



CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP

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REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA

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**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 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

FORCED 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 December 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.

Arbitrarily detained civilians are left without necessary medical care in the pre-trial detention centers of Simferopol and Russian penal colonies, suffering from different disease states caused by tortures and inhuman detention conditions. This was reported, for instance, by **Rustem Guguryk**¹, a resident of occupied Novooleksiivka, Kherson Region, and **Iryna Horobtsova**², an activist from Kherson.

In October «Henichesk District Court» of the Kherson Region occupied part sentenced **Khalil Kurtamet**³, aged 58, detained in Novooleksiivka, to 8 years in the maximum security regime penal colony for alleged service in the N. Chelebidzhikhan Crimean Tatar Battalion. In 2023 «Kievskiy District Court of Simferopol» sentenced his son – Appaz Kurtamet⁴ abducted in July

¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/pogirshennya-stanu-zdorovya-rustema-gugurika-zagrozhu%d1%94-jogozhittyu-druzhina/>

² <https://crimeahrg.org/en/iryna-horobtsova-kherson-activist-is-denied-medical-care-in-simferopol-pre-trial-detention-centre/>

³ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/khalil-kurtamet-sentenced-to-8-years-for-alleged-service-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/crimean-tatar-from-novooleksiyivka-appaz-kurtamet-sentenced-to-7-years/>

2022 at the Russian checkpoint with the Kherson Region, to 7 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony.

On November 25 and 26, «Kherson Region Court» sentenced **Ihor Protokovylo**, a member of the Novokakhovka City Council abducted in April 2022, and **Oleh Kovalenko** to 12 years for alleged «espionage»⁵.

The Military Court of Appeal of Russian Federation upheld the sentence passed upon **Volodymyr Kryvtsun** and **Vitalii Rastorhuiev** (11 years and 12 years in the penal colony, correspondingly), residents of Berdiansk, by the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation who were accused of alleged attempted assassination of Aleksandr Saulenko, occupational «mayor»⁶.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

At least **250 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.crimeaarg.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



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⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/cases-of-ukrainian-commandos-occupiers-sentenced-two-citizens-of-ukraine-to-12-years-in-custody/>

⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/appeal-upheld-conviction-to-mr-kryvtsun-and-mr-rastorhuiev-residents-of-berdiansk/>

examinations of accused Muslims' conversations. Evidence provided by the defense is usually not taken into consideration by judges. **As of late December 2024**, the number of Crimean residents deprived of freedom within the «Case of Crimean Muslims», was at least **108 persons**.

On October 8, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu received a case of four Crimean Tatars: **Mustafa Abduramanov, Aziz Azizov, Memet Liumanov** and **Rustem Osmanov**, accused under RF CC Articles 30-1, 278 (attempted violent coup), 205.5-2 (membership in a terrorist organization), for further consideration.

On October 21, the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu upheld a prosecutor's petition on extending a detention period of **Mustafa Abduramanov, Aziz Azizov, Memet Liumanov** and **Rustem Osmanov** for 6 months. The court decided on their transferring from Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 2 to Rostov-na-Donu Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1.⁷

On October 14, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu received a case of five Crimean Tatars: **Nariman Ametov, Remzi Kurtnezirov, Ali Mamutov, Vokhid Mustafaiev** and **Enver Khalilaiev**, accused under RF CC Articles 30-1, 278, and 205.5- 1, 205.5-2, for further consideration.

On November 5, Aziz Azizov, Rusten Osmanov, Memet Liumanov and Mustafa Abduramanov, Crimean Solidarity activists, kept earlier in Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 2, were transported to Rostov-na-Donu Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1⁸.

On November 12, the Supreme Court of Russian Federation overturned a conviction of **Dzhemil Gafarov**, who died on November 10, 2023, due to deliberate failure to deliver him a medical care in the Novocherkassk Pre-Trial Detention Centre⁹.

On November 13, the Supreme Court of Russian Federation upheld sentences of the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu passed upon the «Second Simferopol Group» case defendants accused groundlessly of Hizb-ut-Tahrir membership¹⁰. On January 11, 2023, **Servet Gaziiev, Alim Karimov, Seiran Murtaza** and **Yerfan Osmanov** had been sentenced to 13 years in custody.

On November 29, Aleksandr Darnitsyn, the judge of the Military Appeal Court of Vlasikha, Russian Federation, upheld the decision of Roman Saprunov, the judge of the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu, to extend the detention period of **Ruslan Asanov, Seidamet Mustafaiev, Remzi Nemitulaiev, Abdulmedzhyd Seitumerov, Ametkhan Umerov**, and **Eldar Yakubov**¹¹.

On December 9, **Oleksandr Sizikov**, who is blind, was transported from Crimea to the Russian Federation. On December 15, his mother received a notice from Sergey Geberleyn, Head of Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1, that «A.V.Sizikov was sent under control of the Krasnoyarsk Area Main Department of Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia to further serve the punishment»¹².

⁷ <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/10/22/advokaty-shestoj-baxchisarajskoj-gruppy-potrebovali-vernut-materialy-ugolovnogo-dela-prokuroru-3044>

⁸ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02f8LfxX1xoDeG2MihuMrD17e2MRH3t4Jjeve54sMxMRZmFYq74Hew7umdZD8tP4a7wl&id=100008871399626&rdid=JXgQVxpezdRK0iIT

⁹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0dpsouhPrjDVTjXcgLpMVJLG3C98Aw h2R49vm8uwwnsiDYp8YFZUNPqEZ7n3ira3cl&id=100013445915335&rdid=GCWVgcUoHdtf9pKp

¹⁰ <https://suspilne.media/crimea/878727-rosijskij-sud-zalisiv-u-sili-virok-figurantam-spravi-drugoi-simferopolskoi-grupi-hizb-ut-tahrir/>

¹¹ https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=680233&case_uid=885f74c5-c840-4c9b-b0bb-09b3299cf651&delo_id=4&new=4

¹² <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2024/12/16/nezryachego-aleksandra-sizikova-etapirovali-zachetyre-tysyachi-kilometrov-ot-kryma-3087>

«CASES OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

Under Crimean «cases of Ukrainian commandos and spies» **at least 83 citizens of Ukraine** are kept in detention, including those detained in Crimea and the newly occupied territories (occupied after February 24, 2022). At least 28 of these 83 detained are people abducted in Zaporizhzhia or Kherson Regions.

On October 10, Sergey Butusov, the judge of the Military Court of Appeal, city of Vlasikha, Russian Federation, upheld the sentence of **Kostiantyn Yevmenenko**, a «Case of Ukrainian Commandos» defendant¹³. On April 4, the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu convicted Kostiantyn Yevmenenko under RF CC articles 222.1-4, 205.4-2, 30-1, 205-2a), 275¹⁴ and sentenced him to 10 years of the maximum-security regime penal colony with the first two and half years to be served in prison and a fine of 500,000 rubles¹⁵.

On October 15, a 45-year-old resident of Sevastopol was sentenced to 15 years in the penal colony on charges of alleged «espionage». The FSB claims that he allegedly passed strategic information on the location of ships and submarines of the Black Sea Fleet and the location of military units in the city to the SBU¹⁶.

On October 16, the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation sentenced another resident of Sevastopol to 21 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony and found him guilty of «treason» and «preparation of a terrorist attack». According to the FSB version, the man allegedly passed information on the location of Russian Armed Forces facilities in Sevastopol to the SBU¹⁷.

In October the FSB confirmed that **Hanna Yeltsova**, a 23-year-old citizen of Ukraine from Kherson Region and a Kherson State University student, abducted as early as in 2022, was kept in the occupied Crimea¹⁸. According to the FSB, the woman allegedly passed data on the location of Russian troops in the Kherson Region to the Ukrainian special services. She was charged under RF CC Article 276 («Espionage») ¹⁹. Hanna has been held in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center no 2 since at least August 2023, but the Russian authorities did not confirm this for a long time.

On October 31, the judge of the Military Court Appeal of Vlasikha upheld the sentence of **Oleksandr Lytvynenko**²⁰, a «Case of Ukrainian Commandos» defendant from the Kherson Region, detained in Crimea and sentenced on June 19, 2024 by the Southern Area Military Court to 9 years and 6 months in the maximum-security regime penal colony for allegedly preparing a terrorist attack against representatives of the occupation authorities of Crimea.

On November 1, the Military Court Appeal of Vlasikha upheld the decision of the Southern Area Military Court judge on extending the detention periods of **Yurii Petrov**,

¹³ https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=662626&case_uid=791a5b5c-886a-44bb-b4af-5673f0ef0feb&delo_id=4&new=4

¹⁴ https://yovs--ros.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=16572423&case_uid=2fe88302-3d35-4f7c-940b-878c48545181&delo_id=1540006

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/memorial.soc/posts/pfbid0TPy9Wt9ovN2MycwZ9rY6HScWQqr223RLsPBRuRpEZ8nq3EKir2bB4S7UcF9k2svCI>

¹⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/okupanti-zasudili-zhitelya-sevastopolya-do-15-rokiv-za-nibito-shpigunstvo/>

¹⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/okupanti-do-21-roku-vyazniczi-zasudili-meshkanczya-sevastopolya-u-spravi-diversantiv/>

¹⁸ <https://ria.ru/20221227/koordinaty-1841551421.html>

¹⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/fsb-reported-detaining-a-woman-for-espionage-this-may-be-a-student-abducted-in-kherson-land/>

²⁰ https://x.com/memorial_soc/status/1857799855394983989

Oleksandr Zhukov and **Ihor Horlov**²¹. Oleksandr Zhukov is an ATO veteran abducted in Melitopol on April 7, 2022. Co-defendants in this case are Volodymyr Zuiev, Andrii Holubiev, Ihor Horlov and Yurii Petrov. After the abduction, they were detained in Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centers nos 1 and 2 and then moved to LEFORTOVO Pre-Trial Detention Center in Moscow. The Lefortovo District Court of Moscow kept on extending their detention periods while the Moscow City Court upheld these decisions. Since April 4, 2024, the case has been considered by the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu²². The men are accused under RF CC Articles 30-1, 205.4-2 and 361. On August 1, Oleg Yegorov, the judge of the Military Court Appeal of Vlasikha upheld the decision of the Southern Area Military Court judge on extending the detention periods of Yurii Petrov, Oleksandr Zhukov, Volodymyr Zuiev, Andrii Holubiev and Ihor Horlov²³.

On November 1 a judge of «Dzhankoy District Court» sentenced **Viacheslav Piskunov**²⁴, a 61-year-old citizen of Belarus detained on October 23, 2023, to 14 years in the penal colony and a fine of 600,000 rubles, for an «attempted» assassination of a Russian military man in Crimea. The man was accused under RF CC Articles 222-1, 223.1-2, 222.1-3a), 30-3, 105-2 b) e)zh)l), 222.1-3a)²⁵.

On November 2, a judge of the Rostov-na-Donu Military Court of Appeal upheld the sentence of the Southern Area Military Court passed upon three residents of Berdiansk: **Oleksii Makarenko, Damian Omelianenko, and Artur Shashenok**²⁶. Damian Omelianenko was abducted twice by the Russian military: first on May 24, 2022, when he was tortured and his ribs were broken²⁷, and second on November 16, 2022. Damian Omelianenko, Oleksii Makarenko and Artur Shashenok were accused of the «assassination of Aleksandr Kolesnikov, the deputy head of the Berdiansk road traffic police» in August 2022 and of attempted assassination of Artiom Bardin, the commandant of Berdiansk as well as alleged involvement in the preparation of the assassination of the «deputy mayor» Oleh Boyko and his wife as well as preparation of the attempted assassination of Pavel Ishchuk, deputy head of Berdiansk occupation administration²⁸. For some time, they were kept in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center²⁹. The case was considered by the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu. Oleksii was accused under RF CC Articles 222.1-4, 205.4-2, 205-3a), Damian – 205.4-2, 205-2a)v), 205-3b), Artur – 205.4-2, 30-1, 205-2a)v). They did not plead guilty to the charges³⁰. On August 12, 2024, judge Sergey Yarosh decided to return the cases to the investigative body for reclassification as a more serious crime³¹.

On November 11, the Military Court of Appeal of Vlasikha decided to stop the proceedings in the case of **Aleksey Vasiutin** due to withdrawal of the complaint³². Mr. Vasiutin

²¹ https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=672160&case_uid=ef117a76-65c1-4bb9-80b2-c9df2a0e57eb&delo_id=4&new=4

²² https://yovs--ros.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=16567619&case_uid=2715b95f-071e-40ca-afac-186cec1b0af7&delo_id=1540006

²³ https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=651722&case_uid=92b139b3-4e41-4c96-8015-8210fcba947e&delo_id=4&new=4

²⁴ <https://ua.krymr.com/a/news-krym-hromadianyn-bilorus-vybukh-pidozra/32652098.html>

²⁵ https://dzhankoi--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=196399810&case_uid=8f2656af-3f33-438e-8ead-7ce881aeccc8&delo_id=1540006

²⁶ https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=666899&case_uid=845562f9-f5b0-44db-952d-880a7a006af4&delo_id=4&new=4

²⁷ <https://investigator.org.ua/ua/publication/251535/>

²⁸ <https://ren.tv/news/v-rossii/1074190-gruppu-ukrainskikh-diversantov-zaderzhali-v-berdianske?ysclid=m5v7lrv0y7541598799>

²⁹ <https://investigator.org.ua/ua/news-2/258236/>

³⁰ <https://tass.ru/proisshestviya/19245741?ysclid=m5v8mzsbm3231912106>

³¹ https://yovs--ros.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=16570373&case_uid=c92a58f2-c30a-4174-8f78-6dcb7bf00022&delo_id=1540006

³² https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&name_op=case&case_id=676969&case_uid=318d2067-95c1-4b6d-a53a-72c8a3a6dc3a&delo_id=4&new=4

is a resident of the Krasnodar Area who was detained together with **Artur Agasarian**, a Crimean resident, for an alleged attempt to blow up the car of an FSB man in Kerch. On September 18, 2024, the Southern Area Military Court sentenced Artur Agasarian to 20 years in the penal colony and Aleksey Vasiutin to 6 years³³.

On November 25 and 26, «Kherson Region Court» sentenced **Ihor Protokovylo**, a member of the Novokakhovka City Council abducted in April 2022, and **Oleh Kovalenko** to 12 years in custody under RF CC Article 276 («espionage») ³⁴. According to the FSB, the men collected information about the deployment locations of military equipment and personnel of the Russian Armed Forces during the occupation of Kherson Region.

On November 27, the detention period of **Volodymyr Ananiev**, a Ukrainian public figure, was extended by 2 months, with a new article added to the accusation – RF CC 205.1 («accessory in preparing a terrorist act commitment»)³⁵.

On November 28, the Military Court of Appeal of Russian Federation upheld the sentence passed upon **Volodymyr Kryvtsun** and **Vitalii Rastorhuiev** (11 years and 12 years in the penal colony, correspondingly), residents of Berdiansk, by the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation³⁶.

On December 24, a judge of the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu, sentenced **Pavlo Levchenko**, who, according to the investigation, had moved from Zaporizhzhia to Crimea in 2022, to 22 years in custody, with the first five years to be served in prison and a fine of 1mln rubles³⁷. He was accused of blowing up a gas pipe in Crimea, under RF CC Articles 275, 30-1, 205-1, 223.1-1, 205-2v), 222.1-3v), 205.3.

³³ https://t.me/uovs_info/774

³⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/cases-of-ukrainian-commandos-occupiers-sentenced-two-citizens-of-ukraine-to-12-years-in-custody/>

³⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/figurantu-spravi-diversantiv-volodimiru-ananevu-prodovzhili-aresht-i-dodali-stattyu-obvinuvachennya/>

³⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/appeal-upheld-conviction-to-mr-kryvtsun-and-mr-rastorhuiev-residents-of-berdiansk/>

³⁷ https://epp.genproc.gov.ru/web/proc_glskfoyufo/mass-media/news/news-regional?item=99899880

HIGH TREASON PROSECUTION

On October 4 the RF FSB opened a criminal case against **Liudmyla Kolesnykova** detained in Crimea, having accused her of supporting Ukraine financially to an amount of 25 euros due to the purchase of «Russian War Ship» digital post stamps. Since 2022 the woman has been living in Ireland under the «temporary protection status». In June 2024 she came to the funeral of her mother and was detained by the FSB. She is kept in the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center no 2. The criminal case has been initiated under RF CC Article 275 («High treason») ³⁸.

On October 11, the RF FSB detained an alleged «Ukrainian special service agent» in Feodosiia, who collected and transferred the data about the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The criminal case has been initiated against the man under RF CC Article 275 («High treason») ³⁹.

On October 19, the «Supreme Court» of Crimea sentenced a resident of Kerch, **Vladyslav Kisliakov**, to 13 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony under RF CC Article 275 for the alleged transfer of information about the deployment of air defense facilities of the Russian Federation to Ukrainian intelligence ⁴⁰.

On December 2, the Krasnodar Area Court sentenced a resident of Yalta to 14 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony for «high treason» ⁴¹.

On December 6, the «Supreme Court» of Crimea sentenced **Vladyslav Afanasiev**, a resident of Feodosia, to 15 years in custody under RF CC Article 275. According to the FSB, a 30-year-old man allegedly passed information on military units and ships of the Russian Federation to the Ukrainian side ⁴².

On December 6, the «Supreme Court» of Crimea sentenced **Yurii Viunenko**, a 45-year-old Kerch resident, to 15 years in custody for «high treason» ⁴³.

On December 9, the «Supreme Court» of Crimea found a resident of the Leninskiy District of Crimea guilty of «high treason» and sentenced him to 13 years in maximum-security regime penal colony and one and a half year of restriction of freedom after serving the sentence ⁴⁴.

On December 17, the «Supreme Court» of Crimea sentenced a 52-year-old resident of Simferopol to 4 years in the general security regime penal colony for «collaboration on a confidential basis with a foreign State» under RF CC Article 275.1 ⁴⁵.

On December 26, **Oksana Senedzhuk**, a Ukrainian activist from Sevastopol, was sentenced to 15 years in the general security regime penal colony with one year of freedom restriction and a fine of 200,000 rubles for alleged «high treason». Before the occupation she had worked at the Sevastopol City State Administration and had been awarded for her work until 2014. After the start of the occupation, she publicly supported Ukraine ⁴⁶.

³⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/a-ukrainian-woman-detained-at-the-mothers-funeral-in-the-occupied-crimea-she-was-charged-with-espionage/>

³⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-feodosii-zatrimali-cholovika-za-shpigunstvo/>

⁴⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-spravi-diversantiv-kerchanin-otrimav-13-rokiv-kolonii-suvorogo-rezhimu/>

⁴¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/meshkanczya-yalti-zasudili-v-rosii-na-14-rokiv-za-derzhzradu/>

⁴² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zhitelya-feodosii-vladislava-afanaseva-zasudili-do-15-rokiv-u-spravi-pro-derzhzradu/>

⁴³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/meshkanczya-kerchi-zasudili-do-15-rokiv-vyazniczi-za-derzhzradu/>

⁴⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/shhe-odnogo-krichanina-zasudili-na-13-rokiv-nibito-za-derzhzradu/>

⁴⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/simferopolecz-otrimav-4-roki-kolonii-za-nibito-spivpracyu-iz-sbu/>

⁴⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/the-ukrainian-activist-from-sevastopol-is-sentenced-to-15-years-in-colony-for-alleged-state-treason/>

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 31 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.

On October 17, «Henichesk District Court» of the occupied Kherson Region part, sentenced **Khalil Kurtamet**, aged 58, the father of the earlier sentenced Appaz Kurtamet, to 8 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony. According to the FSB, he «actively contributed to the battalion activities since 2015 as well as donated money to equip the battalion base in the village of Chonhar, Kherson Region»⁴⁷.

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.

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 Shablii, Maksym Zinchenko, Serhiy Parfenovych, and Yuriy Herashchenko).

On October 7, the sentence of **Serhii Parfenovych and Yurii Herashchenko**, «Jehovah's Witnesses» from Krasnogvardiysk, sentenced to 6 years in custody (suspended) in July, was changed. The panel of judges of the «Supreme Court» of Crimea, chaired by Natalia Grebennikova, sentenced them to 6 years to be served in the penal colony⁴⁸.

On October 9, searches were carried at least 10 addresses of «Jehovah's Witnesses» in Kerch. **Vitalii Buryk**, aged 53, was detained at work and a criminal case was opened against him under RF CC Article 282.2-1 («management of extremist organization activities»). He was placed under house arrest. The home of Artem Shablii who had been earlier sentenced under extremist article for his «Jehovah's Witness» membership, was also searched⁴⁹.

⁴⁷ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/khalil-kurtamet-sentenced-to-8-years-for-alleged-service-in-crimean-tatar-battalion/>

⁴⁸ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/svidkam-egovi-z-krasnogvardijskogo-sergiyu-parfenovichu-ta-yuriyu-gerashhenku-zaminili-umovnij-termin-na-realnij/>

⁴⁹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/masovi-obshuki-u-svidkiv-egovi-proti-odnogo-z-viruchih-porushili-kriminalnu-spravu/>

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.

On November 21, the Russian Federation FSB men detained **Ediie Muslimova**, aged 61, the editor-in-chief of the Crimean Tatar children's magazine «Armanchuk», at her house in Simferopol. The journalist was kept without any reasons for a day and a half in the building of the FSB administration in Simferopol. She was left without communication; her lawyer was not allowed to see her. Late in the evening on November 22, the woman was released after many hours of questioning⁵⁰. Most of questions were related to her activities as children's magazine editor.

On December 13, **Ihor Nikitenko**, a blind resident of Dzhankoi, having the 1st degree disability, was fined 40 thousand rubles under RF CoAO Article 17.13-2 «for collecting and spreading personal data of law-protected persons». According to the court decision, he disclosed the data of several Russian «policemen» on VKontakte social network. He published photos, surnames, first names, patronymics, place of work, positions and dates of birth of police officers. Earlier, in November, Ihor was fined 10 thousand rubles for «inciting hatred» (RF CoAO Article 20.3.1) due to his statements about «pro-Putin public» in YouTube video and 2 thousand rubles for «disobedience to the demands of police officers» (RF CoAO Article 19.3)⁵¹.

In December, investigators of the Crimean Extremism Countering Center («E» Center) sent screenshots of the «KYRYM» Crimean Tatar newspaper editorial website Roskomnadzor. This became grounds for opening two new administrative proceedings against **Seyran Ibragimov**, the newspaper founder, and **Bekir Mamutov**, the editor-in-chief. They were once again fined a total of 44,000 rubles. This time the reason was an article in Crimean Tatar about Ms. Liudmila Alekseyeva, a Soviet dissident and a Russian human rights defender, where «Voice of America» and «Freedom Radio» were referred to without «foreign agent» label. In May 2024, Seyran Ibragimov and Bekir Mamutov were detained for publishing a UN report and an op-ed about mobilization and fined a total of 790 thousand rubles⁵².

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

In October – December 2024, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded **at least 136 administrative cases** sent by the occupation authorities to the Crimea «courts» under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 («discrediting of the Russian Army»), with **131** 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 **993 such administrative proceedings**.

Criminal and administrative persecution of Crimeans based on the publications of the pro-Russian blogger Aleksandr Talipov, the founder and coordinator of the Internet community called «Crimean SMERSH», keeps on in Crimea. The community members have been persecuting those

⁵⁰ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/fsb-v-krimu-trimala-pivtori-dobi-bez-zvyazku-ta-advokata-golovnu-redaktorku-dityachogo-krimskotatarskogo-zhurnalul/>

⁵¹ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/nezryachogo-krimchanina-oshtrafuvali-na-40-tisyach-rubliv-cherz-publikacziyu-dannih-policzejskih/>

⁵² <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/zasnovnika-i-golovreda-gazeti-kyrym-znovu-oshtrafuvali/>



For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **993 administrative proceedings** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 («discrediting of the Russian Army»)

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. Talipov's actions may be considered as a direct complicity in persecuting the occupied territories' residents for their pro-Ukrainian position⁵³.

On October 22, the Talipov's channel reported the detention of **Aliie Dzafarova**, a 46-year-old resident of the village of Chernovo, Pervomayskiy District of Crimea, who allegedly had «denied the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation» in the shop in the summer. The woman was forced to publicly apologize on camera video⁵⁴.

Talipov reported that «E» Center men detained **Alime Kerimova**, who was listening to the song «Good Evening, We Are from Ukraine» on her social network page. The woman was also forced to publicly apologize on camera video.

Later, Talipov reported the detention of **Tetiana Kasai**, a Kerch resident, for posting on social networks in which she accused the Russian Federation of aggression and «discredited the Russian army».

The Crimeans have been also persecuted 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).

In October, **Andrii Perelyhin**, deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Simferopol Clinical Hospital, was arrested for 15 days under RF CoAO Article 20.3-1 and imposed a fine of 50,000 rubles for «discrediting the Russian army» (RF CoAO Article 20.3-3). According to the police,

⁵³ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/nenavist-v-telegrami-hto-i-yak-zaklikae-do-genoczidu-ta-peresliduvan-ukraïncziv-v-krimu/>

⁵⁴ <https://crimeahrg.org/en/detention-for-songs-and-posts-how-people-are-persecuted-for-pro-ukrainian-position-in-crimea/>

«Pereligin was waiting for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and said to the hospital staff that «soon the Ukrainian army will liberate Crimea, and all supporters of the Russian world will be hanged». The man was also accused of having the Ukrainian song «Red Viburnum» as his mobile ringtone»⁵⁵.

In addition, to persecute the Crimeans, RF CoAO Article 20.1-3-5 (petty hooliganism) is 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» on the Internet.

In November «Kievskiy District Court» of Simferopol fined **Nazim Muzhdabaiev** 70 thousand rubles for a photo of Putin on social networks with a caption «Vovka to be f...ed» that was considered by «court» as disrespect of the State (CoAO Article 20.1-3). The photo has been published five years ago⁵⁶.

⁵⁵ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/u-simferopoli-golovnogo-likarya-zaareshtuvali-na-15-dib-cherez-rington-chervona-kalina/>

⁵⁶ <https://crimeahrg.org/uk/krimchanina-oshtrafuvali-za-lajku-v-bik-putina/>

2 VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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.

On October 1, 2024, the next fall conscription campaign began in the Russian Federation and its occupied territories. According to the decree of V. Putin dated September 30, 2024, at least 133 thousand conscripts were planned to join the ranks of the Russian army¹. The conscription campaign also took place in Crimea. This has been the **20th conscription campaign** in the occupied peninsula.



For the entire occupation period CHRG has documented **at least 574 criminal cases** for evading service under RF CC Article 328

¹ <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202409300012>

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 **574 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.

As to 52 criminal cases related to this subject, documented in 2024, Crimean «courts» passed the following judgments:

- 45 convictions;
- 3 decisions of appeal bodies to uphold the convictions;
- 1 case was closed because the statute of limitation expired;
- 3 cases are being still considered by «courts».

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 October – December 2024 the CHRG documented at least 138 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 841**.

ATTACKS ON CIVIL POPULATION OF UKRAINE 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 morning of **October 14**, the port infrastructure of the Odesa port was attacked by ballistic missiles. As a result of the attack, **one person was killed, eight were injured**, civilian vessels, a grain warehouse, cargo cranes, warehouses, machinery, buildings of the Seaports Administration branch, cars were damaged².

On the afternoon of **November 18**, the Russian military attacked a residential area of Odessa with a ballistic missile. As a result of the attack, **ten people were killed, 54 people more were injured**, including **five children** aged 7 to 11³.

On December 13, Russian troops carried out a combined air attack on the power infrastructure of Ukraine with various types of missiles and strike drones, including ISKANDER M ballistic missiles from Crimea and 24 KALIBR cruising missiles from ships in the Black Sea. The attack caused serious damage to CHP equipment⁴.

² <https://pravda.com.ua/news/2024/10/14/720541/>

³ <https://suspilne.media/odesa/883009-ataka-rf-po-odesi-18-listopada-aki-poskodzenna-zafiksuvali-pravoohoronci/>

⁴ <https://suspilne.media/901455-rosia-zavdae-masovanogo-raketnogo-udaru-po-ukraini-de-lunaut-vibuhi/>

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

- 1. On November 20, 2024**, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted Law «On amending Article 23 of Law of Ukraine «On Mobilization Training and Mobilization» regarding the clarification of grounds to grant deferment from conscription to military service during mobilization to women and men whose close relatives (husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother or a (full or half-blood) sibling) died or went missing when participating in the hostilities» (No 12104)¹. The deferment from conscription for military service during mobilization was granted to «women and men whose close relatives (husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother or a (full or half-blood) sibling) died or went missing under special circumstances during implementation of measures to ensure national security and to defend, repel and deter armed aggression of the Russian Federation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as to ensure national security and to defend, repel and deter armed aggression against Ukraine during the martial law». The right for deferment from the mobilization was also granted to civilians who had been deprived of personal liberty due to the aggression against Ukraine (civil captives). Thus, the civil hostages, having been released from captivity, obtained the same guarantees as released POWs. The draft law was signed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi on December 31.
- 2. On December 3**, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) decided to rename the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine to the Ministry of National Unity of Ukraine². As a result, the powers of the Ministry for Reintegration are to be re-assigned to other ministries, but the powers of the Ministry of National Unity of Ukraine have not been approved by the end of 2024.
- 3.** By CMU Resolution No. 1545 dated **December 31, 2024**, the Regulations on the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine (MinDevelopment) were amended, assigning actions on exercising the rights and interests of persons deprived of personal freedom as a result of aggression as well as their family members to the MinDevelopment competence. Making decisions on establishment of the fact that the person was deprived of personal freedom as a result of aggression against Ukraine by the Commission for verifying the fact of deprivation of personal liberty due to armed aggression against Ukraine is also re-assigned to the MinDevelopment competence.
- 4. During October – November**, two meetings of the Inter-Departmental Commission for verifying the fact of deprivation of personal liberty due to armed aggression against Ukraine were held at the Ministry for Reintegration. The commission establishes this fact both for POWs and civilians. The Commission meeting in December was not held due to renaming the Ministry for Reintegration and re-assigning its powers.

¹ <https://itd.rada.gov.ua/billinfo/Bills/Card/45001>

² <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1366-2024-n#Text>