



**CRIMEAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
GROUP**

e-mail: [crimeahrg@gmail.com](mailto:crimeahrg@gmail.com)

website: [crimeahrg.org](http://crimeahrg.org)

# **REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA**

**APRIL – JUNE, 2024**

Kyiv  
2024



**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<sup>1</sup>.

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

**5:00 AM**



**COALITION**

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 Ukraine<sup>2</sup>.

**COALITION  
FOR THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL COURT**

CHRG is a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.5am.in.ua/>

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

# CONTENTS

<b>1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS</b> .....	2
FORCED DISAPPEARANCES.....	2
<i>Abductions in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and transfer to Crimea</i> .....	2
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION .....	3
<i>“Case of Crimean muslims”</i> .....	3
<i>Case of Nariman Dzhelial</i> .....	4
<i>Case of Leniye Umerova</i> .....	4
<i>“Case of Ukrainian commandos”</i> .....	5
<i>Persecution on charge of serving in N. Chelebidzhikhan battalion</i> .....	6
<i>Persecution of Jehovah’s witnesses</i> .....	7
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION.....	7
<i>Persecution for support of Ukraine and anti-war position</i> .....	8
CONSCRIPTION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY RESIDENTS TO ARMED FORCES OF OCCUPYING POWER AND MOBILIZATION .....	11
ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANSFROM CRIMEA.....	11
<b>2. VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS</b> .....	11
<b>3. GOVERNMENTAL POLICY OF UKRAINE TO PROTECT CITIZENS UNDER     CONDITIONS OF OCCUPATION OF ARC AND SEVASTOPOL</b> .....	13

# 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 Russia<sup>1</sup>.

On May 30, 2024, the 4th Cassation Court of General Jurisdiction in Krasnodar (Russia) upheld a sentence of **Appaz Kurtamet**, a Crimean Tatar, a teacher of the Crimean Tatar language from the village of Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region<sup>2</sup>. He was sentenced to 7 years in confinement on charges of “financing a militant group”. He was detained by the RF FSB at CHONGAR Checkpoint on July 23, 2022, on entering Crimea.

In June 2024, the RF Southern Area Military Court read out the sentence of **Yaroslav Zhuk**, a Melitopol resident. He was found guilty of committing an “act of international terror”, and sentenced to 14 years in confinement, with serving the first 4 years in jail, and the remaining sentence in the maximum-security regime penal colony<sup>3</sup>. Yaroslav Zhuk was abducted in June 2022 in the occupied Melitopol and accused of attempting to assassinate Yelena Shapurova, director of the city’s department of education.

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/russian-cassation-upheld-sentence-of-appaz-kurtamet/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/yaroslav-zhuk-abducted-resident-of-melitopol-was-sentenced-to-14-years/>



Violating the international humanitarian law norms, the occupation authorities in Crimea also bring POWs to the court. On June 10, 2024, “Supreme Court of Crimea” sentenced **Ivan Tereschenko and Vasyl Dmytriuk**, two Ukrainian border guards, AZOVSTAL defenders, who detained M/S NORD flying the Russian flag in 2018, to 17 years in confinement<sup>4</sup>. They both became Russian prisoners of war on May 16, 2022, when, as ordered by the commander, left AZOVSTAL.

As of June 2024, the CHRG verified at least **79 civilians** abducted from the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions and deported to Crimea. Most of them are held in Pre-Trial Detention Center no 2 during the investigation stage and moved to the Russian Federation for the court proceedings in their criminal cases.

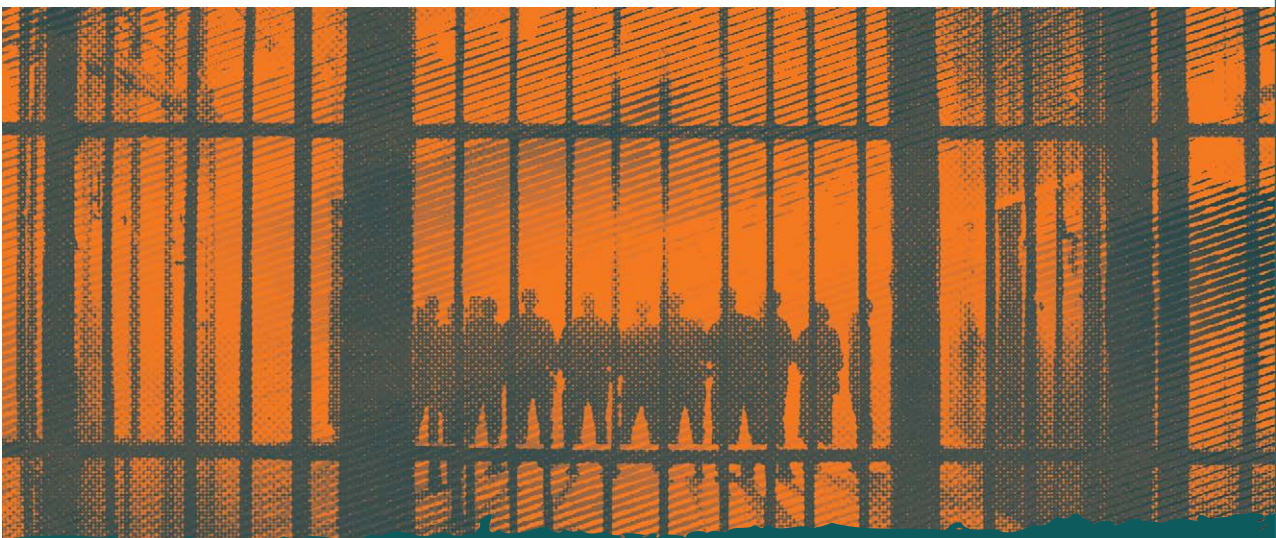
## POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

At least 202 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 CHRG website: <https://dela.crimeahrg.org/en/>

### “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



At least **202 citizens of Ukraine** are being kept in places of unfreedom within a political reasoned and/or religious criminal persecution

<sup>4</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/occupiers-in-crimea-sentenced-two-ukrainian-border-guards-from-azovstal-to-17-years/>

linguistic examinations of accused Muslims' conversations. Evidence provided by the defense is usually not taken into consideration by judges.

As of the end of June 2024, the number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty within the "Case of Crimean Muslims" reached **at least 108 persons**.

In April, Refat Alimov, a Crimean Tatar previously sentenced to 8 years, was released after serving his unlawful incarceration<sup>5</sup>. He was arrested on April 18, 2016, after the search of his house in the village of Krasnokamyanka near Alushta.

The Frunzenskiy District Court of Vladimir refused to release Amet Suleymanov, a Crimean Tatar, a citizen journalist and an activist, who was sentenced to 12 years in confinement<sup>6</sup>. The court ignored the fact that he had two diseases included in the list of diseases incompatible with the confinement conditions. He suffers from coronary heart and mitral valve diseases. However, in October 2021, the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation sentenced the activist to 12 years in confinement.

In June the Russian Supreme Court considered the cassation appeal and upheld the decisions of courts of previous instances on Mr. Vadym Bektemirov's case — 11 years' sentence for, as they said, membership in the Hizb-ut-Tahrir<sup>7</sup>. Vadym Bektemirov and Zekir'ya Muratov were arrested on July 7, 2020. During the search the security men planted forbidden publications to withdraw them later as "evidence" of involvement in the Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

## CASE OF NARIMAN DZHELIAL

On June 28, 2024, Ukraine managed to liberate and return Nariman Dzhelial, a political prisoner, deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of Crimean Tatar People, from Russian captivity. 9 more civil Ukrainians were returned together with him<sup>8</sup>. Liberation of Nariman Dzhelial became the first liberation of a Ukrainian citizen from Crimea since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. Before 2022 only 8 Ukrainian citizens from Crimea persecuted for political reasons had been liberated thanks to political arrangements.

Nariman Dzhelial, Asan and Aziz Akhmetovs were arrested in September 2021. Mr. Dzhelial was arrested a few days after his public participation in the International Crimea Platform Inaugural Summit.

In September 2022, the "occupation court" sentenced Nariman Dzhelial to 17 years, Asan Akhtemov — to 15 years, Aziz Akhtemov — to 13 years, all in the maximum-security regime penal colony. They were charged under a fabricated case of "gas pipeline sabotage" without any actual evidence of the detained implication in the crime.

## CASE OF LENIYE UMEROVA

Leniye Umerova, aged 25, detained on her way to the occupied Crimea, has been unlawfully deprived of liberty since December 4, 2022. She was going to Crimea to visit her father suffering from cancer. First, she was unlawfully held in the Center for Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens near Vladikavkaz, then till early May 2023 — in the Temporary Holding Cell of Vladikavkaz under fabricated administrative cases for, as they said, "disobedience to the Russian policemen's

<sup>5</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/political-prisoner-refat-alimov-got-out-of-jail/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-tymchasovo-okupovani/3846291-sud-rf-vidmoviv-u-zvilnenni-krimskogo-politvazna-sulejmanova-zpid-varti-za-stanom-zdorova.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/russian-supreme-court-upheld-sentence-of-vadym-bektemirov/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/nariman-dzhelial-was-returned-from-russian-captivity/>

requirements.” In early May 2023 Ms. Umerova was moved to the Lefortovo Pre-Trial Detention Center in Moscow and accused of espionage.

In May 2024 her detention period in the PTDC was extended at the court session in camera for next three months, till August 4, 2024.<sup>9</sup>

## “CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS”

**At least 40 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 11 persons** who were abducted in the Zaporizhzhia or Kherson Regions after February 24, 2022: Artem Baranov, Oleksandr Novatskyy, Vitaliy Rastorhuyev, Volodymyr Kryvtsun, Oleksandr Zarivnyy, Hennadiy Lasinskyy, Serhiy Tsyhipa, Mykola Petrovskyy, Serhiy Kotov, Yaroslav Zhuk, Ihor Protokovylo.

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.

On April 12, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu (RF) received a case against eight Ukrainian citizens detained in Crimea in the case of “treason” and “terrorism”. These are Kyrylo Barannyk, Serhiy and Olena Voynarovskyy, Ihor Zorin, Serhiy Kryvosheyin, Denys Petranov, Viktor Podvalnyi and Olha Kravchuk<sup>10</sup>.

Mr. Barannyk, Mr. Voynarovskyy, Mr. Zorin, Mr. Kryvoshein, Mr. Petranov, and Mr. Podvalnyi are charged under articles of treason (*CC Article 275*) and preparation, attempt or commission of terrorist acts (*CC Article 205*). Five of them are also charged with a terrorist community membership (*CC Article 205.4-2*), and Viktor Podvalnyi is charged with establishing such a community (*CC Article 205.4-1*). In addition, Kyrylo Barannik is accused of “*undergoing a terrorist training*” (*CC Article 205.3*), Denys Petranov and Viktor Podvalnyi – smuggling explosives (*CC Article 226.1-3*). Mrs. Voynarovska, Ms. Kravchuk and all men but for Mr. Petranov are also being prosecuted under the article on the explosive storage by an organized group (*CC Article 222.1-4*).

Most of them were detained in May 2023 in Crimea. They were accused of allegedly preparing an assassination attempt on Sergey Aksionov, Vladimir Konstantinov and Yanina Pavlenko and of acting as a “Ukrainian intelligence group”. Kyrylo Barannyk, an athlete from Simferopol, was also detained in May 2023. He stated that he had been tortured by the FSB during his detention. He was accused of undermining railway tracks on February 23, 2023, in the village of Poshtove, Bakhchysaray District, and then his case was combined with cases of other detainees.

In February 2023, it became known that Olha Kravchuk, a resident of Sevastopol, would be brought to court for “discrediting” the Russian army after her publications about the Russian attack on the city of Dnipro. Following the complaint of FSB-controlled blogger Talipov, a case

<sup>9</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/arrest-of-leniye-umerova-was-again-extended-for-three-months/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/vismoh-krimchan-budut-suditi-v-rosi%d1%97-v-ob%ca%bc%d1%94dnaniy-diversijnij-spravi/>

under RF CoAO 20.3.3 was opened against Ms. Kravchuk. However, later she became a defendant in the case of detained men.

In April the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu convicted Vitaliy Rastorhuyev and Volodymyr Kryvtsun, two residents of occupied Berdiansk. They were charged with an attempt, as said, to assassinate Aleksandr Saulenko, Berdiansk occupation “Mayor”<sup>11</sup>. Volodymyr Kryvtsun was sentenced to 11 years and Vitaliy Rastorhuyev — to 12 years under RF CC Article 30-3, and Article 361-1 (“preparation to act of international terror”). The men were abducted in Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia Region, on July 13, 2022, later deported to Crimea, and on 4 September 2023 conveyed to in Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1 of Rostov-na-Donu.

In May, it became known that Volodymyr Ananyev, a Ukrainian activist detained on February 2, 2024, was undergoing a psychiatric examination in the hospital, and then he was returned to Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center No 2<sup>12</sup>. The 74-year-old activist is accused of collaborating with the SBU.

In May, the RF FSB reported the detention of a man and a woman who were said to “be planning to blow up a railway line in the Leninskiy District as instructed by the security services of Ukraine”. The detainees are a man born in 1999 and a woman born in 2000, their names were not made public<sup>13</sup>.

## PERSECUTION ON CHARGE OF SERVING IN N. CHELEBIDZHICHA 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 Chelebidzhikhan 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 Chelebidzhikhan Volunteer Battalion “terrorist” and forbade its activity on the RF territory.

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.Chelebidzhikhan 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.

In April, a 66-year-old resident of occupied Novooleksiyivka, Kherson Region, was detained on suspicion of serving in the “Crimean Tatar battalion” (RF CC Article 208). According to the FSB, in 2015, the man “voluntarily joined the battalion and as member of this terrorist organization maintained a subsidiary farm, supplied foodstuff to the organization’s position and took an active part in the organization’s meetings.”<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/ukrainians-accused-by-occupiers-of-attempt-to-assassinate-occupation-mayor-of-berdiansk-have-been-convicted/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/volodymyr-ananyev-involved-in-case-of-commandos-was-under-mental-examination/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-couple-detained-in-crimea-in-a-new-case-of-railway-destruction/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/okupanti-zatrimali-cherhovogo-krimskogo-tatarina-za-pidozroyu-v-uchasti-u-bataljoni-im-nomana-chelebidzhichana/>



It became known in May that Rustem Osmanov, a Crimean Tatar sentenced in 2022<sup>15</sup> to 6 years for serving in the N.Chelebidzhikhan Battalion, as it was said, was being tortured in the Russian penal colony, Tula Region<sup>16</sup>.

## 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 April, the "Nakhimovskiy District Court" of Sevastopol sentenced Maksym Zinchenko, a 31-year-old believer of Jehovah's Witnesses from Feodosiyaa, to 2 years of forced labor for participating in religious services<sup>17</sup>.

On June 24, the Krasnodar Area Court upheld the decision of the Apsheron District Court of the Krasnodar Area regarding the transfer of Viktor Stashevskiy, a Jehovah's Witnesses believer, from the colony to prison for 3 years<sup>18</sup>. The conditions of confinement in prison are stricter, with less freedom of movement. Mr. Stashevskiy was sentenced in 2021 to 6.5 years for managing the activities of the "Jehovah's Witnesses" association and deported to VK-9 penal colony in the city of Khadyzhensk (Krasnodar Area, RF).

On July 1, "Krasnogvardeyskoye District Court" awarded Serhiy Parfenovych and Yuriy Heraschenko, "Jehovah's Witnesses" from Krasnogvardeyskoye, a 6-years' suspended sentence with a 4 years' probation period<sup>19</sup>. In September 2022 Serhiy Parfenovych, the father of six children, was detained after the search and placed under house arrest on charges of managing the actions of an extremist organization. Within the same case, charges were brought against Yuriy Heraschenko in March 2023.

According to the CHRG, at least 13 Jehovah's Witnesses believers have been convicted for their faith in Crimea (**Artem Herasymov, Oleksandr Dubovenko, Yevhen Zhukov, Oleksandr Lytvyniuk, Volodymyr Maladyka, Volodymyr Sakada, Viktor Stashevskiy, Serhiy Filatov, Ihor Shmidt, Artem Shabliy, Maksym Zinchenko, Serhiy Parfenovych, and Yuriy Heraschenko**).

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

The Russian occupation authorities continue the practice of administrative persecution of journalists. In May, the Center for Combating Extremism men searched the house of Bekir Mamut, editor-in-chief of the Kyrym newspaper. After the interrogation, two administrative reports were drawn up on him under the RF CC Articles 13.15 (*"Abuse of freedom of speech"*) and 20.3.3 (*"Discrediting of the Russian army"*). In 2021, the occupation authorities already prosecuted the journalist for "abusing freedom of mass media" for quoting the UN Secretary General's report on banning activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/6-years-sentence-for-a-crimean-tatar-for-alleged-service-in-chelebidzhikhan-battalion/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/rustem-osmanov-a-crimean-tatar-is-being-tortured-in-russian-penal-colony/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/svidka-egovi-z-feodosii-zasudili-do-dvoh-rokiv-primusovih-robit/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/svidku-egovi-stashevskomu-posilili-pokarannya/>

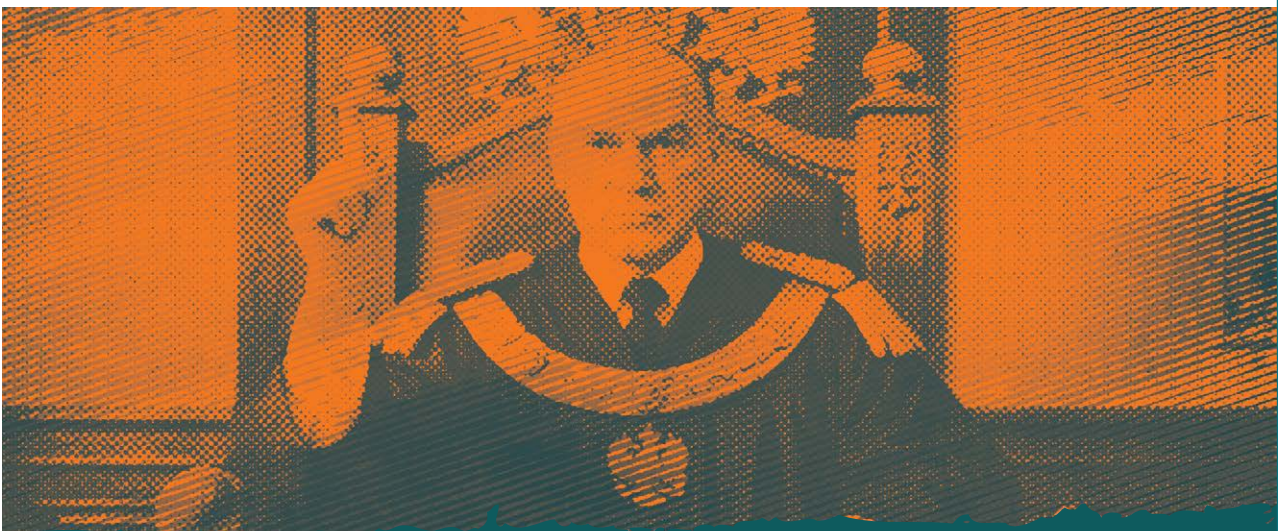
<sup>19</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/verdict-was-delivered-to-serhiy-parfenovych-and-yuriy-heraschenko-jehovahs-witnesses-from-krasnogvardeyskoye/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/two-administrative-reports-against-editor-in-chief-of-kyrym-newspaper/>

In June, the “Kievskiy District Court” rejected the appeal and upheld the decision to impose a fine on Lutfiye Zudiyeva, a Crimean Tatar human rights defender and journalist, for posts on social networks. Earlier, “the court of justice” had fined Ms. Zudiyeva RUR2,000 for “abusing freedom of mass media”. Posts were made in January 2021 about a court hearing in the “Crimean Muslims” case when Russian prosecutors demanded many years’ sentences for Bilohirsk Group defendants, and actions that took place in various parts of Crimea in their support.<sup>21</sup>

## PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

In April – June 2024, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded at least **85** administrative cases sent by the occupation authorities to the Crimea “courts” under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”), with **77** 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 **752** such administrative proceedings.



For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **752** administrative proceedings under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”)

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. Recently the Crimean residents have been largely fined for Ukrainian symbols on social networks and messengers, e.g., Instagram, Facebook, V Kontakte, Odnoklassniki, Telegram, Viber, YouTube. Topics of multimedia content the Crimeans are fined for include<sup>22</sup>:

- inscriptions “No War”, “No War in Ukraine”, “Glory to Ukraine”, “Glory to Heroes”, “I am proud to be Ukrainian”, “Ukraine Will Win”;
- publications with the image of the coat of arms, flag and national colors of Ukraine;
- posts about disagreement with the Russian aggression in Ukraine;

<sup>21</sup> [https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/04/19/sud-oshtrafoval-zhurnalistku-lutfie-zudievu-za-zametki-pro-uchastnikov-dela-belogorskoj-gruppy-2909?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2Znnawzyzgli\\_cyU8h8hfFia5cc9JtEfT6r3HhxYVLo4Ys3sj0yHBrILg\\_aem\\_okl-dxGWQ8QTN6CXrvxYVQ](https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/04/19/sud-oshtrafoval-zhurnalistku-lutfie-zudievu-za-zametki-pro-uchastnikov-dela-belogorskoj-gruppy-2909?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2Znnawzyzgli_cyU8h8hfFia5cc9JtEfT6r3HhxYVLo4Ys3sj0yHBrILg_aem_okl-dxGWQ8QTN6CXrvxYVQ)

<sup>22</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/people-in-crimea-are-persecuted-for-clothes-songs-and-likes/>

- condemnation of war crimes committed by Russians in Ukraine on social networks;
- appeals to Russians to sign public anti-war petitions to stop the war in Ukraine;
- appeals to Russians to search the media and messengers for truthful information about the aggressive war that Russia is waging in Ukraine;
- announcements of collecting donations for the Armed Forces of Ukraine;
- videos in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with the images of Ukrainian national symbols and the Ukrainian military;
- posts and videos that contain obscene insults of the Russian occupiers;
- the statement that there is an authoritarian regime in Russia;
- expressions of condolences to a fallen Ukrainian soldier;
- rejecting a draft notice to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation with the words “I will not serve a terrorist state”;
- posts criticizing Putin’s policy;
- a video that contains obscene insults of Putin;
- congratulations on the Independence Day of Ukraine and the statement that Ukraine will win;
- a personal photo with the flag of Ukraine in hand;
- animation with images of Putin, Shoigu and Kadyrov, mocking the actions of Russians in Ukraine;
- The Crimeans were also fined for likes, comments, and reposts, for instance
- for liking a video posted on the official Instagram page of the Ukrainian president, where the Russian war crimes were condemned;
- for reposting the New Year greetings of the President of Ukraine;
- for commenting on the video on YouTube with the captions “Simferopol. Glory to Ukraine!”, “Welcome to Simferopol!!! Simferopol is Waiting!!!”;
- for reposting the anti-war narrative by the Russian writer Dmitriy Glukhovskiy and reposting of the anti-war poem by the Russian singer Andrey Makarevich.

In May the occupation “Zheleznodorozhnyi District Court” of Simferopol convicted **Mykola Onuk**, a local resident, accused of “desecration of Russian state symbols, vandalism, and storage of an explosive device”. He was sentenced to 5 years in confinement to be served in the general security regime penal colony, and a RUR50,000 fine. According to the investigation, files with various Ukrainian symbols similar to those spread by YELLOW RIBBON movement in the Ukrainian occupied cities had been found at his place of residence during the search. In January 2024, Russian mass media stated that Mr. Onuk was an “agent of Ukrainian Influence Center for Information and Psychological Operations”. Earlier he had been arraigned under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (*discreditation of the Armed Forces of Russia*)<sup>23</sup>.

**Guriy Kornil'yev**, a scientist from Yalta, was permanently banned entry to Crimea by Russian border guards<sup>24</sup>. The actual reason for this was his pro-Ukrainian position that he did not conceal. Mr. Kornil'yev, PhD (Biology), denied in writing a Russian passport in 2014, and has been living in Yalta, together with his aged mother, for all these 10 years. The occupation authorities issued

<sup>23</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-5-years-sentence-of-a-crimean-for-alleged-participation-in-yellow-ribbon-movement/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/russian-border-guards-permanently-banned-a-yalta-scientist-from-entering-crimea/>

him a Crimea residence permit as a foreign citizen provided that he had a valid Ukrainian foreign passport. Since the passport validity was to expire in June 2024, the scientist left for Georgia to have his passport validity extended at the Embassy of Ukraine. But when he tried to return to Crimea (via the single checkpoint for Ukrainian citizens – the Sheremetyevo Airport of Moscow), the Russian border guards permanently banned him from entering the Russian Federation territory and the occupied Crimea. Earlier Mr. Kornil'yev had been many times pressed by the RF FSB men who forced the scientific institution administrations to dismiss him for his “loyalty to Ukraine”.

In April – June 2024, the CHRG kept on recording criminal and administrative cases against the 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, in April **Dliaver Salimov**, a Crimean Tatar, who was arrested after he had rejected recording a public apology for blogger Talipov’s Telegram channel, was sentenced by “Kirovskiy District Court” of Simferopol for one year in the settlement-colony on the charge of violating RF CC Article 119-1 (*threat to kill*)<sup>25</sup>. Earlier he had been penalized under administrative law because he was indignant with a local resident wearing a head cap with the “Z” symbol and demanded him to take off the cap with the Russian army symbols. Mr. Salimov was pressed to record an apology video for Talipov’s Telegram channel, but he refused.

In Crimea, a new practice has emerged of prosecuting Crimeans for demonstrating Ukrainian symbols, Ukrainian songs and slogans under Article 20.3 of the Administrative Code. According to the “Crimean Process”, at least 59 cases of punishment under this article were recorded last year, of which 26 people were administratively detained and 33 people were fined<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> <https://crimeahrg.org/en/crimean-tatar-dliaver-salimov-sentenced-to-1-year-of-settlement-colony/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://crimean-process.org/analiz-osoblivostej-peresliduvannya-za-proukra%d1%97nski-perekonannya-pid-viglyadom-borotbi-z-ekstremizmom-ta-nacizmom-eng/>



# 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 CHRГ has documented **at least 512 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 April – June 2024 the CHRГ 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 CHRГ has **totaled 640**.

## 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 kamikaze drones to attack civilian infrastructure. A substantial part of such drones is also launched from the occupied peninsula territory.

On the night of April 11, the Russian Federation launched a massive and combined attack on the critical infrastructure of Ukraine: Kharkiv, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa and Lviv regions. The





main strikes targeted power generation facilities. In total, 82 air attack warfare were used, including 40 attack UAVs of “Shahed-131/136” type (launched from Primorsko-Akhtarsk in the Russian Federation and Chauda in Crimea)<sup>1</sup>.

On the evening of April 29, the Russian Federation attacked a coastal recreation area in Odesa with an Iskander multicharge warhead missile<sup>2</sup> launched from the territory of Crimea. A lot of civilians were there at that moment. The attack caused 8 fatalities including a 4-year-old girl<sup>3</sup>, with 32 people being injured, including a pregnant woman and two children.

On the morning of May 8, the Russian Federation launched a massive attack on Ukraine. Two people were injured in the Kyiv Region, one child was injured in the Kirovohrad Region. Power infrastructure facilities, about 30 residential buildings, public transport, and cars got under the strike. In Zaporizhzhia, the building of the fire and rescue department was damaged. The combined strike was launched missiles of various types and attack UAVs, including 2 Iskander-M ballistic missiles from Crimea, 4 Kalibr cruise missiles from the Black Sea, 1 Iskander-K cruise missile from Crimea<sup>4</sup>.

On the afternoon of June 12, the Russian Federation attacked a residential quarter of the city of Kryvyi Rih with an Iskander-M ballistic missile from the occupied Crimea. The attack caused nine fatalities, with 29 people being injured including five children. About forty residential buildings and three educational institutions were damaged due to the missile strike<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [https://lb.ua/society/2024/04/11/607973\\_golovne\\_nich\\_ranok\\_chetverga\\_11.html](https://lb.ua/society/2024/04/11/607973_golovne_nich_ranok_chetverga_11.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3858441-genprokuror-pidtverdiv-so-rf-vdarila-po-odesi-iskanderom-iz-kasetnimi-boepripasami.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://lb.ua/society/2024/05/23/614944\\_likarni\\_pomerla\\_ditina\\_yaka.html](https://lb.ua/society/2024/05/23/614944_likarni_pomerla_ditina_yaka.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://mvs.gov.ua/news/nad-likvidacijeiu-naslidkiv-syogodnisnix-obstriliv-praciuiut-350-riatuvalnikiv-ta-100-odinic-specializovanoyi-texniki-igor-klimenko>

<sup>5</sup> <https://armyinform.com.ua/2024/06/12/rosiya-vdaryla-po-kryvomu-rogu-iskanderom-z-krymu/>

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

In April – June 2024, the Ukrainian authorities adopted a number of decisions to protect persons affected by the RF armed aggression.

1. On April 25, 2024, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted Law of Ukraine “On amending the Labor Code of Ukraine to introduce additional reasons for employer-initiated termination of the employment agreement and some other issues.” This Law<sup>1</sup> provided for the possibility of introducing rules of conduct at the enterprise, in the institution, organization that contain the following provision: “employees shall report their existing connections with natural persons, whose place of permanent residence (staying, registration) is located in the territory of the aggressor state or temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine”. Failure to report such “connections” may become grounds for terminating the employment agreement at the initiative of the employer. This norm may cause **mistreatment and stigmatization of millions of people** who have relatives and friends among the residents of the temporarily occupied territories, internally displaced persons, people who went abroad due to the armed aggression against Ukraine and are registered in the temporarily occupied territory. This was the reason why human rights organizations called on the President of Ukraine to veto this law and return it to the Parliament for refinement. On May 16, the President of Ukraine vetoed this Law and returned it to the Parliament for consideration with his proposals<sup>2</sup>.
2. On April 25, 2024, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted Law of Ukraine “On amending certain laws of Ukraine regarding proportional calculation of pension insurance record for the persons who worked outside Ukraine”. An important amendment is that the matter of **paying pensions to citizens of Ukraine who, under the conditions of temporary occupation, have moved to** the Ukraine-controlled territory and do not receive pensions from the pension fund bodies of the Russian Federation, has been settled. Before the adoption of this law, internally displaced persons might apply for pension payments only through court proceedings. The law stipulates that from this point on, to receive the pension a person shall only notify the Pension Fund of Ukraine about non-receiving a pension from the Russian pension fund bodies<sup>3</sup>.
3. The CMU by its resolution no 208 of 27 February 2024 assigned a responsibility for coordinating issues related to civilians deprived of personal liberty due to the aggression and persons missed in action to the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Then, in April, the Work Group for Defending Rights and Freedoms of Civilians was launched.

<sup>1</sup> <https://itd.rada.gov.ua/billInfo/Bills/Card/40386>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-veto-pratsivnyky-zvyazok-zvilnyty/32950238.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://vostok-sos.org/verhovna-rada-ukrayiny-pryjnyala-zakon-pro-vnesennya-zmin-do-deyakyh-zakoniv-ukrayiny-shhodo-proporcijnogo-obchyslennya-strahovogo-stazhu-osobam-yaki-praczyuvaly-za-mezhamy-ukrayiny/>

NGOs dealing with the defence of persons deprived of liberty due to the aggression, including the Crimean Human Rights Group, became its members.

4. In April – June 2024 two meetings of the Inter-Departmental Commission for verifying the fact of deprivation of personal liberty due to armed aggression against Ukraine were held. The commission establishes this fact both for POWs and civilians.
5. Pursuant to Law 3633-IX dd. 11 April 2024, citizens of Ukraine who are on military registration, in particular those who stay abroad, including citizens who have left the occupied territories, shall update their address of residence, communication details, e-mail addresses and other personal data, and citizens, removed from military registration due to leaving Ukraine for a period of more than three months, shall pass a military registration.
6. The CMU by its resolution no 551 of 14 May 2024, made legal efforts regarding the crimes related to deportation of Ukrainian children from the Russia occupied territories. The Government approved the Procedure for identifying and returning children deported or forcibly displaced due to the armed aggression of Russia against Ukraine. The Procedure provides for an personal action return plan for each child. The personal plan shall be developed by the Ministry of Reintegration with civic associations and charity funds, an authorized legal representative of the child and other authorized bodies engaged. This action plan includes preparing the child's personal file, and developing a list of sequential measures for the return of the child which shall cover drawing up an individual route, determining the list of necessary documents, logistics and other actions, in particular related to housing rent need as well as providing with the documents required and the necessities. The procedure also establishes the interaction framework for governmental bodies involved in the process of searching, returning, securing socially and reintegrating the children as well as sets out their responsibilities for implementing a personal plan and providing the necessary information about the child.
7. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved some actions for humanitarian demining. CMU resolution no 740 of 7 June 2024 approved the Procedure for maintaining, administering, and using the information of the register of territories contaminated/allegedly contaminated with explosive objects for the purpose of collecting, accumulating, recording, processing, storing and protecting information about lands contaminated with explosive objects and lands unsuitable for use due to a potential threat of such contamination. In addition, the Government adopted Ordinance no 616 of June 28 2024, that approved the National Mine Action Strategy until 2033 and the related Operational Plan for its implementation. The Strategy states that as of 1 January 2024 the total area affected directly by the Russian armed aggression was almost 156k sq km. Creating conditions for the safest possible staying of citizens within the territory of Ukraine should be one of the top priorities for the Government activities.