



**CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP**

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REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA

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**CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
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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.

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 Ukraine².

**COALITION
FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT**

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

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

ABDUCTIONS IN KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA REGIONS AND DEPORTATION 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.

As of September 2024, the CHRG verified at least **86 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.

Vitalii Rastorhuiev and **Volodymyr Kryvtsun** appealed against the sentences handed down by the Southern Area Military Court on April 18, 2024. Residents of Berdiansk were abducted in July 2022 and accused of an alleged attempt on the occupying “mayor” of the city Aleksandr Saulenko (under RF CC Article 30.3, Article 361.1, “preparation for an act of international terrorism”). Vitalii Rastorhuiev was sentenced to 12 years in the penal colony, Volodymyr Kryvtsun – to 11 years¹. At the moment Vitalii Rastorhuiev and Volodymyr Kryvtsun are being held in Pre-Trial Detention Center no 3 of Novocherkassk (RF).

On August 15, the “Kherson Regional Court” sentenced **Iryna Horobtsova**, a volunteer and public activist from Kherson, who was abducted by the Russian military on May 13, 2022, and held in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center, to ten years and six months in the general security regime penal colony on charges of espionage (RF CC, Article 276). The court hearings were held in camera, the case was classified, Iryna’s interests were represented by an appointed lawyer².

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/ukrainians-accused-by-occupiers-of-attempt-to-assassinate-occupation-mayor-of-berdiansk-have-been-convicted/>

² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/iryna-horobtsova-activist-from-kherson-sentenced-to-10-5-years/>

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

At least **220 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/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 linguistic examinations of accused Muslims' conversations. Evidence provided by the defense is usually not taken into consideration by judges.

As of late September 2024, the number of Crimean residents deprived of freedom within the “Case of Crimean Muslims”, was **at least 108 persons**.

On July 25, 2024, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol extended the detention period of **Memet Liumanov, Rustem Osmanov, Aziz Azizov, and Mustafa Abduramanov**, detained on March 5, 2024, until November 4, 2024. On August 2, 2024, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea upheld the decision of the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol regarding the detention of Memet Liumanov and Rustem Osmanov in the pre-trial detention center³. The court hearing was held in camera. On August 10, 2024, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea upheld the decision regarding the detention of Aziz Azizov and Mustafa Abduramanov in the pre-trial detention center⁴.



At least **220 citizens of Ukraine** are being kept in places of unfreedom within a political reasoned and/or religious criminal persecution

³ <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/08/02/vse-standartno-verxovnyj-sud-kryma-ostavil-v-sizo-dvoix-aktivistov-iz-baxchisaraya-2977>

⁴ <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/08/10/verxovnyj-sudkryma-ostavil-v-sizo-aktivistov-aziza-azizova-i-mustafu-abduramanova--2982>

On July 31, 2024, Olga Kuznetsova, the judge of the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol, extended the detention period of **Ali Mamutov, Enver Khalilaiev, Nariman Ametov, and Imam Vahid Mustafaiev** until November 4, 2024. The court hearing was held in camera. Nariman Ametov and Ali Mamutov are being held in Pre-Trial Detention Center No. 2 in Simferopol⁵. On July 31, 2024, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol changed a pre-trial restriction of Arsen Kashka from detention to house arrest. The man rejected services of lawyer Emil Kurbedinov. The court hearing was held in camera.

In August, 2024, it became known that **Remzi Kurtnezirov**, the former imam of the mosque in the village of Lobanovo, a person suffering from a disability of the 2nd group, was placed under the forced forensic psychiatric examination for a month. He was sent into the “Crimean Republican Clinical Psychiatric Hospital No. 1”, despite his serious diseases and a house arrest imposed due to these reasons. He lost 12 kilograms. On July 31, 2024, the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol, extended his detention period until November 4, 2024⁶.

On August 30, 2024, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentence of four “Alushta Group” case persons concerned: **Ruslan Nagaiev, Eldar Kantimirov, Ruslan Mesutov, and Lenur Khalilov**, who were detained on June 10, 2019. They were sentenced to 12 to 18 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony⁷.

On September 20, 2024, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (appellate instance) upheld the sentence of Crimean Tatar activist **Yashar Shykhmetov**, who was arrested on February 17, 2021, and sentenced in 2022 to 11 years in custody⁸.

On September 14, 2024, “policemen” placed under detention **Oleksandr Sizikov**, a blind resident of Crimea, unlawfully persecuted under RF CC Article 205.5-1 for involvement in a terrorist organization⁹. He was detained on July 7, 2020. After that, he was placed under house arrest, as his illness makes staying in the pre-trial detention center impossible for him. On September 14, 2024, the Military Court of Appeal of the Russian Federation confirmed the sentence of 17 years in custody to the blind Oleksandr Sizikov. During the session, the judges also upheld the decision of the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu for Alim Sufianov and Seiran Hairedinov – 12 years in custody each¹⁰.

On September 27, 2024, the Appellate Military Court of Vlasikha (Russian Federation) upheld the sentence of Imam **Raif Fevziiev**, a defendant in the “Crimean Muslims” case, – 12 years in custody¹¹. He was detained on August 7, 2021.

Server Zekiriaiev, a figure of the “Second Bakhchisarai group”, arrested on October 11, 2017, and sentenced to 13 years in custody, and is being tortured in the penal colony No. 1 of the Tula region, Russian Federation. This was reported by his wife Zarema Zekiriaieva¹².

⁵ <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/07/31/krymskotatarskim-politzaklyuchennym-iz-dzhankojkskogo-rajona-prodlili-arest-v-sizo-2973>

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/former-imam-a-disabled-person-lost-12-kilos-after-placement-in-mental-hospital/>

⁷ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-delo-tahrir-alushta-prigivir-krym/33099596.html>

⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/crimean-tatar-yashar-shykhmetov-sentenced-to-11-years-in-custody/>

⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/okupanti-zatverdili-17-rokiv-uvyaznennya-figurantu-spravi-krimskih-musulman-sizikovu-i-nastupnogo-dnya-vzyali-pid-vartu/>

¹⁰ <https://zmina.info/news/apelyaczijnj-sud-rf-zatverdyy-vyroky-politvyaznyu-z-invalidnistyu-pozoru-oleksandru-sizikovu/>

¹¹ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-raif-fevziiev-prigovor-appelyatsiya-krym/33140664.html>

¹² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/political-prisoner-server-zekiryayev-under-torture-in-russian-penal-colony-his-spouse/>

CASE OF LENIIE UMEROVA

On September 13, 2024, Ukraine managed to free and return **Leniie Umerova**, a Crimean Tatar aged 25 (unlawfully deprived of freedom on December 4, 2022) from the Russian custody. 49 citizens of Ukraine more, 42 – military men and 7 – civilians, returned together with Leniie to Ukraine.

For the whole period of occupation only 10 Ukrainian citizens from Crimea were liberated within the framework of the mutual releases and political arrangements, Leniie Umerova being the only woman among them.

“CASES OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS”

At least 42 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, Roman Melnychuk and others.

Civilians abducted in the Zaporizhzhia or Kherson Regions after February 24, 2022, are facing similar charges. Among them are Artem Baranov, Oleksandr Novatskyi, Vitaliy Rastorhuiev, Volodymyr Kryvtsun, Oleksandr Zarivnyi, Gennadii Lasinskyi, Serhii Tsyhipa, Mykola Petrovskyi, Serhii 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 July 30, 2024, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov sentenced **Serhii Yerzhov** to 18 years in custody in the case of the gas pipeline explosion near Yalta. The FSB of the Russian Federation stated that on June 23, 2023, an explosion allegedly occurred at a gas pipeline in the village of Koreiz near Yalta. The FSB reported on Yerzhov’s detention on August 9, 2023. The investigation claimed that the special security services of Ukraine “recruited” the man in the city of Pavlodar near the Dnipro¹³.

On August 3, 2024, the “Zheleznodorozhnyi District Court” of Simferopol read out a sentence to a local resident, finding him guilty of an alleged “assassination” on Vladimir Yepifanov, assistant to the “vice prime minister” of the occupation administration of the occupied part of the Zaporizhzhia region. The man was unlawfully sentenced to 14 years in custody¹⁴. Most likely, the convict is a native of the Vinnytsia region, **Ihor Dynskyi**, who lived in Simferopol. The occupying power stated that he allegedly “as instructed by the SBU curator, had perpetrated attempted assassination of three officials of Zaporozhie region military civil administration”.

On August 21, 2024, the Southern Area Military Court found 35-year-old **Ihor Korchynskyi** guilty of allegedly “preparing an assassination attempt” on the occupying head of

¹³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/rosijskij-sud-zasudiv-ukraïnczya-do-18-rokiv-u-spravi-pro-vibuh-na-gazoprovodi-u-krimu/>

¹⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/sud-u-krimu-zasudiv-cholovika-do-14-rokiv-uv'yaznennya-nibito-zamazah-na-pomichnika-vicze-premera-okupovanoi-zaporizhchini/>

Crimea Sergey Aksionov. The man was sentenced to 18 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony, with the first four years to be served in prison, and a fine of 350,000 rubles. Korchynskiy was accused of preparing a terrorist attack (RF CC Article 30-1, 205-1), being trained to carry out a terrorist act (RF CC Article 205-3) and possessing illegally weapons (RF CC Article 222.1-3)¹⁵.

On September 13, 2024, the FSB of the Russian Federation reported on the prevention of an attempted terrorist attack on one of the transport infrastructure facilities of Crimea. It was allegedly planned by a resident of Sevastopol to disrupt military transport. The FSB did not disclose the name and surname of the detainee¹⁶.

On September 19, 2024, the Southern Area Military Court convicted **Artur Agasarian** and **Oleksii Vasiutin** for allegedly attempting to blow up a FSB man's car in Kerch and collecting information about Crimea's railway infrastructure and the movement of the Russian army. Artur Agasarian was sentenced to 20 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony, with the first three years to be served in prison, and a fine of 500,000 rubles. Oleksii Vasiutin was sentenced to 6 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony and a fine of 350,000 rubles¹⁷.

On September 24, 2024, the "Kievskiy District Court" of Simferopol handed down a sentence in the case of **Mamut Belialov**, who was accused of possessing weapons and preparing the assassination of Vadim Volchenko, the "ex-Minister of Resorts and Tourism" of Crimea. Judge Mikhail Belousov sentenced Mamut Belialov, who had suffered brutal torture, to 12 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony and a fine of 350,000 rubles. In addition, he was awarded 1,000,000 rubles in favor of Volchenko¹⁸.

The CHRG knows that at least **three women**, Sevastopol residents, who publicly expressed their Ukrainian position, were detained by the RF FSB in August-September 2024. The FSB has been manufacturing a criminal case against the Crimeans, accusing them of "storing the weapons and explosives and collaborating with the special security agencies of Ukraine".

It is common in Crimea that the occupation authorities do not disclose the names of detainees in the "cases of commandos" though they become known later in the Russian propaganda mass media publications. This is how **Roman Melnychuk**¹⁹, aged 36, from Feodosiia, was detained after an attack on the Russian air base in Oktiabrskoye²⁰. The Crimean is accused of perpetuating an assassination attempt on Talipov in Feodosiia on July 12, 2024, torching cars of Russian propagandist Dmitriy Kiseliyov in Koktebel in September 2022 and attempting to assassinate pro-Russian politician Oleg Tsariov.

The information about **Viacheslav Piskunov** became public in the same way. Russian media informed that in October 2023, a 61-year-old citizen of Belarus was detained in Sevastopol on suspicion of attempted assassination of a Russian military.

Russian media reported on the detention of 63-year-old **Viktor Ilchun**, called by the occupation authorities "an idea-driven Ukrainian agent who allegedly fought in the Aidar Battalion for several years." He supposedly had planted explosives which detonation caused a derailment of train with grain. The FSB claims that **Daryna Aslanova** and **Ruslana Nechaieva** "worked" with Ilchun. The Russian propagandist stories also mention the name of **Pavlo Levchenko** who allegedly participated in blowing up a gas pipeline.

¹⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/man-sentenced-to-18-years-for-attempt-to-assassinate-aksionov-as-russia-says/>

¹⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/v-sevastopoli-okupanti-zatrimali-chergovogo-diversanta/>

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/case-of-commandos-two-men-sentenced-to-6-and-20-years-for-allegedly-preparing-acts-of-sabotage-in-crimea/>

¹⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/occupiers-sentenced-mamut-belialov-crimean-tatar-convicted-of-preparing-ex-minister-of-tourism-assassination-to-12-years-in-custody/>

¹⁹ https://www.1tv.ru/news/2023-12-11/466848-ukrainskaya_diversionnaya_set_v_krymu_byla_sozdana_pod_kontrolem_zapadnyh_spetssluzhb

²⁰ <https://ru.krymr.com/a/krym-vzryv-zaderzhaniye-video/32516977.html>

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.

More than 32 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 that the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea do not make public the names of people detained or convicted on the charge of serving in the battalion.

On July 18, 2024, the FSB announced the detention of a citizen of Ukraine in the village of Chervone, Henichesk District, who was accused of serving in the N. Chelebidzhukhan Crimean Tatar battalion. The detainee is **Seidali Smailov**, aged 56, who is on disability due to the loss of one leg. According to journalists, Smailov was tortured with electric current, beaten, his teeth were knocked out and he was forced to say on camera that he had helped the battalion named after N. Chelebidzhukhan²¹.

On August 7, 2024, the occupation “Genichesk District Court” sentenced **Nariman Abliazov**, a local businessman and public activist for preserving the Crimean Tatar identity, to 3 and a half years in custody on the charge of serving in the battalion. He was detained in Henichesk on September 4, 2023²².

Rustem Osmanov, sentenced to 6 years in the penal colony for allegedly service in the battalion is constantly held in the colony punishment cell in the city of Donskoy, Tula Region (RF), he is beaten and left without necessary medical care due to his Ukrainian citizenship. Rustem was detained on April 15, 2022, in Kalanchak, Kherson Region²³.

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.

On August 5, 2024, the homes of “Jehovah’s Witnesses” members in the villages of Rozdolne, Sinokosne and the city of Alushta were searched. Six people were interrogated, electronic devices

²¹ https://t.me/genichua/20611?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR2pdAGkpyCOCUpejjYRcdH6t9796KWpYwyuSGKeAWkKXLRH82stPMPhatY_aem_yRCp2GhdrmEcsVxoCaKcZQ

²² <https://ipc.org.ua/uk/2024/08/zhytelya-hersonshhyny-narimana-ablyazova-okupanty-zasudyly-do-troh-rokiv-pozbealennya-voli-za-uchast-v-neisnuyuchomu-bataljoni/>

²³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/rustem-osmanov-crimean-tatar-is-being-tortured-in-russian-penal-colony-due-to-ukrainian-citizenship/>

were withdrawn. A criminal case under RF CC Article 282.2-1 was opened against **Tamara Brattseva**, aged 68²⁴. In September, the “Supreme Court” upheld Tamara Brattseva’s appeal and cancelled the decision of the court of first instance on permitting the search. The case was sent to “Razdolnoye District Court” for re-consideration.

On September 9, 2024, **Viktor Ursu**, a faithful from Dzhankoi, was released from a house arrest. His pre-trial restriction was replaced with travel restriction and proper behavior²⁵. He was detained on July 28, 2023, under RF CC Article 282.2-1 (“management of extremist organization activity”).

According to the CHRГ, **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. According to the human rights defenders’ data, **at least 18 Crimean journalists** are behind the bars in the cases: Oleksii Bessarabov, Dmytro Shtyblikov, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Seiran Saliiev, Marlen (Suleiman) Asanov, Timur Ibrahimov, Server Mustafaiev, Osman Arifmemetov, Remzi Bekirov, Ruslan Suleimanov, Rustem Sheikhaliiev, Amet Suleimanov, Asan Akhtemov, Iryna Danylovych, Vilen Temeryanov, Ernes Ametov, Rustem Osmanov, Aziz Azizov.



At least **18 Crimean journalists** are behind bars in politically motivated criminal cases

²⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/peresliduvannya-svidkiv-egovi-v-krimu-chotiri-obshuki-dopiti-ta-nova-kriminalna-sprava/>

²⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-jehovahs-witness-from-dzhankoy-was-released-from-house-arrest/>

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

In July – September 2024, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded **at least 105 administrative cases** sent by the occupation authorities to the Crimea “courts” under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”), with **102** 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 **857** such administrative proceedings.

For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **857** administrative proceedings under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”)

In July 2024, the “Leninskiy District Court” of Sevastopol arrested a 42-year-old local resident for 15 days for listening to the Ukrainian song “Oi u luzi chervona kalyna” (Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow) which the judge considered to be the “hymn of Ukrainian extremists”²⁶.

In August 2024, Oleh Shaposhnikov, an unemployed resident of the Sovietskiy district, was detained in the case of “repeated discrediting of the Russian army.” A criminal case was initiated against him under RF CC Article 280.3-1²⁷.

On August 29, 2024, the “Alushta City Court” convicted Denys Yezhov accused of RF CC Article 280.3-1 (repeated discrediting of the Russian army). He was sentenced to a fine of 100,000 rubles²⁸. Mr. Yezhov was punished for the slogans “Glory to Ukraine” and “Everything Will Be Ukraine.” Earlier, in March 2024, the same “court” fined the Crimean 30,000 rubles for “discrediting the Russian army” (RF CoAO, Article 20.3.3-1), namely for anti-war calls.

In July – September 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



For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **857 administrative proceedings** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”)

²⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/sevastopolczya-zasudili-za-ukraïnsku-pisnyu/>

²⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/chergovogo-krimchanina-zatrimali-za-povtornu-diskreditacziyu-armii-rf/>

²⁸ <https://ovd.info/express-news/2024/09/04/krymchanina-prigovorili-k-shtrafu-po-ugolovnomu-delu-iz-za-lozunga-slava>

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. The opinion of the Crimean Human Rights Group is that Talipov's actions may be considered as a direct complicity in persecuting the occupied territories' residents for their pro-Ukrainian position.

The Russian occupation authorities continue to persecute Crimeans for demonstrating Ukrainian symbols, for Ukrainian songs and slogans, using for this purpose RF CoAO Article 20.3 (Propaganda or public display of Nazi emblems or symbols). On July 4, 2024, the Bilogorskiy District Court" found local resident Kemal Situmerov guilty under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1 for posting the slogan "Glory to Ukraine" on social networks. The same day Mr. Situmerov was punished under RF CoAO Article 20.1-3 (Spreading the information expressing disrespect to the State and society) for posting images with Putin.

- **On July 9, 2024**, the "Kirovskiy District Court" arrested Refat Ismailov, a resident of Staryi Krym, for 7 days, on whose page in "Odnoklasniki" a post with tryzub was found.
- **On July 19, 2024**, the "Gagarinskiy District Court" of Sevastopol sentenced Serhiy Akinzhele, who under the influence of alcohol shouted the slogan "Glory to Ukraine" on the city beach, to 12 days of administrative arrest under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1.
- **On July 23, 2024**, "Bilogorskiy District Court" fined Asan Ismailov from the village of Vushneve 2,000 rubles under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1: a post with tryzub was found on his page in VKontakte.
- **On July 26, 2024**, the "Leninskiy District Court" of Sevastopol arrested Yevhen Lebidko for 15 days under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1. According to the Russian police version, the man, standing on the balcony of his apartment, "loudly and distinctly shouted the words – greetings of Ukrainian nationalist organizations" (probably the slogan "Glory to Ukraine") and also "loudly listened to a song that is the anthem of Ukrainian nationalist organizations". A video on which "Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow" is heard from Yevhen's apartment was posted on CRIMEAN SMERSH Telegram channel.
- **On September 11, 2024**, the "Armiansk District Court" fined Natalia Beltiukova 1,000 rubles under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1 for posting the slogan "Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Heroes!" on the social network on May 26, 2021. She was also fined 30,000 rubles under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3-1 (Discrediting of the armed forces of the Russian Federation) for the post of May 26, 2021, on supporting the "Blockade of Crimea" action in which Russians were called "occupiers".

In addition, to persecute the Crimeans, RF CoAO Article 20.1-3-5 (petty hooliganism) are also used: people are fined for spreading the "information that offends human dignity and public morality, expresses clear disrespect for society, the state, official state symbols of the Russian Federation, or bodies that exercise state power in the Russian Federation" on the Internet.

For instance, on August 29, 2024, "Feodosiia City Court" fined Maksym Kravchenko, a local resident, 30,000 rubles under RF CoAO Article 20.1-3. The reason for the fine was his critical comment on VKontakte social network under the image of Russian policemen. In addition to CoAF Article 20.1, Mr. Kravchenko was also fined under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3-1 (discrediting of the Russian army).

2 VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS

CONSCRIPTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE 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.

On October 1, 2024, the next fall conscription campaign begins in the Russian Federation and its occupied territories. According to the decree of V. Putin dated September 30, 2024, at least 133 thousand conscripts are planned to join the ranks of the Russian army²⁹. The conscription campaign will also take place in Crimea.

In order to force the people to serve in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the occupation authorities use criminal prosecution for evading service under RF CC Article 328. (Evasion of service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation). For the entire occupation period CHRG has documented **at least 522 criminal cases** of such nature. The most common penalty enforced by the “courts” is fines up to 50,000 rubles. But the payment of the fine does not grant the service exemption.

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 July – September 2024 the CHRG documented at least 63 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 703**.

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.

²⁹ <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202409300012>



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 morning of July 8, 2024, the Russian forces launched a combined attack with more than 40 missiles of various types, including Iskander-M ballistic missiles and a hypersonic Zircon missile from the territory of Crimea. The missile hits caused the death of 44 people and injuring of 196 people including 10 children in the Kyiv Region, cities of Kryvyi Rih, Pokrovsk, Dnipro and Kyiv. One of the attack targets was OKHMADYT children’s hospital in Kyiv³⁰.

On August 26, 2024, the Russian forces launched a massive missile attack on the energy infrastructure of Ukraine which became the most massive air attack on the entire territory of Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. The Russians used air-, sea- and land-based cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, anti-aircraft guided missiles, “Shahed-136” reconnaissance and attack UAVs, including 28 Kalibr cruise missiles from ships in the eastern part of the Black Sea. The attack affected 15 regions of Ukraine, with 7 people killed and 47 people injured, including 4 children³¹.

On the evening of September 14, 2024, the Russian armed forces attacked the civil and transport infrastructure of the Odesa Region with Iskander-M missiles from the Crimean territory. The attack caused the death of 2 people and injuring of 1 person³².

³⁰ <https://espresso.tv/viyna-z-rosiyeyu-unaslidok-ataki-rf-8-lipnya-v-ukraini-zaginuli-44-lyudini-196-postrazhdali-dsns>

³¹ <https://war.obozrevatel.com/ukr/sili-ppo-zbili-shahediv-i-raket-yakimi-rosiya-atakuvala-ukrainu.htm>

³² <https://www.facebook.com/pgo.gov.ua/posts/pfbid02iWR5uCo2Vcc3pVsRdc4V4B3ALfQfK9sQeRNbFHJgtUgjSfvXvqqzuDrcZh5Us4cql>

3 GOVERNMENTAL POLICY OF UKRAINE TO PROTECT CITIZENS UNDER CONDITIONS OF RF ARMED AGGRESSION, IN PARTICULAR OCCUPATION OF PART OF CRIMEA AND CITY OF SEVASTOPOL

In July – September 2024, the Ukrainian authorities adopted a number of laws and regulations to protect persons affected by the RF armed aggression, to strengthen the defense capability of Ukraine, and to bring to justice persons guilty of war crimes.

- 1) On August 21, 2024, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court³³ and recognized the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to investigate the most serious crimes committed in the territory of Ukraine (the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression). Ratifying the Statute, Ukraine used a clause according to which, within 7 years after the Rome Statute entered into force for Ukraine, it would not recognize the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crimes specified in Article 8 (with amendments taken into account), when the crime was probably committed by its citizens.
- 2) On August 21, 2024, Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Article 23 of Law of Ukraine “On Mobilization Training and Mobilization” regarding the expansion of the circle of eligible for military duty, whose close relatives, in particular a biological (full-blood or half-blood) brother or sister, were killed or missed while participating in the hostilities, to grant deferment from conscription during mobilization.” With these changes, it was established that the eligible for military duty shall not be conscripted during mobilization for a special period provided that a half-blood brother or sister of the person was killed or missed while participating in hostilities, or was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine for civil courage, patriotism, heroic defense of the constitutional foundations of democracy, human rights and freedoms, selfless service to the Ukrainian people, revealed during the Revolution of Dignity (November 2013 – February 2014)³⁴. Previously, only the eligible for military duty whose full blood brother or sister were killed or missed, have a right to deferment.
- 3) Due to the offensive of the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the Donetsk Region, the Coordinating Headquarters for the Mandatory Evacuation of the Population under Martial Law made a decision regarding the forced evacuation of children from the settlements of Pokrovsk and Kramatorsk Districts of Donetsk Region (the villages of Berestka, Vovchenka, Voznesenka, Dachne, Zelenivka, Zoria, Kreminna Balka, Novodmytrivka, Novoselydivka, Sontsivka, Stari Terny, Stepanivka, Suhi Yaly, Yantarne, settlement of Hostre, as well as from the villages of Illinivka, Berezivka, Berestok, Vodiane Druhe, Hnativka, Dovha Balka, Zelene Pole, Kalynove,

³³ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3909-20#Text>

³⁴ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3916-20#n2>

Oleksandro-Kalynove, Popiv Yar, Rozkishne, Rusyn Yar, Stara Mykolaivka, Stepanivka, Tarasivka, Yablunivka)³⁵.

- 4) Government of Ukraine extended housing allowance to internally displaced persons for a six-month period: from September 2024 to February 2025. On August 30, 2024, the CMU adopted Resolution No. 989, which amended the Procedure for providing housing allowance to internally displaced persons approved by CMU Resolution No. 332 of March 20, 2022. The resolution establishes that the payment of housing allowance for IDPs shall be automatically extended for those who were already entitled to extension and receipt of allowance for the previous six months, without additional application. In the event that the beneficiary was not automatically extended the payment of benefits in accordance with the provisions of the Procedure, the person may be assigned benefits upon application. Payments shall not be extended only to internally displaced women whose allowance payment for the second six-month period has previously extended due to pregnancy after the 30th week³⁶.
- 5) At the beginning of September, after personnel changes in the government of Ukraine, the intention to integrate the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine (Ministry of Reintegration) into the Ministry for Development of Communities, Territories and Infrastructure of Ukraine (Ministry of Regions) became known. In fact, it means that the Ministry of Regions responsible for regional policy of Ukraine will absorb the Ministry of Reintegration, with the issue of temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to be included into its mandate. The functions that can't be covered by the Ministry of Regions mandate will be assigned to different ministries. A number of human rights organizations, including the Crimean Human Rights Group, see significant risks in such approach to liquidate the Ministry of Reintegration since a part of the powers to protect people who have suffered as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation may be lost if the Government composition does not include a ministry directly responsible for the development of a comprehensive policy to reintegrate TOT and de-occupied territories of Ukraine. Assignment of human rights functions of the Ministry of Reintegration to different structural units of the Ministry of Regions may cause disappearing the topic of the affected people rights protection from the governmental agenda³⁷.
- 6) On September 11, 2024, the 4th International Crimea Platform summit was held in Kyiv, attended by 60 representatives of various countries and international organizations. For the first time the governmental summit of the Crimea Platform was attended by Argentina, Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance³⁸.
- 7) During July – September 2024, three 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.

³⁵ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/minreintehratsii-cherez-bezpekovu-sytuatsiiu-ukhvaleno-rishennia-pro-prymusovu-evakuatsiiu-ditei-iz-deiakikh-naselenykh-punktiv-donechchyny>

³⁶ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/989-2024-%D0%BF#n2>

³⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/statement-on-ensuring-the-implementation-of-the-powers-of-the-ministry-of-reintegration-of-temporarily-occupied-territories-of-ukraine/>

³⁸ <https://crimea-platform.org/news/u-kyievi-vidbuvsia-chetvertyy-samit-krymskoi-platformy/>