZHUKHAN BATTALION

The official reason for persecuting the accused in Crimea under RF CC Article 208-2 (*Service in the illegal military formation which activity objectives contradict the interests of the Russian Federation*) is that they failed to come voluntarily to the RF law enforcement bodies and declare their service in the “Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhukhan Volunteer Battalion”. The evidence of the battalion actions against the RF interests declared by the investigation is the information of mass media that the purpose of the battalion establishment was to de-occupy Crimea. On June 1, 2022, the Supreme Court of RF declared the Crimean Tatar Noman Chelebidzhukhan Volunteer Battalion “terrorist” and forbade its activity on the RF territory.

As of the late 2023, more than 30 persons, including citizens of Ukraine 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. Chelebidzhukhan Battalion.

It has become more and more common practice of the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea to keep confidential names of the persons detained or sentenced on the charges of serving in the battalion.

For instance, a local resident was detained in occupied Henichesk, Kherson Region, as said because of his serving in the N. Chelebidzhukhan Battalion. The “Investigation Committee of Russian Federation in Crimea” reported that a 55-year-old man joined the battalion in December 2015, and actively participated in the “public protest events”, produced “propaganda materials for the mass media”, and “campaigned for the forcible alienation of Crimea from Russia”. A criminal case under RF CC Article 208-2 was started against the detained.¹⁶

In late March 2024, the RF FSB reported the detention of a Crimean resident, aged 36, who was said to serve in the N. Chelebidzhukhan Battalion. According to the FSB version, the detained joined the battalion in 2015 and “actively participated in its actions aimed against the interests of Russia. Carrying a firearm, he was to check people and vehicles at the checkpoints”.¹⁷

¹⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/fsb-stated-a-new-detention-of-saboteurs-in-crimea/>

¹⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-resident-of-henichesk-detained-for-allegedly-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/man-detained-in-crimea-for-allegedly-serving-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

In 2017, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation recognized “Jehovah’s Witnesses” as an extremist organization and banned its activities in the territory of the Russian Federation, including the Crimean branches of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Since 2018, the persecution of “Jehovah’s Witnesses” under criminal cases has begun. In 2020, the first confinement sentences were passed for members of the “Jehovah’s Witnesses” organization.

In March the “Supreme Court” of Crimea cancelled the sentences for **Taras and Dar’ya Kuzio, Petro Zhyl’tsov, and Serhiy Liulin**. On February 27, 2023, Vladimir Romanenko, judge of “Yalta Town Court”, sentenced Taras Kuzio to 6.5 years in the penal colony, Serhiy Liulin and Petro Zhyl’tsov to 6 years and 1 month in the penal colony, and Dar’ya Kuzio to 3 years suspended. The “Supreme Court” of Crimea changed their restraint for a ban of some actions, while the level of restriction in case of Dar’ya Kuzio remained the same — a written undertaking not to leave. The case will be reconsidered by another “court” composition.

According to the organization, 30 representatives of “Jehovah’s Witnesses” in total are being criminally persecuted, including 9 serving already their sentences — 6 to 6.5 years — in the penal colonies.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

On January 31, 2024, the State Duma of the Russian Federation (the Parliament) unanimously adopted, in the second and third readings, a draft law on the confiscation of property of the convicted under the political articles, i.e. Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (“*fakes about the Russian army*”) and Article 280.4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (“*public appeals to carry out activities against the security of the state*”).

In addition, the amendments to Article 104.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation establish that the activity aimed against the security of the Russian Federation means the commission of at least one of the crimes stated, in particular, by the articles on mercenary activities, genocide, desertion, failure to comply with an order, receiving or giving a bribe, and banditry. In total, this list includes more than 30 articles of the code¹⁸.

On February 14, V. Putin signed this law¹⁹ that provided the Russian authorities with a mechanism for the confiscation of “money, valuables and other property” should they have been used or intended for “activities aimed against the security of the Russian Federation”. The broad framework, legal uncertainty of the criminal articles on the crime composition, and the political nature of the “activity aimed against the security of the Russian Federation” definition allow the Russian authorities not only to persecute journalists, public figures, activists for supporting Ukraine, anti-war slogans, disseminating the information about international crimes committed by the Russian military in Ukraine, but also to deprive people disloyal to the Kremlin of their property.

On February 15, 2024, Center E men detained **lawyer Emil Kurbedinov** in Simferopol in connection with an administrative case under RF CoAO Article 13.15-9 (*Abuse of Freedom of Mass Information*) on “disseminating false information under the guise of reliable one.” The case was opened due to the statement of one of KRYMSKIY SMERSH Telegram channel administrators regarding a publication of July 14, 2023. This publication presents Emil Kurbedinov explaining Crimean students how to react, in line with the Russian laws, on receiving a conscription notice. The case has been being considered by “justice of peace no 10”.

¹⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/russia-decided-to-confiscate-property-of-the-convicts-for-fakes-about-russian-army/>

¹⁹ <https://www.svoboda.org/a/putin-podpisal-zakon-o-konfiskatsii-imuschestva-za-feyki-/32818987.html>

On February 22, 2024, the Center E operatives searched the house of **Lutfiye Zudiyeva**, a journalist and human rights defender. After the search, the journalist was detained and transported to Center E where two reports were drawn up on her under RF CoAO Article 13.15 (*Abuse of Freedom of Mass Information*). She was accused of not mentioning that Radio SVOBODA media had been declared a “foreign agent” in Russia, in her reference to its materials. Then, the police did not find an indication that Hizb ut-Tahrir had been recognized a terrorist organization in the Russian Federation, in one of the posts about Muslim prayers.²⁰ On March 20, 2024, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol fined Lutfiye Zudiyeva RUR2,500 under RF CoAO Article 13.15-2.1.

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

In January – March 2024, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded **at least 110 administrative cases** sent by the occupation authorities to the Crimea “courts” under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (*“discrediting of the Russian Army”*), with **103** for which the administrative punishment (a penalty or an administrative arrest) awarded. For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **667 such administrative proceedings**.

The CHRG analysis of court decisions proves that the administrative article “on discrediting the Russian army” is used for restricting consistently freedom of expression in the territory of Crimea. It has become a common practice to persecute for anti-war statements, publication of photos of the Ukrainian flag on social networks, attempts to call Crimea an occupied territory of Ukraine, any negative statements about the Russian officials and the armed forces of the Russian Federation, statements in support of Ukraine, “Glory to Ukraine” slogan published on the network or voiced in the street, expression of an opinion that condemns the war crimes committed in the hostility area in the territory of Ukraine, attempts to call “special military operation” a war.

Among the decisions documented by the CHRG is a case when a “judge” declared the clothes the discrediting of the armed forces of the Russian Federation. A resident of Armiansk was RUR30,000 fined for the clothes he was wearing when he came to the shop. The man was wearing a yellow T-shirt with a depiction of the Ukrainian coat of arms and the word UKRAINE written in blue²¹.

In January – March, 2024, the CHRG again recorded criminal and administrative cases against Crimeans provoked by the publications of the pro-Russian blogger Aleksandr Talipov, the founder and coordinator of the Internet community called “Crimean SMERSH”. The community members have been persecuting those who do not support the Russian power and the war against Ukraine, publishing the personal data of such people, inciting hatred to them, calling to persecute them, and reporting to the RF FSB and MIA.

For instance, on January 24, 2024, Talipov’s propagandist Telegram channel published a video of detaining **Oleksandr Savytskyi**, a Yalta resident. Talipov commented the video, saying that the detained “had actively discredited the Russian army, offended the President, denied the territorial integrity of the country, waited for the ZSU (*Armed Forces of Ukraine*) to come, and published Nazi slogans”. It is known that an administrative case under Article 20.3.3 (*“discrediting of the army”*) was opened against Oleksandr Savytskyi, and he was arrested for 10 days²². The day before his detention, Oleksandr wrote “Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Heroes!” in his publication and mentioned that he was waiting for the detention.

On August 26, 2023, Talipov posted a video in Crimean Internet groups showing how Oleksandr

²⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/two-reports-drawn-up-against-lutfiye-zudiyeva-journalist-and-human-rights-defender-after-search-and-detention/>

²¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/v-krimu-lyudej-peresliduyut-za-odyag-pisni-ta-vpodobajki/>

²² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/oleksandr-savytskyiy-resident-of-yalta-arrested-for-publications-on-social-networks/>

Tiurenko, a local resident, urinated on the letters Z and V installed on the square in Bakhchisarai. Later, Talipov posted a video filmed in the department of the occupation “police” with apologizing Oleksandr Tiurenko. The man was detained under Article 214-2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (*vandalism motivated by political hatred*). On January 30, 2024, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea sentenced the man to two years of suspended confinement with a two-year probationary period and banned him posting the materials on the Internet for three years. Oleksandr Tiurenko was found guilty under the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, Article 214-2 (*vandalism committed on political enmity motifs*) and Article 354.1-4 (*desecration of symbols of military glory of the Russian Federation*)²³.

On February 27, 2024, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea sentenced Yevhen Shved from the Dzhankoy District to 2.5 years in prison. Earlier, Yevhen had been brought to administrative responsibility three times for public statements. In the spring of 2023, Yevhen Shved wrote in his Telegram channel that May 9 was a “despicable, faulty pseudo-holiday warped to the depths of its essence,” which had terrified him since childhood²⁴. A few days later, videos of Yevhen’s detention and his apology were posted on the Crimean SMERSH public page. Later it became known that security men abducted him in June 2023, and a month later he was found in the Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1. A criminal case for “disseminating deliberately false information about the activities of the USSR during the Second World War” and information showing “disrespect to society, about the days of military glory” was opened against Yevhen in July 2023. After his arrest, Yevhen Shved admitted his guilt and made a “voluntary” contribution to the “SVO” support fund. For doing this he was promised a suspended sentence. However, Nataliya Kulinskaya, judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea, found Yevhen Shved guilty under Article 354.1-2 and -4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (*“rehabilitation of Nazism”*) and sentenced him to 2.5 years in custody with a 4-year ban to administer websites²⁵.

On March 20, 2024, a man was arrested for “Crimea is Ukraine” slogan in the village of Perovo, Simferopol District. It was Crimean SMERSH that published the video of detaining this man. According to Talipov, the detained was transported to the temporary detention unit for 15 days, and the case files were sent to the “court”.

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On February 29, 2024, homes of four Crimean Tatars — **Lenur Yakubov**, **Izet Sayfullin**, imam of the ESKI KIRIM independent Muslim community, **Idris Yurdamov**, head of the community, and activist **Shevket Kiyamov** — were searched in Staryi Krym and the village of Zhuravky. In addition, the mosque of the town of Staryi Krym was searched. Lenur Yakubov was charged with CC RF Article 20.3 (*“Propaganda or public demonstration of extremist organizations”*), and “Kirovskiy District Court” sentenced him to 14 days of arrest.

Izet Sayfullin was charged with RF CoAO Article 5.26 on carrying out missionary activities in violation of the requirements of Law of the Russian Federation “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations”. His case has been being considered by “justice of peace no 53”.

On March 29, 2024, the “Kirovskiy District Court” fined the **ESKI KIRIM** Muslim community RUR100,000 for storing the books included in the Russian list of prohibited literature, in the “Az-Zubair” mosque in Staryi Krym.

²³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/meshkanczyu-bahchisarayu-yakij-pomochivsyia-na-instalyacziyu-z-literami-z-ta-v-vinesli-virok/>

²⁴ <https://zmina.info/news/v-okupovanomu-krymu-na-25-roky-zasudyly-cholovika-yakij-vyslovyv-stavlennya-do-dnya-peremogy/>

²⁵ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/krymchanin-yevgeniy-shved-kritika-voiny-dnya-pobedy-rossiya-zaklyucheniye/32843787.html>

2 VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS

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

The Russian Federation has been involving Crimeans in a full-scale war against Ukraine. In violation of the international humanitarian law norms a forced conscription of Crimeans to the ranks of the Russian Federation Armed Forces keeps going. Compelling the residents of occupied territories to serve in the army of the Occupying Power constitutes a violation of international law, namely, clauses of Article 51, Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Moreover, acts of individuals responsible for such compelling constitute a war crime according to Article 8 of International Criminal Court Rome Statute.

In order to force the Crimeans to serve in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the occupation authorities criminally persecute for evasion of such service under RF CC Article 328 (*Evasion of service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*). Since the start of the occupation, the CHRG has documented at least **502** such criminal cases. The most common “court” sentence is imposing fines of up to RUR50,000, though the fine payment does not exempt from service.

Since February 24, 2022, the Crimean Human Rights Group has been collecting the data on killed and captured Russian Army military assigned to the military units in Crimea. In January – March 2024 the CHRG documented at least 142 killed from the military fighting for Russia. Since the start of the full-scale invasion the number of killed documented by the CHRG has totaled **622**.

ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMEA

Since February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation has been constantly attacking many civil facilities of Ukraine with missiles, UAVs and air bombs from the territory of occupied Crimea and the Black Sea water zone that caused fatalities and injuries among the civilians.

Since late September 2022, the Russian Federation has been active in using Iran made SHAHED kamikaze drones to attack civilian infrastructure. A substantial part of such drones is also launched from the occupied peninsula territory.

On the morning of January 8, 2024, the Russian Armed Forces launched a massive attack, using cruise, air-borne, ballistic, anti-aircraft guided missiles and attack UAVs. 6 “Iskander-M” ballistic



missiles fired from the areas of towns of Dzhankoy and Chauda attacked the city of Zaporizhzhia, resulting in injuring five people in residential areas¹.

On March 15, 2024, the Russian Armed Forces attacked Odesa with two Iskander-M missiles from Crimea. The attack caused **21 fatalities and injury of 73 persons**². The missiles destroyed a three-story building of a recreational facility and four private houses, and at least 64 private houses were damaged³. Among the fatalities and injured are local residents as well as medical and rescue staff who arrived at the place of the first missile hit. The second hit was when the emergency services were providing aid to the victims of the first one⁴.

On the night and morning of March 22, 2024, the Russian Armed Forces launched a combined attack on Ukrainian cities and critical infrastructure facilities using attack drones, ballistic and cruise missiles, including Iskander-M missiles from the territory of Crimea⁵. It was the major attack on Ukraine's energy industry since the war started. This attack killed and injured the people, caused the problems with water and power supply. Due to the attack, private and multi-apartment buildings were damaged, and the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant temporarily lost connection to one of the feeding lines. In addition, the Dnipro Hydroelectric Power Station was heavily damaged.

On March 25, 2024, two hypersonic missiles — ZYRKON — were launched from Crimea to attack Kyiv. Seven people were affected by the attack⁶. The first use of such type of missiles fired from the occupied Crimea to attack Kyiv was recorded on February 7, 2024. Underground cables in one of the city districts were damaged due to this hit⁷.

¹ <https://susplne.media/656232-naslidki-rosijskogo-raketnogo-obstrilu-zaporizza-cetvero-ludej-poraneni/>

² <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/v-odesi-zrosla-kilkist-zagiblih-vid-raketnogo-udaru-rf-15-bereznya-50401697.html>

³ <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/rosiyskiy-raketniy-obstril-odesi-poshkodiv-64-budinki-4-znishchiv-povnistyu-novini-odesi-50401777.html>

⁴ <https://susplne.media/odesa/706382-v-odesi-cerez-rankovu-ataku-e-poraneni-ova/>

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/kpszsu/posts/821204353380848>

⁶ <https://mil.in.ua/uk/news/ukrayinska-ppo-zbyla-rosijsku-giperzvukovu-raketu-tsyron/>

⁷ https://t.me/war_monitor/14504

3 GOVERNMENTAL POLICY OF UKRAINE TO PROTECT CITIZENS UNDER CONDITIONS OF OCCUPATION OF ARC AND SEVASTOPOL

In January – March 2024, the Ukrainian authorities held a number of actions aimed at returning the Ukrainian civilians unlawfully deprived of liberty by the Russian Federation and supporting them after the release. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution no 208 of 27 February 2024 that assigned the coordination of efforts on returning the civilians deprived of personal freedom due to the armed aggression, on the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War. In addition, on March 15, 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution no 296 that establishment a procedure for providing medical and psychological aid both to the defenders of Ukraine and to the civilians after their returning from the captivity and sites of unlawful deprivation of liberty. Ukraine has also initiated activities of international mechanisms to return the Ukrainian civilians under the International Platform for Releasing Civilians Unlawfully Held by the Russian Federation, and OSCE Special Mission:

1. The Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War shall be now in charge of releasing the civilians deprived of personal freedom due to the armed aggression. The HQ were set up in 2022 to coordinate actions of governmental bodies, military units and public associations in treating the POWs. On February 27, 2024, the Government adopted Resolution no 208¹ that obliged the Coordination HQ **to coordinate issues related to the defenders of Ukraine kept in captivity by the aggressor state, enemy POWs as well as civilians deprived of personal freedom as well as persons missing due to the armed conflict.** In addition, the Coordination Headquarters shall be also obliged to manage informational and legal aid for family members of captured defenders, civilians deprived of personal liberty as a result of armed aggression, and persons missing due to the armed conflict, on issues related to the observance of their rights and legitimate interests, to support the reintegration of released defenders of Ukraine and civilians, as well as to assist in repatriating bodies (remains) of defenders of Ukraine and civilians who died as a result of armed aggression as well as bodies of servicemen of the armed forces and other military formations of the aggressor state.
2. On March 15, 2024, the Government adopted Resolution no 296 that approved the **Procedure for rehabilitative (post-isolation, reintegration) measures, measures for adaptation, support (case management) of persons** verified as deprived of their personal liberty as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine, after their release². The Procedure establishes that released defenders of Ukraine, after their stay in isolation, shall be provided with medical and psychological assistance for the purpose of their rehabilitation and return to full quality life. The released civilians may also receive such assistance subject to their wish. The Procedure describes general conditions for providing medical, rehabilitation, psychological assistance as

¹ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/208-2024-%D0%BF#n78>

² <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/296-2024-%D0%BF#Text>

well as social services for the released persons. In addition, duties and authorities of governmental bodies in assisting the released persons are fixed.

According to the Procedure, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Department of State Security, and the Foreign Intelligence Service shall assign centers for providing medical, rehabilitation, and psychological assistance and carrying out reintegration and rehabilitation measures for the released defenders of Ukraine; the Ministry of Health shall assign health care institutions for providing medical, rehabilitation and psychological assistance to the released civilians; the Ministry of Social Policy shall assign social service providers to meet the needs of released persons in social services, and the Ministry of Defense shall approve uniform standard protocols for reintegration measures.

3. On February 26, 2024, the **International Platform for Releasing Civilians Unlawfully Detained by the Russian Federation** was officially launched. The first meeting of the Platform was held unattended by representatives of civil society taking care of the problems of civilian hostages and political prisoners in the occupied territories. According to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mr. Dmytro Lubinets, since 2022, about 28,000 people have been considered missing under special circumstances and unlawfully deprived of their personal liberty as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine.

The Ombudsman suggested such actions:

- Introduction of sanctions against persons guilty of unlawful deprivation of liberty of civilians,
- Implementation of diplomatic persuasion measures,
- Issuance of warrants for the arrest of Russian officials guilty of enforced disappearances of civilians in Ukraine by the International Criminal Court,
- Full access to prisoners of war and victims of enforced disappearances in the Russian Federation and its occupied territories obtained by the International Committee of the Red Cross³.

On February 29, 2024, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War informed that Ukraine had initiated the deployment of an international mission to help Ukrainian civilian hostages held by the Russian Federation under the OSCE. It is assumed that the mission under the aegis of the OSCE will help investigate international crimes, establish the facts and the real scale of the practice of deprivation of freedom of civilians⁴.

4. In January – February 2024 two meetings of the Interdepartmental Commission for **Verifying the Fact of Personal Freedom Deprivation due to Armed Aggression** against Ukraine were held. The Commission acknowledges this both for POWs and civilians.

³ https://t.me/dmytro_lubinetzs/5048

⁴ https://t.me/Koord_shtab/4489