



CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS: CRIMEA 2024 SITUATION REVIEW

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**CRIMEAN
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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

Since the start of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine the occupied Crimea has been used by the Russian authorities for detaining civilians abducted in the newly occupied territories, in particular Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions. The civilians are still unlawfully detained in Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1 (*head – Sergey Geberlein*) that operated before 2022, and in Pre-Trial Detention Centres no 2 (*head – Anton Gorkun*) and no 8 (*head – Rauf Idrisov*) established after February 24, 2022.

The abducted civilians have become defendants of criminal cases or are kept incommunicado in Crimea, left without any access to legal aid and possibility to inform their relatives about their whereabouts.

As of December 2024, the CHRG verified at least **86 civilians** abducted in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and deported to Crimea. Most of them were kept or are still kept in Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 2. At least 24 persons from this list, according to the CHRG, are kept in places of unfreedom in Crimea incommunicado without any official confirmation from the Russian Federation.

In all cases of abductions and detentions in the occupied parts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions documented by the CHRG, the Russian military, Russian Guard and FSB men used tortures and did not provide a necessary medical care.

The CHRG documented the places of unfreedom controlled by the Russian Federation where civilians were (or are) regularly subject to torture:

- ▶ Premises of the Main Department of National Police of Ukraine, 4 Liuteranska Street, Kherson (before the liberation from the Russian occupation);
- ▶ Temporary Containment Cell, 3 Teploenerhetykiv Street, Kherson (before the liberation from the Russian occupation);
- ▶ Premises of the Vocational College no 17, 88 Paryzkoi Komuny Street, city of Henichesk (occupied part of Kherson Region);¹

¹ Since February 15, 2023, «Department of Federal Service of RF National Guard Troops for Kherson Region» has been registered in the State Register of the Russian Federation.



CHRG verified at least **86 civilians** abducted in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and deported to Crimea.

At least **24 persons** from this list, according to the CHRG, are kept in places of unfreedom in Crimea incommunicado without any official confirmation from Russia

**As of December 2024*

- ▶ Pre-Trial Detention Centre, 66 Tarasa Shevchenka Street, village of Chonhar, Henichesk District (*occupied part of Kherson Region*);
- ▶ Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1 in Simferopol
- ▶ Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 2 in Simferopol
- ▶ Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 8 in Simferopol

Criminal cases of the abducted civilians are considered by «courts» of Crimea, courts in the RF territory (*including military courts of Russian Federation*) or «courts» established after February 24, 2022, in the newly occupied territories.

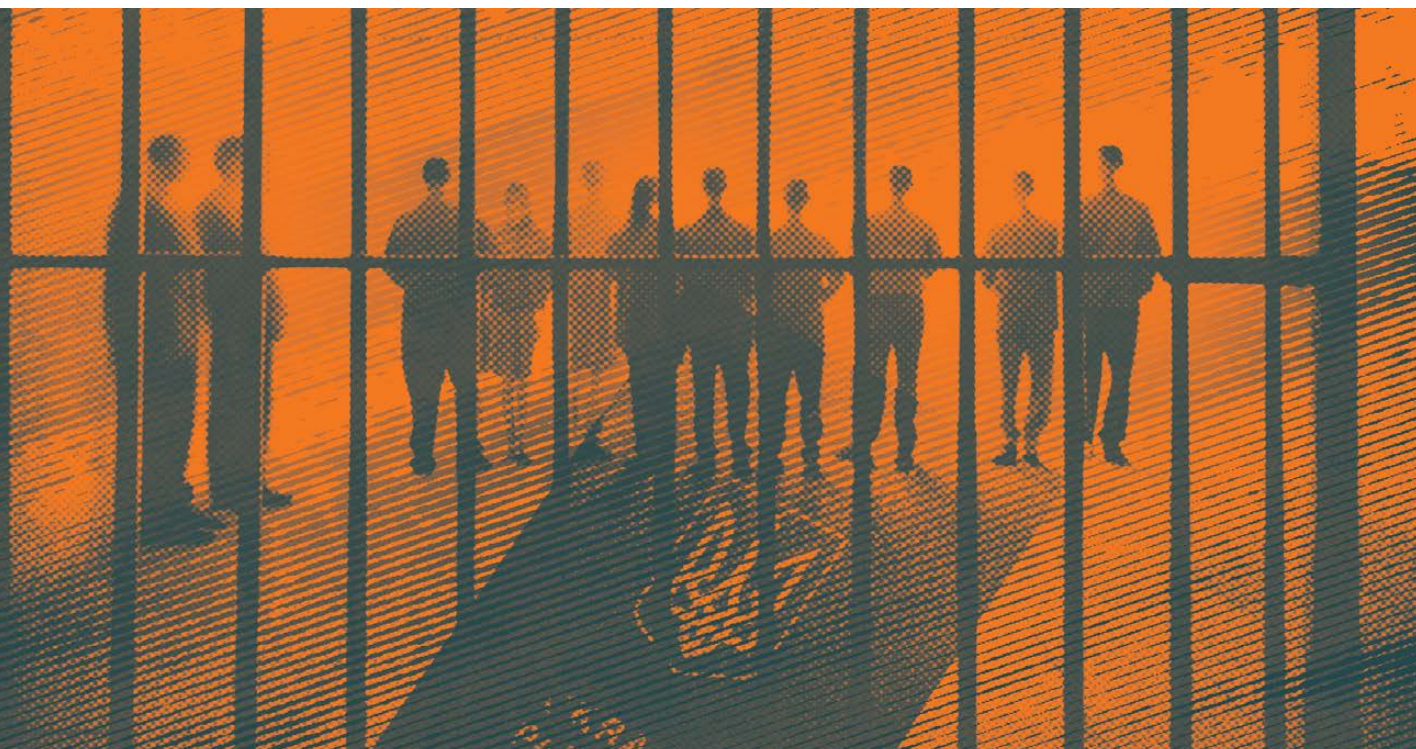
In 2024, at least **6 unlawful sentences** were passed (*Ukrainian civilians and military*):

- **Artem Baranov**, a resident of Nova Kakhovka, 10 years and 6 months in the penal colony (*Southern Area Military Court of Russian Federation*);
- **Yaroslav Zhuk**, a resident of Melitopol, 14 years in the penal colony (*Southern Area Military Court of Russian Federation*);
- **Ivan Tereshchenko** and **Vasyl Dmytriuk**, two Ukrainian border guards and defenders of AZOVSTAL in Mariupol, 17 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony («*Supreme Court*» of Crimea);
- **Iryna Horobtsova**, a volunteer from Kherson, 10 years and 6 months in the general security regime penal colony («*Kherson Regional Court*»);
- **Pavlo Levchenko**, born in Zaporizhzhia, 22 years in the penal colony (*Southern Area Military Court of Russian Federation*).

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

As of the late 2024, according to the CHRГ information, at least **250 Ukrainian citizens** were held in the sites of unfreedom within the politically motivated criminal persecution. The list of such persons is constantly updated on the CHRГ website, at <https://dela.crimeahrg.org/uk/>

For the purpose of politically motivated persecution, the occupation authorities keep on «cooking» criminal cases under «terrorist» and «extremist» articles, articles related to illegal military units, acts of sabotage, espionage, «high treason», and illegal storage of arms or explosives.

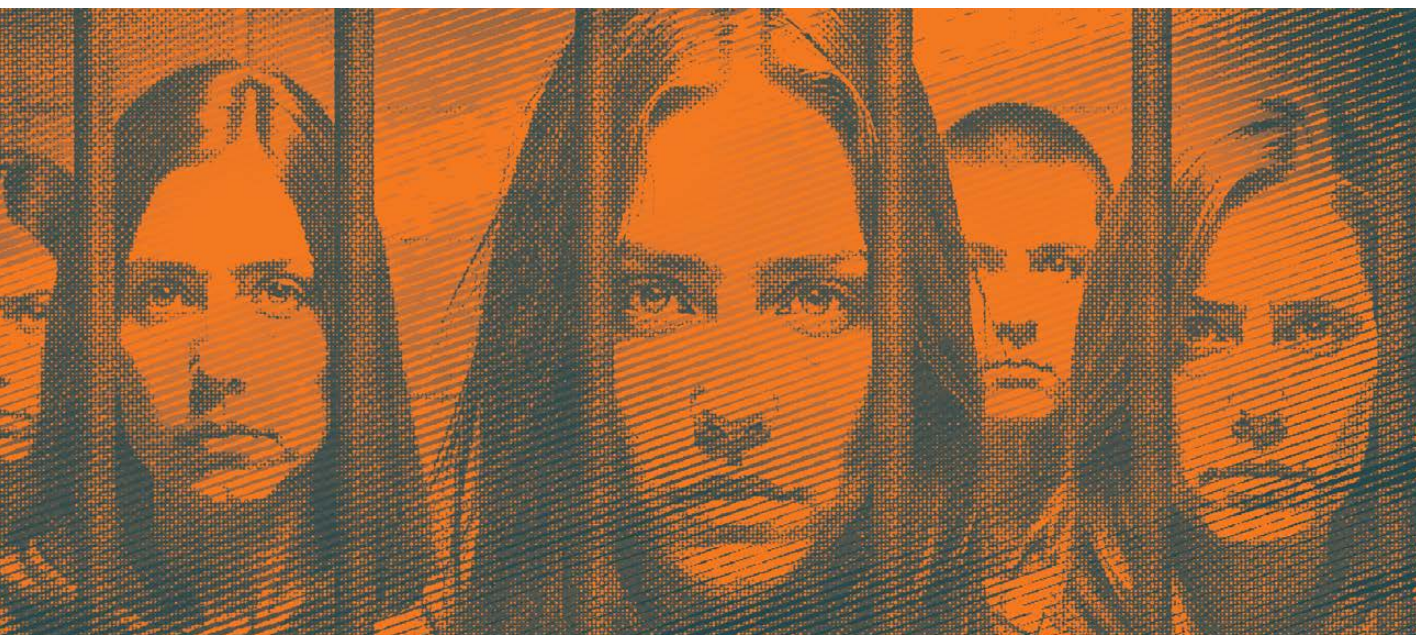


At least **250 citizens of Ukraine** are being kept in places of unfreedom within a political reasoned and/or religious criminal persecution

WOMEN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY DUE TO POLITICALLY REASONED CRIMINAL PERSECUTION

At least **17 women** from Crimea and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions are kept in the places of unfreedom in the territory of occupied peninsula and in the Russian Federation.

Halyna Dovhopola, aged 69, a Ukrainian activist, a resident of Sevastopol, who publicly condemned the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and kept contacts with volunteer Ukrainian organizations. The FSB of the Russian Federation detained the woman in November 2019. In March 2021, the «Sevastopol City Court» convicted Halyna of «treason against the State» (*RF Criminal Code Article 275*) and sentenced to 12 years in the general security regime penal colony. Halyna is held in Penal Colony no 1, village of Golovino, Vladimir Region (*RF*), and urgently needs medical care.



At least **17 women** from Crimea and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions are kept in the places of unfreedom in the territory of occupied peninsula and in the Russian Federation

Iryna Danylovych, aged 45, a citizen journalist, a nurse, a resident of Feodosiia. Iryna defended the interests of medical staff in the peninsula and publicized violations of their rights. FSB men abducted her on April 29, 2022, and kept in the FSB building basement of the FSB until May 7. On December 28, 2022, the «Feodosiia City Court» read out Iryna's conviction: she was said «to have stored explosives» and sentenced her to 7 years in custody and a fine of 50,000 rubles. On June 29, 2023, the «Supreme Court of Crimea» reduced the punishment period by one month. Due to lack of medical care, Iryna went fully deaf in left ear. On May 14, 2024, the 4th Cassation Court of general jurisdiction in Krasnodar upheld the decision of the «Supreme Court of Crimea». Currently the activist is held in penal colony no 7, Zelenokumsk, Stavropol Area, Russian Federation, and needs medical care.

Oksana Senedzhuk, aged 58, a Ukrainian activity, a scholar of language, a resident of Sevastopol, a participant of actions against the occupation of Crimea in 2014. Oksana was repeatedly called in for interviews because of her Ukrainian position. On August 15, 2024, she was arrested by the FSB of the Russian Federation and charged with «treason against the State» under RF Criminal Code Article 275. On December 26, 2024, the «Sevastopol City Court» sentenced the woman to 15 years in the general security regime penal colony and a fine of 200k rubles. Currently Oksana Senedzhuk is being detained in Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1 in Simferopol.

Liudmyla Kolesnykova, aged 34, a resident of Yalta, a lawyer. In 2011 she started working at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Crimea. After the occupation she stayed at the position of investigator until 2018, and then, until 2019, she worked as junior detective in the occupation authorities. In 2019 she resigned. Since 2022, Liudmyla has been living in Ireland. In June 2024, she came to the occupied Yalta for her mother's funeral and was detained by the FSB men. A criminal case under RF CC Article 275 («*high treason*») was opened against her under the charges of supporting Ukraine financially to an amount of EUR25 as she had bought «Russian Military Ship» digital post stamps. Liudmyla is kept in Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 2.

- **Women abducted from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions are also kept in Crimea.**

Iryna Horobtsova, an IT company tester and a public activist. During the Russian occupation of Kherson, she helped the local hospital. On May 13, 2022, she was abducted and moved to Simferopol. On August 15, 2024, she was sentenced to 10 years and 6 months in the general security regime penal colony for «espionage» (RF CC Article 276). Currently she is kept in Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 1.

Hanna Yeltsova, aged 24, a Kherson State University student. On November 29, 2022, she was abducted from her grandmother's house in the village of Ahaimany. For two years she was kept incommunicado in Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center. In October 2024, the FSB reported that a criminal case under RF CC Article 276 («espionage») had been opened against her. According to the FSB, the woman allegedly passed data on the location of Russian troops in the Kherson Region to the Ukrainian special services. Hanna has been kept in Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Centre no 2 since at least August 2023.

Apart from the above-mentioned women, according to the CHRG, at least 11 women more from Crimea and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions are kept in the places of unfreedom in the territory of occupied peninsula and in the Russian Federation². Totally, the CHRG documented at least 17 civilian women from Crimea and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions that are kept in the places of unfreedom in the territory of Crimea and the Russian Federation.

«CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS»

This case defendants, most of whom are Crimean Tatars, are accused of being members of Islamic organizations or of promoting such organizations' activities, though these organizations recognized as terrorist or extremist in the Russian Federation are not declared such by laws of Ukraine.



108 persons deprived of liberty within the «Case of Crimean Muslims»

² In the interests of the detainees and for the safety of their families, all the names of the women are being withheld

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 end of December 2024, the number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty within the «Case of Crimean Muslims» reached **at least 108 persons**.

- **In 2024, the courts of the Russian Federation passed the following judgements:**

- ▶ **in June**, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentence of the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation passed upon Mr. **Vadym Bektemirov**: 11 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in August**, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentences of the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation passed upon Mr. **Eldar Kantymirov**, Mr. **Lenur Khalilov**, Mr. **Ruslan Mesutov**, and Mr. **Ruslan Nahaiev**. Mr. Nahaiev and Mr. Kantymirov were sentenced to 13 and 12 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony, and Mr. Khalilov and Mr. Mesutov — to 18 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in August**, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentences of the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation passed upon Mr. **Tofik Abdulgaziiev**, Mr. **Vladlen Abdulkadyrov**, Mr. **Izzet Abdullaiev**, Mr. **Medzhit Abdurakhmanov**: 12 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony, and Mr. **Bilial Adilov**: 14 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in September**, the Military Court of Appeal of Vlasikha upheld the sentence passed upon blind Mr. **Oleksandr Sizikov** (*sight disabled person*): 17 years of penal colony, and upheld sentences of the Southern Area Military Court passed upon Mr. **Alim Suf'yanov** and Mr. **Seiran Khairedinov**: 12 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in September**, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentence of Mr. **Yashar Shykhmetov**: 11 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in September**, the Military Court of Appeal of Vlasikha upheld the sentence of Imam **Raif Fevziiev**: 12 years in in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in September**, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentences of Mr. **Ernest Ibragimov** and Mr. **Oleh Fedorov**: 13 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony;
- ▶ **in November**, the Supreme Court of Russian Federation overturned post-mortem a conviction of Mr. **Dzhemil Gafarov**, who died on November 10, 2023, due to deliberate failure to deliver him a medical care in the Novocherkassk Pre-Trial Detention Centre (*Russian Federation*);
- ▶ **in November**, the Supreme Court of Russian Federation upheld sentences of the Southern Area Military Court passed upon Mr. **Servet Gaziiev**, Mr. **Alim Karimov**, Mr. **Seiran Murtaza** and Mr. **Yerfan Osmanov**: 13 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony.
- ▶ **On March 5, 2024**, the homes of 10 Crimean Tatars in Bakhchisarai, Dzhankoi and Dzhankoi District were searched in Crimea that was followed with detentions of Mr. **Nariman Ametov**, Mr. **Enver Khalilaiev**, Mr. **Ali Mamutov**, Mr. **Vakhid Mustafaiev**, Mr. **Mustafa Abduramanov**, Mr. **Memet Liumanov**,

Mr. **Aziz Azizov** and Mr. **Rustem Osmanov**. They are charged under Article 205.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation («*Management of a terrorist organization activities and participation in its activities*»). Within this case, Mr. **Remzi Kurtnezyrov** and Mr. **Arsen Kashka** have been also placed under house arrest.

«CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

Within these cases, the Russian FSB accuses Crimeans of «preparing acts of sabotage, storing weapons and spying». Illegal methods of investigating and torturing to obtain confessions, violation of the presumption of innocence, distribution of «confession» videos by the FSB of the Russian Federation through the Russian media were recorded in these cases.

At least 83 persons are held in confinement within the Crimean «cases of Ukrainian commandos and spies», including those who were detained in Crimea and at least 28 persons who were abducted in Zaporizhzhia or Kherson Regions after February 24, 2022.

In 2024, **at least 23 sentences** were passed in the cases of «Ukrainian commandos and spies» by courts of the Russian Federation and «courts» in the occupied territories of Ukraine.

● **The Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu, Russian Federation, passed the following sentences upon:**

1. Artur Agasarian — for 20 years;
2. Oleksii Vasiutyn — for 6 years;
3. Kostiantyn Yevmenenko — for 10 years;
4. Andrii Yeniukov — for 10 years;
5. Serhii Yerzhov — for 18 years;



83 persons are held in confinement within the Crimean «cases of Ukrainian commandos and spies». **23 sentences** were passed

6. Murat Kadyrov — for 10 years;
 7. Ihor Korchynskyi — for 18 years;
 8. Vitalii Rastorhuiev — for 12 years;
 9. Volodymyr Kryvtsun — for 11 years;
 10. Pavlo Levchenko — for 22 years;
 11. Oleksandr Lytvynenko — for 9.5 years;
 12. Dmytro Papenko — for 21 years;
 13. Volodymyr Pazin — for 16 years;
 14. Serhii Sauliak — for 18 years.
- «**Supreme Court**» of Crimea passed the following sentences upon:
 15. Vladyslav Afanasiev — for 15 years;
 16. Yurii Viunenko — for 15 years;
 17. Vladyslav Kisliakov — for 13 years.
 - «**Kievskiy District Court**» of Simferopol passed the sentence upon:
 18. Mamut Belialov — for 12 years.
 - «**Zheleznodorozhnyi District Court**» of Simferopol passed the sentence upon:
 19. Ihor Dynskyi — for 14 years.
 - «**Dzhankoyskiy District Court**» passed the sentence upon:
 20. Viacheslav Piskunov — for 14 years.
 - «**Sevastopol City Court**» passed the sentence upon:
 21. Oksana Senedzhuk — for 15 years.
 - «**Kherson Regional Court**» in the occupied part of the Kherson Region passed the following sentences upon:
 22. Oleh Kovalenko — for 12 years;
 23. Ihor Protokovylo — for 12 years.

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.

At least **33 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 N.Chelebidzhukhan Battalion.



At least **33 persons** in custody on charges of serving in the N. Chelebidzhikhan Battalion

In 2024, the CHRG documented at least 5 such cases, with residents of Crimea or residents of the occupied parts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions transferred for some period to Crimea, detained.

On May 22, «Kievskiy District Court» of Simferopol sentenced **Akim Gavarof** to 5 years in custody under RF CC Article 208-2. On August 8 the «Supreme Court» of Crimea changed his sentenced, having excluded a reference to RF CC Article 64, and determined that Akim Gafarov should be considered sentenced to 8 years in custody with serving the first 3 years in prison.

On August 7, «Henichesk District Court» of the occupied part of Kherson Region sentenced **Nariman Abliazov**, a local businessman and public activist for preserving the Crimean Tatar identity, to 3 and a half years in custody.

On October 17, «Henichesk District Court» sentenced Khalil Kurtamet, the father of the earlier sentenced Appaz Kurtamet, to 8 years in custody.

In October «Henichesk District Court» convicted **Nariman Derman** and sentenced him to 3.5 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony with serving the first year in prison.

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 criminal persecution of «Jehovah's Witnesses» has begun. In 2020, the first confinement sentences were passed for members of the «Jehovah's Witnesses» organization.

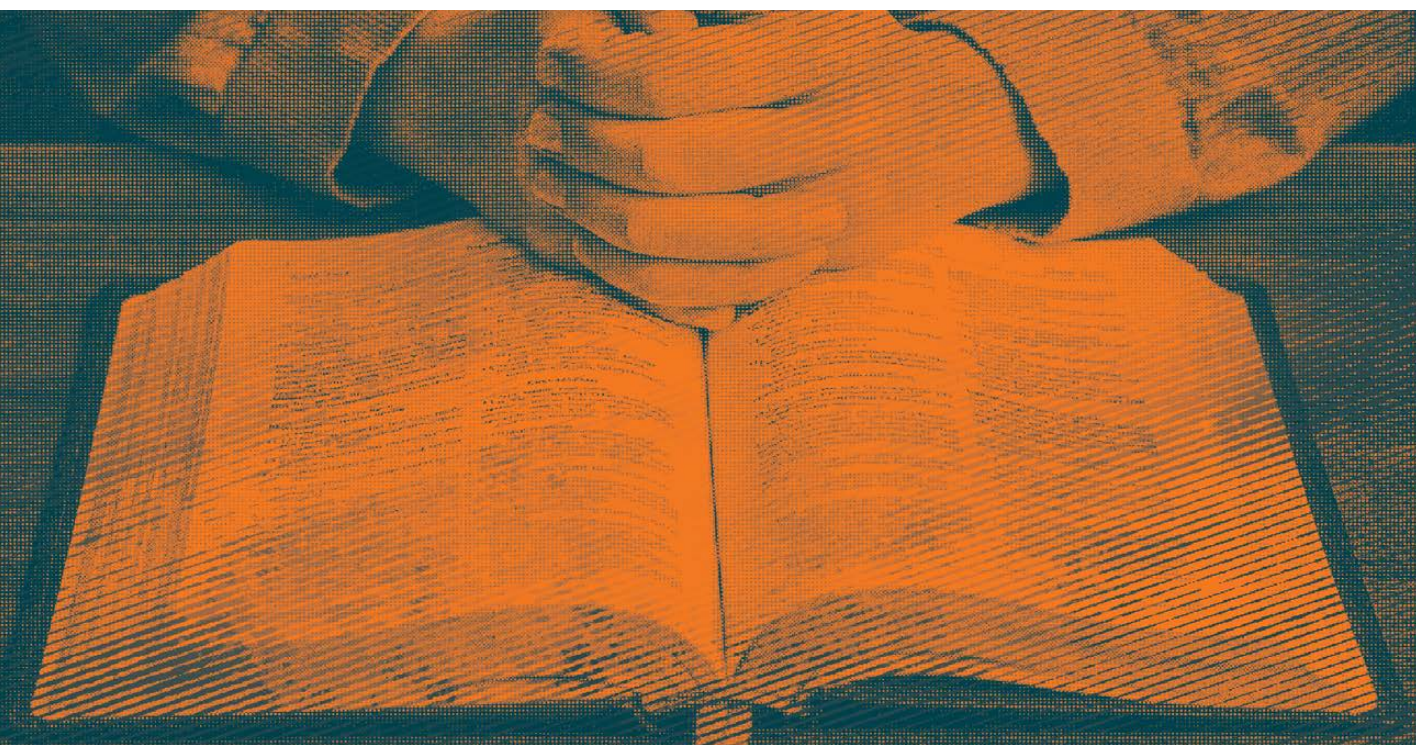
During the occupation, at least **13 Crimeans** have been convicted on charges of membership in «Jehovah's Witnesses» the religious organization (Artem Herasimov, Oleksandr Dubovenko, Yevhen Zhukov, Oleksandr Lytvyniuk, Volodymyr Maladyka, Volodymyr Sakada, Viktor Stashevskiy, Serhii Filatov, Ihor Shmidt, Artem Shablii, Maksym Zinchenko, Serhii Parfenovych and Yurii Herashchenko).

- In 2024, the sentences were passed upon at least three believers:

- ▶ **Maksym Zinchenko**, a resident of Feodosia: 2 years of forced labor («*Nakhimovskiy District Court*» of Sevastopol);
- ▶ **Serhii Parfenovych** and **Yurii Herashchenko**, residents of Krasnogvardeyskoye: 6 years suspended confinement («*Krasnogvardeyskoye District Court*»). However, the «Supreme Court» of Crimea changed the suspended sentence to 6 years in the penal colony.

Viktor Ursu was released from house arrest, replacing it with travel restrictions and proper behavior.

In 2024, there were at least 17 searches of «Jehovah’s Witnesses» homes. According to the «Jehovah’s Witnesses» website, the persecution of the faithful has been escalating: the number of accused in Crimea doubled for the last two years: from 16 to 32.



At least **3 convictions**, maximum sentence – **6 years** in the penal colony. At least **13 believers** were convicted during the entire period of occupation

CIVILIANS RELEASED FROM PLACES OF UNFREEDOM

On June 28, as part of the exchanges between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Nariman Dzhelial, the deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, who was sentenced in Crimea to 17 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony was released. Together with him, 9 civil citizens of Ukraine were returned, too.

On September 13, as part of exchanges between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Leniie Umerova, a 25-year-old Crimean Tatar woman, who had been deprived of her liberty since December 4, 2022, was released. 49 citizens of Ukraine more returned to Ukraine together with Leniie from the places of unfreedom controlled by the Russian Federation.



For the period of Crimea occupation, **only 10 citizens of Ukraine** deprived of liberty in the «Crimean» politically motivated cases were released due to political arrangements.

In total, during the period of occupation, as part of mutual releases and political arrangements, only 10 citizens of Ukraine, deprived of liberty due to «Crimean» politically motivated cases, were released: Hennadii Afanasiev, Akhtem Chyigoz, Ilmi Umerov, Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko, Yevhen Panov, Volodymyr Balukh, Edem Bekirov, Nariman Dzhelial and the only woman — Leniie Umerova.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

The occupation authorities kept on the practice of criminal persecution of citizen journalists in the cases trumped-up using articles of terrorism or storage of arms or explosives, espionage, sabotage. At least **18 Crimean journalists** are deprived of personal liberty within politically motivated criminal cases: Oleksii Bessarabov, Dmytro Shtyblikov, Vladyslav Yesypenko, Seiran Saliiev, Marlen (Suleiman) Asanov, Timur Ibrahimov, Server Mustafaiev, Osman Arifmemetov, Remzi Bekirov, Ruslan Suleimanov, Rustem Sheikhaliev, Amet Suleimanov, Asan Akhtemov, Iryna Danylovysh, Vilen Temerianov, Ernes Ametov, Rustem Osmanov, Aziz Azizov.

The CHRG sent information on the places of holding Crimean journalists to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. As of the end of 2024, Crimean journalists are known to be held in the following places of unfreedom:

1. Azizov Aziz — Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1, Rostov-na-Donu, Russian Federation
2. Ametov Ernes — penal colony no 12, settlement of Sheksna, Vologda Region, Russian
3. Arifmemetov Osman — prison of city of Minusinsk, Krasnoyarsk Area, Russian Federation
4. Asanov Marlen — penal colony no 7, Zubovo-Polianskiy District, settlement of Sosnovka, Republic of Mordovia, Russian Federation



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Azizov Aziz | 10 Shtyblikov Dmytro |
| 2 Ametov Ernes | 11 Mustafaiev Server |
| 3 Arifmemetov Osman | 12 Osmanov Rustem |
| 4 Asanov Marlen | 13 Bessarabov Oleksii |
| 5 Akhtemov Asan | 14 Saliiev Seiran |
| 6 Bekirov Remzi | 15 Suleimanov Amet |
| 7 Danylovykh Iryna | 16 Suleimanov Ruslan |
| 8 Yesypenko Vladyslav | 17 Temerianov Vilen |
| 9 Ibrahimov Tymur | 18 Sheikhaliiev Rustem |

5. Akhtemov Asan — «Vladimirskiy Tsentral», city of Vladimir, Vladimir Region, Russian Federation
6. Bekirov Remzi — penal colony no 33, city of Abakan, Republic of Khakassia, Russian Federation
7. Danylovykh Iryna — penal colony no 7, city of Zelenokumsk, Stavropol area, Russian Federation
8. Yesypenko Vladyslav — penal colony no 2, city of Kerch, Crimea
9. Ibrahimov Tymur — penal colony no 5, village of Klekotki, Skopino District, Riazan Region, Russian Federation
10. Shtyblikov Dmytro — penal colony no 6, city of Omsk, Russian Federation
11. Mustafaiev Server — penal colony no 1, Tambov Region, Russian Federation
12. Osmanov Rustem — Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1, Rostov-na-Donu, Russian Federation
13. Bessarabov Oleksii — penal colony no 1, village of Kochubeievskoye, Stavropol Area, Russian Federation
14. Saliiev Seiran — penal colony no 4, city of Plavsk, Tula Region, Russian Federation
15. Suleimanov Amet — «Vladimirskiy Tsentral», city of Vladimir, Vladimir Region, Russian Federation

- 16. Suleimanov Ruslan — prison of city of Verkhneuralsk, Cheliabinsk Region, Russian Federation
- 17. Temerianov Vilen — Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1, Rostov-na-Donu, Russian Federation
- 18. Sheikhaliev Rustem — prison no 2, city of Yeniseysk, Krasnoyarsk Area, Russian Federation

On **December 24, 2024**, Putin signed an edict «**On approving the Strategy for Countering Extremism in the Russian Federation for 2025**», which poses new threats to freedom of speech and expression in Crimea and other occupied territories³. The document identifies Ukraine as a source of major and global extremist threats. The strategy contains definitions that make it possible to further use these definitions to persecute all those who disagree with Russia's occupation of Ukrainian territories. It defines «*discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation*» as one of the methods of manipulating public opinion, which is used to «*destabilize the general political and socio-economic situation in the Russian Federation*» and to strengthen «*radical and extremist sentiments in Russian society*».

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

The occupation authorities kept on the practice of persecuting under the administrative article on «public actions aimed at discrediting the Russian army» (*RF CoAO Article 20.3.3, in force since March 4, 2022*). In 2024, the CHRG recorded at least 436 administrative proceedings sent for consideration by «courts» of Crimea under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 («*discrediting of the Russian army*», with a punishment judgement of occupation «courts» awarded in 314 cases (a fine or an administrative arrest).



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

³ *More details:* <https://crimeahrg.org/en/russias-2025-strategy-to-combat-extremism-is-a-new-threat-to-ukrainian-citizens-in-occupation/>

In total, for the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRГ has documented **at least 993 such administrative proceedings.**

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

In 2024, the number of criminal and administrative cases against Crimeans provoked by the publications of the pro-Russian blogger Aleksandr Talipov, the founder and coordinator of the Internet community called «Crimean SMERSH», increased. 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.

In addition, Crimeans have been persecuted for demonstrating Ukrainian symbols, for Ukrainian songs and slogans, using CoAO Article 20.3 («*Incitement of hatred*») for this purpose. Parts 3-5 of RF CoAO Article 20.1 («*petty hooliganism*») also allow to fine Crimeans for spreading «information that offends human dignity and public morality, clear disrespect for society, the state, official state symbols of the Russian Federation, the Federation or bodies exercising state power in the Russian Federation» on the Internet.

2 VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW NORMS

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

The Russian Federation keeps on involving Crimeans in the full-scale war against Ukraine. In violation of international humanitarian law norms, the Crimeans are forcibly drafted to the Armed Forces of Russian Federation. Pursuant to the Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, Article 51, the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. The International Criminal Court Rome Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xv), establishes that compelling the nationals of the hostile party to take part in the operations of war directed against their own country shall be a war crime.



At least **554 criminal cases** under RF CC Article 328 for evading the services in the RF Armed Forces, for the entire period of occupation

As of 31 December 2024

In 2024, two forced conscription campaigns were held in Crimea. In total, 20 conscription campaigns have been held in Crimea during the occupation period.

To compel to serve in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the occupation authorities enforce criminal persecution for evading such service under RF CC Article 328 (*Evading the service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*). In 2024, Crimea «courts» considered at least 52 cases under this article: 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.

For the entire period of occupation, the CHRG has recorded at least **554 such cases**. Criminal persecution does not mean an exemption from the military service.

Since February 24, 2022, the Crimean Human Rights Group has been collecting data on dead and captured Russian military personnel assigned to military units in Crimea. In 2024, the CHRG documented at least 361 KIAs among the military fighting at the Russian Federation side. In total, since the start of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least 841 KIAs.

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.

Attacks launched from Crimea in 2024 that became major in terms of victims and affected among the civilians:

On March 15, the Russian Armed Forces attacked Odesa with two Iskander-M missiles from Crimea. The attack caused 21 fatalities and injury of 73 persons including local residents as well as medical and rescue staff who arrived at the place of the first missile hit. The second hit was when the emergency services were providing aid to the victims of the first one⁴.

15 March, Odesa

21 killed, 75 affected

29 April, Odesa

8 killed including a four-year-old girl,
32 affected

**8 July, Kyiv Region, Krevyi Rih,
Pokrovsk, Dnipro, Kyiv**

44 killed, 196 affected

18 November, Odesa

10 killed, 54 affected

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

On the evening of **April 29**, the Russian Federation military attacked a coastal recreation area in Odesa with an Iskander multicharge warhead missile 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 girl⁵, with 32 people being injured, including a pregnant woman and two children.

On the morning of **July 8**, 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 people⁶, 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 Kyiv.

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 11⁷.

⁵ https://lb.ua/society/2024/05/23/614944_likarni_pomerla_ditina_yaka.html

⁶ <https://espreso.tv/viyana-z-rosiyeyu-unaslidok-ataki-rf-8-lipnya-v-ukraini-zaginuli-44-lyudini-196-postrazhdali-dsns>

⁷ <https://suspilne.media/odesa/883009-ataka-rf-po-odesi-18-listopada-aki-poskodzenna-zafiksuvali-pravoohoronci/>

3 SOME INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS REGARDING CRIMEA

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN UNION

13th Package of individual and economic sanctions, 23 February 2024

Individual sanctions were introduced, including against representatives of the occupation authorities of Crimea and persons responsible for the illegal deportation and militarized re-education of Ukrainian children in the occupied territories and in the Russian Federation, against judges involved in the politically motivated persecution of Iryna Danylovysh, Oleh Prykhodko, Oleksii Kyseliov, Crimean lawyers, journalists, representatives of the Crimean Solidarity initiative⁸.

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Conclusion on the merits in the first inter-state case «Ukraine versus Russia» (*re Crimea*), 25 June 2024

The ECHR recognized that Russia had violated the international humanitarian law norms, having enforced its legislation in the temporarily occupied territory of the AR of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The court established that the following human rights determined by the articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, namely the right to life, the prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and personal integrity, the right to a fair trial, the absence of punishment without law, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of discrimination, had been violated in Crimea since 2014⁹.

UN GENERAL SECRETARY

Report of UNGS: Situation of human Rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, 30 July 2024

The report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 and highlights the situation with violations of international human law norms and international human rights law in Crimea and in the temporarily occupied or controlled by Russia districts of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions of Ukraine¹⁰.

⁸ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/23/russia-two-years-after-the-full-scale-invasion-and-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-eu-adopts-13th-package-of-individual-and-economic-sanctions/>

⁹ <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22sort%22:%5B%22kdate%20Descending%22%5D,%22itemid%22:%5B%22002-14347%22%5D%7D>

¹⁰ https://ukraine.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/A_79_258-EN.pdf

INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON UKRAINE

Report of Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine,
79th Session of the UN GA, 25 October 2024

The Commission concluded that torture inflicted on Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war by the Russian authorities constituted a crime against humanity. Torture committed by the Russian authorities are widespread, systematic and pursuant to the coordinated State policy. The Russian authorities have often refused the prisoners of war the medical care and in some cases the medical staff themselves were directly involved in ill — or careless treatment of the POWs.

Regarding the places of unfreedom controlled by the Russian Federation, where Commission confirmed the use of torture, is Pre-Trial Detention Center no 2 in Simferopol¹¹.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolution «Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol», 17 December 2024

For the first time, the resolution calls Russia's aggression a war of aggression and condemns violations against Ukrainian prisoners of war, including violations of the rights of Ukrainian prisoners of war, widespread and systematic use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including sexual and gender-based violence, degrading conditions of detention and failure to provide adequate medical care. The resolution emphasizes the obligation of the Russian Federation to ensure that prisoners of war have contact with their families, access to lawyers, and fulfill other requirements of international law.

The list of political prisoners of Crimea was added with names of Seiran Saliiev, Oleh Prykhodko, and Osman Arifmemetov¹².

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Resolution of 19 December 2024 on the 11th year of the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and the deteriorating human rights situation in occupied Crimea, notably the cases of Iryna Danylovysh, Tofik Abdulhaziiev and Amet Suleymanov

The resolution confirmed an explicit international position regarding the illegal occupation of Crimea, condemned systematic violations of human rights by the Russian Federation and calls to immediately release all Crimean political prisoners¹³.

¹¹ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/315/17/pdf/n2431517.pdf>

¹² <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/184>

¹³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2024-0072_EN.html



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