



CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP

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REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA

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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

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.

The CHRG has verified at least **91 civilians** abducted from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and transferred to Crimea*

*As of March 2025



As of March 2025, the CHRГ verified at least **91 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.

On February 13, 2025, “Kherson Regional Court” sentenced **Hanna Yeltsova**, aged 23, to ten years in the general security regime penal colony under RF CC Article 276 “Espionage”¹.

Serhii Tsyhipa, a journalist, writer and public figure from the city of Nova Kakhovaka in the occupied part of Kherson Region, was transported from the colony in the city of Skopin, Riazan Region, to Moscow (Pre-Trial Detention Centre # 4 of Medvedkovo District). He was held in Moscow for a period of considering his cassation appeal from the conviction that sentenced him to 13 years in the penal colony for “espionage” (RF CC Article 276). The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation considered the Serhii’s cassation appeal on March 27, 2025, and upheld the conviction.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

At least **264 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/>



WOMEN DEPRIVED OF FREEDOM DUE TO POLITICALLY REASONED CRIMINAL PERSECUTION

At least **20 women** from Crimea as well as Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions are held in the places of unfreedom in the territory of the occupied peninsula and in the Russian Federation.

¹ For more details see section “Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution”

At least **20 civilian women** from Crimea and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions are in detention in Crimea and the Russian Federation



On February 10, 2025, the “Third Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction” upheld the sentence of **a resident of Sevastopol**² for “collaboration with the Ukrainian special services through the Telegram messenger”. In September 2024, she was sentenced to 5 years and 3 months in the general security regime penal colony with a 1-year restriction of liberty under Article 275.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (“Collaboration on a confidential basis with a foreign state, international or foreign organization”).

On February 7, 2025, the FSB reported the **detention of four women** in Sevastopol and the Russian cities of Voronezh and Rostov on charges of “preparing terrorist attacks” against “high-ranking officers of the Russian Ministry of Defense and fuel and energy facilities.” The woman detained in Sevastopol was taken into custody for two months.

On February 13, 2025, the “Kherson Regional Court” **sentenced** 23-year-old **Hanna Yeltsova**, abducted on November 29, 2022, in the village of Ahaimany, Kherson Region, to 10 years in the general security regime penal colony for alleged espionage (Article 276 of the RF Criminal Code). For two years, Hanna had been held incommunicado in Simferopol’s Pre-Trial Detention Center # 2. According to the FSB, the woman allegedly had passed information about the location of Russian troops in the Kherson Region to the Ukrainian special services.

In February, 2025, it **became known** that in Crimea, the RF FSB agents abducted 28-year-old **Lera Dzhemilova**, a resident of Dzhankoy district, and have been holding her in an unknown place for more than 8 months. Later, the CHRG **found** out that Lera Dzhemilova was first held in Pre-Trial Detention Center # 2, and then transferred to Pre-Trial Detention Center #1. A case was opened against her under Article 275 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (“high treason”).

On March 6, 2025, the “Simferopol District Court” sentenced a **35-year-old Crimean woman** to 10 years in custody and a fine under Article 222.1-3 of the RF Criminal Code (illegal acquisition, transfer, sale, storage, transportation, shipment or carrying of explosives).

On the night of March 22, 2025, in Yevpatoriia, after searches, the FSB agents **detained** 4 members of the same family who had moved from Lviv to Crimea before 2014 – **Tetiana Maliar**, her brother **Valentyn**, her son **Anatolii Rossikhin** and her daughter **Olha Behei**. All the detainees are accused of “high treason” and are being held in Simferopol’s

² Exact name and surname are under identification.

Pre-Trial Detention Center #2. Detainee Olha Behei has kids at home: a daughter aged 11 years and a son aged 7 years.

On March 24, the “Sevastopol City Court” sentenced 66-year-old Sevastopol resident **Nina Tymoshenko** to 16 years in the general security regime penal colony, allegedly for “high treason” under Article 275 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. She was accused of passing information about the location of the Russian Black Sea Fleet ships to the Ukrainian special services.

«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 March 2025, the number of Crimean residents deprived of freedom within the “Case of Crimean Muslims”, was at least **110 persons**.

On January 13, 2025, judge Viacheslav Korsakov (Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu (RF)) extended the detention period for **Osman Abdurazakov, Aider Asanov, Leman Zekeryaiev, Ekrem Krosh, Khalil Mambetov and Refat Seidametov** (defendants in the “Dzhankoi Group 2”) until May 3, 2025.

On January 17, 2025, judge Oksana Grab (“Bakhchisarai District Court”) refused to recognize holding **Edem Smailov** in the punishment cell of the penal colony (hereinafter – PC) No. 7 in the Kostroma Region unlawful. Since the end of January 2024, Smailov had been held in a barracks with strict detention conditions in the Kostroma Region for more than 7 months, being moved periodically either in the punishment cell or in the ward-type room (WTR). According to the lawyer, the documents stating the offense and disciplinary proceedings were drawn up “for trumped-up reasons”.

On January 24, 2025, judge Alieksandr Darnitsyn (Military Court of Appeal in Vlasikha, Moscow Region) upheld the decision of the Southern Area Military Court regarding **Nariman Ametov, Enver Khalilaiev, Ali Mamutov and Vokhid Mustafaiev** (detained in Pre-Trial Detention Center No. 1 in Rostov-na-Donu), as well as **Remzi Kutnezirov**, who is a disabled person of group 2 (under house arrest).

On January 28, 2025, judge Timur Mashukov (Southern Area Military Court) extended the detention period for 5 Crimean Tatars: **Enver Krosh, Vilen Temeryanov, Edem Bekirov, Rinat Aliiev, Seitiaz Abbozov** until May 28, 2025.

On February 4, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court extended the detention period for the defendants of the “Bakhchisarai Group 5” case: **Remzi Nimetulaiev, Ruslan Asanov, Ametkhan Umerov, Seidamet Mustafaiev, Eldar Yakubov, Abdulmedzhyt Seitumerov** until May 23, 2025.

On February 5, 2025, Russian FSB officers conducted searches in the houses of **Emir Kurtnezirov, Rustem Mustafaiev, Abibula Smedliaiev, Mirzaali Tadzhybaiev and Bakhtiiar Ablaiev**. After the searches, all 5 Crimean Tatars were detained on charges of involvement in Hizb ut-Tahrir activities. In the evening of February 5, 2025, and in the morning of February 6, 2025, the “Kievskiy District Court of Simferopol” in camera placed all the men in detention until April 4, 2025. On February 26, 2025, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea upheld this decision.

On February 5, 2025, the Vlasikha Military Court of Appeal **upheld** the sentence of Ansar Osmanov (20 years in confinement).

On February 6, 2025, the occupation authorities' officers **searched** the house of **Seitnebi Ramazanov**, an activist, resident of village of Rodnikovo, Simferopol District. He is the father of former political prisoner **Ismail Ramazanov**, who was released in 2018. The man's documents and phone were seized. He was informed that investigative measures were being taken against his son, who is in the Ukraine controlled territory.

On February 20, 2025, the "Kirovskiy District Court" dismissed the administrative lawsuit filed by convicted journalist **Remzi Bekirov** against the colony where he was serving his sentence. A month ago, he was placed in the punishment cell for 5 days for praying morning Namaz.

On February 23, 2025, it **became known** that **Tofik Abdulgaziiev's** lymph node tuberculosis was progressing. His wife also reported that the conditions her husband was held in confinement were still substandard, being incompatible with his health condition. He is being held in the specialized tuberculosis hospital No. 3 of the Main Department of the Federal Penitentiary Service for the Chelyabinsk Region.

On March 11, 2025, **Ruslan Mesutov** was **transferred** from Yakutsk Penal Colony No. 1 to a hospital in the village of Tabaga. He fainted and complained of heart problems.

On March 25, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court continued considering the case of **Aziz Azizov, Memet Liumanov, Rustem Osmanov and Mustafa Abduramanov**, granted the prosecutor's motion and left them in custody until July 7, 2025.

«CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

At least **92 Ukrainian citizens** are held in confinement within the "cases of Ukrainian commandos and spies", including those who were detained in Crimea (starting from 2014) and at least 33 persons who were abducted in Zaporizhzhia or Kherson Regions after February 24, 2022, and deported to Crimea pre-trial detention centers.

Within these cases, the Russian FSB accuses the detained of "preparing acts of sabotage, storing weapons and spying". Unlawful methods of investigating, torturing and psychological pressure to obtain confessions, violation of the presumption of innocence, distribution of staged "confession" videos by the FSB of the Russian Federation through the Russian media were recorded in these cases.

On January 9, 2025, Judge Igor Kostin of the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation **sentenced** a resident of Sevastopol, **Konstantin Horpynchenko**, to 11 years in custody on charges of collaboration with the SBU. The criminal case against him was initiated under Article 30-3, Article 205-1 (attempted terrorist attack) and Article 275.1 (collaboration with a foreign state) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

In January 2025, the "Supreme Court" of Crimea **sentenced** in absentia **Vitalii Khomenko**, a 56-year-old resident of Yalta and a former lawyer, to 18 years in the maximum security regime penal colony. The man was charged with "high treason" and alleged collaboration with the SBU, and was put on the wanted list by the Russian authorities.

On February 10, 2025, the **sentence** of 5 years and 3 months in the penal colony was upheld against a resident of Sevastopol, the woman being charged with alleged "collaboration with the special services of Ukraine".³

³ For more details see section "Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution"

On February 7, 2025, the FSB reported the detention of 4 women in Sevastopol and the Russian cities of Voronezh and Rostov on charges of “preparing terrorist attacks against high-ranking officers of the Russian Defense Ministry and fuel and energy facilities.”⁴

On February 7, 2025, the “Sevastopol City Court” **sentenced** a former resident of Sevastopol named **Grigoryan** to 12 years in custody for “high treason”, namely for allegedly transferring money to help the Ukrainian army while living in Spain.

On February 13, 2025, the “Kherson Regional Court” **sentenced** 23-year-old **Hanna Yeltsova**, abducted from the occupied part of Kherson region, to 10 years in the penal colony for alleged “espionage”.⁵

In February 2025, it became known that the Russian FSB had abducted 28-year-old **Lera Dzhemilova** in the occupied Crimea and kept her in the detention center for more than 8 months.⁶

In February 2025, a resident of Yevpatoriia disappeared after a search in his home. Later it became known that he was taken to the FSB office in Simferopol.

On February 17, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation extended the detention period of **Volodymyr Ananiev**, a 75-year-old Ukrainian public figure, accused by the FSB under RF CC Articles 222.1 (Unlawful procurement, storage, transportation or carrying of explosive substances) and 205 (Preparation to a terrorist act) until August 5, 2025.

On February 20, 2025, Alla Khinevich, a judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea, **sentenced Ruslan Mambetov**, a 32-year-old resident of Semisotka village (Leninskiy district), to 18 years in the penal colony for “high treason”. The “court” stated that Ruslan Mambetov “disagreed with the Russian special military operation, in June 2023 he joined a community in a social network created and coordinated by the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine”.

On February 26, 2025, the “Kirovsky District Court” **sentenced Valerii Shevchuk**, a resident of the village of Partizany, to 5 years and 10 days in the general security regime penal colony for “calls for extremist activities” (Article 280 of the RF Criminal Code). According to the “prosecutor’s office”, the man allegedly had posted negative comments about the Russian army under YouTube videos.

On March 6, 2025, the “Simferopol District Court” sentenced a resident of Sevastopol to 10 years in the penal colony because she was allegedly “in possession of explosives and cooperating with the special services of Ukraine”.⁷

On March 10, 2025, the “Sevastopol City Court” **sentenced** a 24-year-old local resident to 15 years in the maximum security regime penal colony and a fine of 200 thousand rubles for “high treason” (Article 275 of the RF Criminal Code). The FSB accused him of collecting information that “could be used against the Russian Armed Forces”.

On March 10, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu sentenced **Ihor Sudylovskiy**, a resident of Sevastopol, to 17 years in the penal colony and a fine of 300,000 rubles for allegedly preparing “the demolition of a residential building on the instructions of the Ukrainian special services.”

On March 11, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court **sentenced Petro Zhytskyi**, a resident of Yalta, to 24 years in the penal colony in the case of “attempted assassination of former member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleg Tsarev,” who had acted in the interests of the Russian Federation in his position.

⁴ For more details see section “Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution”

⁵ For more details see section “Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution”

⁶ For more details see section “Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution”

⁷ For more details see section “Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution”

On March 12, 2025, Yelena Mikhalkova, a judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea, upheld the decision of the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol regarding 30-year-old **Vladyslav Afanasiev**. He was sentenced to 15 years in the penal colony for “high treason” for allegedly passing “information about military units and warships of the Russian Federation to the Ukrainian side.”

On March 14, 2025, a 29-year-old resident of Kerch was detained on suspicion of “high treason” (Article 275 of the RF Criminal Code). According to the Russian FSB, the man “transmitted data on critical infrastructure facilities to the Ukrainian special services for use in launching missile strikes.”

In March 2020, a resident of Yalta was accused of “high treason”. According to the Crimean “prosecutor’s office”, the man, being “an opponent of the special military operation, came into contact with representatives of the SBU at the end of 2022”.

On March 14, 2025, the Crimean “prosecutor’s office” charged a resident of Dzhankoi for allegedly collecting information about the Russian Ministry of Defense warehouses in Crimea and passing it on to the SBU.

On the night of March 22, 2025, four members of the same family who moved from Lviv to Crimea before 2014 – **Tetiana Maliar**, her brother **Valentyn**, son **Anatolii Rossikhin** and daughter **Olha Behei**- were detained in Yevpatoriya after searches on charges of “high treason”.

On March 24, 2025, the “Sevastopol City Court” sentenced **Nina Tymoshenko**, a 66-year-old Sevastopol resident, to 16 years in the penal colony allegedly “for high treason” (Article 275 of the RF Criminal Code).⁸

On March 27, 2025, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, after considering the cassation appeal of journalist **Serhii Tsyhipa**, abducted in Nova Kakhovka in Kherson Region, upheld the sentence of 13 years in the penal colony.⁹

PERSECUTION ON CHARGES OF SERVING IN N. HELEBIDZHICHA BATTALION

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

More than 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. Chelebidzhikhan Battalion.

At least 31 people, including Ukrainian citizens abducted by the Russian military in southern Ukraine after February 24, 2022, have been incarcerated on charges of serving in the N. Chelebidzhikhan battalion. More and more cases are recorded when the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea do not report the names of people who are detained or convicted on charges of serving in this battalion.

⁸ For more details see section “Women Deprived of Liberty due to Politically Reasoned Criminal Persecution”

⁹ For more details see section “Abductions in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions and Deportations to Crimea”

On February 6, 2025, **Bekir Guguryk**, a 64-year-old resident of Kherson region (occupied part), **was detained** on charges of serving in the N. Chelebidzhikhan Crimean Tatar battalion. Earlier, more than two years ago, his brother, 53-year-old **Rustem Guguryk**, had been sentenced to 8.5 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony on similar charges. Currently, Rustem Guguryk is held in penal colony No. 8 in Ulan-Ude (Buryatia), where he lost hearing on the left side because he was not provided with medical care.

On March 24, 2025, it became known that **Eldar Karamurza**, a 47-year-old Crimean Tatar, had been detained in the village of Novooleksiyivka in the occupied part of Kherson region a month ago. He is the father of 4 children and has a group 2 disability due to congenital cerebral palsy. According to preliminary information, the man is being held in the Novotroitsk pre-trial detention center.

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

According to representatives of Jehovah’s Witnesses, since the beginning of 2025, Russian authorities have conducted at least 96 searches in the homes of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia and the occupied territories. The largest number of searches – 17 – was recorded in Crimea.

On January 14, 2025, judge Sergey Korotun, “Gagarinskiy District Court of Sevastopol”, **sentenced Viktor Kudinov and Serhii Zhygalov** to 6 years in custody for their membership in the Jehovah’s Witnesses organization.

CIVILIANS RELEASED FROM RUSSIAN PENAL COLONIES

On January 15, 2025, **Andrii Kolomiets**, who had served 10 years of unlawful confinement in a politically motivated case, was **released** from the penal colony in Krasnodar. However, once left the colony, he was detained by Russian police. He was transferred to the Center for the Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Department in the Gulkevichi District. On January 16, 2025, the Gulkevichi District Court of the Krasnodar Area ruled to place Andrii Kolomiets in the Center for the Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens until April 14, 2025. Earlier, in 2018, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation had issued an order declaring the stay of Ukrainian citizen Andrii Kolomiets in the Russian Federation undesirable, and in 2024, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in Krasnodar Area decided to deport Andrii.

However, instead of releasing Andrii Kolomiets or deporting him, he was again deprived of his liberty and placed in the Center for the Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens. The court motivates its decision by the fact that “it is currently impossible to carry out the deportation procedure due to the special military operation, as the borders of Ukraine are closed”. At the same time, Andrii Kolomiets was not allowed to leave the territory of the Russian Federation on his own. This

practice is typical regarding Ukrainian citizens who have been released from places of unfreedom in the Russian Federation since February 24, 2022.

On February 11, 2025, **Remzi Memetov, Rustem Abiltarov and Zevri Abseiitov**, defendants in the case of the “First Bakhchisarai Group”, who had been unreasonably convicted for alleged membership in Hizb ut-Tahrir, were **released** after serving 9 years in the Russian penal colony. The Crimean Tatars were detained on May 12, 2016, in Bakhchisarai. Remzi Memetov served his sentence in penal colony No 11 in Stavropol, Rustem Abiltarov and Zevri Abseiitov – in penal colony No. 1 in the village of Kochubeevskoye, Stavropol Area, Russia.

On February 25, 2025, **Aziz Faizullaiev**, a Crimean Tatar, sentenced in 2022 to 3 years in confinement for alleged “arson of a village council building in the village of Pushkine “due to “disagreement with the war in Ukraine where his relatives live”, served his sentence in penal colony No 2 in Kerch and **was released**.

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.

PERSECUTION FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE AND ANTI-WAR POSITION

In January – March 2025, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded at least **159** administrative cases sent by the occupation authorities to the Crimea “courts” under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”), with **151** 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 **1152** such administrative proceedings.

On January 22, 2025, **Aleksey Mikitiuk**, a judge of the “Kievskiy District Court” of Simferopol, passed a **judgment** in the case of Rustem Ablialimov, a resident of the village of Dobre, Simferopol District, and fined him 45 thousand rubles (Article 20.3.3 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation) for publishing an interview with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi on his Odnoklassniki page.

On January 30, 2025, the “Kirovskiy District Court” **issued** several decisions regarding a resident of the village of Kirovske, Yan Moiseiev. The man was fined a total of 95,000 rubles under two articles – “petty hooliganism” and “discrediting of the Russian army” – and sentenced to 10 days of administrative arrest for “disobedience to police”. The reason was that he allegedly had “used abusive language and insulted the President of the Russian Federation” while communicating in video chats through the ChatRoulette website. In addition, the Crimean man was accused of “undermining the authority of the Russian army” by criticizing their actions in the territory of Ukraine.

On February 12, 2025, the “Sovetskiy District Court” **fined** a 50-year-old local resident 50 thousand rubles for leaving comments that allegedly insulted Russian soldiers, thus “discrediting” the Russian army.

For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **1152 administrative proceedings** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”)



In January–March 2025, the CHRG kept documenting criminal and administrative cases against Crimeans, initiated by the publications of pro-Russian blogger Aleksandr Talipov, the founder and coordinator of the online community called Crimean SMERSH. Members of the community persecute those who do not support the Russian authorities and the war against Ukraine, publish their personal information, incite hatred against them, call for their persecution, and file informations to the FSB and the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to the analysts of the Crimean Human Rights Group, Talipov’s activities **can be regarded** as direct complicity in the persecution of residents of the occupied territories for their public pro-Ukrainian position.

In February 2025, a case was opened against 37-year-old Anna Hrytsevych under Articles 20.3.3 and 20.1 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation for allegedly insulting the Russian president and supporting Ukraine on social media.

In February 2025, the occupation authorities forced 34-year-old resident of Bakhchisarai Aliye Mustafaieva and 28-year-old Server Arifov to apologize on video for comments on social media supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine published in 2014.

In addition, the occupation authorities detained and forced to apologize on video **Yurii Bozhenko**, a 75-year-old resident of Armiansk, who criticized the Russian military and expressed support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine on social media.

In February 2025, the Russian “police” administratively detained Eskender Mediiev, a 30-year-old resident of Biiuk-Onlar (Oktiabrskoye), Kurmansk (Krasnogvardeysk) District, who criticized the actions of the Russian army on social media.

Yevhen Buhaichenko, a 45-year-old resident of Kirovo village, Leninskiy District, was detained and accused of “discrediting the Russian army” during a verbal conflict with a “member of the SVO.” Administrative reports were drawn up against the man, and the materials were sent to the “court”.

In March 2025, after a publication on Talipov’s channel, the Russian “police” detained Serhii Pluzhnikov, a 49-year-old resident of Simferopol, who was accused of “rehabilitating Nazism”.

In Crimea, the Crimeans are still being persecuted for demonstrating Ukrainian symbols, for Ukrainian songs and slogans under Article 20.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses.

In addition, parts 3-5 of Article 20.1 of the Code of Administrative Offenses (“petty hooliganism”) are also used to persecute Crimeans. They allow fining people for disseminating “information on the Internet that offends human dignity and public morality, and manifest disrespect for society, the state, and official state symbols of the Russian Federation”.

In January 2025, Vitalii Kirpach, a 49-year-old resident of Yevpatoriia, was administratively detained for listening to Ukrainian music on the street.

Dmytro Morozov, a resident of Simferopol, was detained for shouting the slogan “Glory to Ukraine” in the city bar.

Oleksiy Silin, a resident of Dzhankoi, tore down a Russian flag from his neighbor’s house. The man was detained and forced to apologize on video. The occupation authorities are now considering opening a criminal case against him.

2 VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

FORCIBLE TRANSFER OF PROTECTED CIVILIANS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY TO TERRITORY OF OCCUPYING POWER

In violation of Article 49 of the Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949, and Article 85 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Convention of 1977, the Russian occupation authorities are carrying out forcible individual transfers of protected civilians from the occupied territory of Crimea to their own territory. Civilians from Crimea, accused or convicted for political reasons, are transferred from Crimea to pre-trial detention centers and colonies in the Russian Federation.

On January 9, 2025, Seiran Khairedinov was transferred to penal colony No. 2 in the city of Vladimir (“Vladimir Central”). His transfer lasted for almost 2 months.

On January 16, 2025, it was reported that **Ruslan Mesutov** was brought to the penal colony No. 1 in Yakutsk. According to his sister Lilia Mesutova, upon his arrival, he was placed in the punishment cell and all his personal belongings, including glasses, were taken away.

Teimur Abdullaiev, sentenced to 16.5 years in prison, was placed in the punishment isolator in the Republic of Bashkortostan in January. The reason was that the man had refused to greet the head of the colony while praying.

At the end of January 2025, Oleksandr Sizikov, who has a group 1 visual disability, was transferred to the penal colony in the city of Yeniseisk, Krasnoyarsk Area. **On February 8, 2025,** Oleksandr Sizikov was brought to the colony in the city of Minusinsk, Krasnoyarsk Area.

On January 28, 2025, it became known that **Oleh Fedorov** was transferred from colony No. 5 in the city of Sarapul to colony No. 8 in the village of Khokhryaki, Udmurt Region. Upon arrival, he was placed in the punishment cell.

On February 15, 2025, it was reported that **Asan Akhtemov**, a Crimean Tatar journalist, sentenced to 15 years, was transferred from the Vladimir Central colony to the penal colony No. 5 in the city of Nizhniy Novgorod. His wife reported that Asan Akhtemov had been suffering from joint pain for more than a year, but he had not received any medical care in the Vladimir Central. At the end of February, Asan Akhtemov was transferred to colony No. 5 in Koryazhma. Koriyazhma, Arkhangelsk Region, Russia.

Rustem Sheikhaliiev, sentenced to 14 years, was moved from the colony in the city of Yeniseisk to a hospital in Krasnoyarsk Area. The man had repeatedly complained of pain but received no medical care. He was placed in hospital only after his legs had become blue and swollen.

The health condition of Tofik Abdulgaziiev, sentenced to 12 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony, **is deteriorating**. Physicians confirmed the damage to his lymphatic system. He is ill with tuberculosis but does not receive proper treatment in the Verkhneursk colony, Chelyabinsk Region of Russia.

On February 27, 2025, 75-year-old Ukrainian public figure **Volodymyr Ananiev**, detained in February 2024, **was transferred** from the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center to Rostov-na-Donu for the trial in the Southern Area Military Court.

On March 11, 2025, it became known that 64-year-old **Servet Gaziiev was being held** in penal colony No. 5 in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. According to his sister Svetlana Abliamitova, the transfer had lasted for more than 2 months.

On March 11, 2025, it **became known** that **Riza Izetov** was being held in the ward-type room (WTR) in penal colony No. 1 in the city of Yakutsk. Administrative actions are constantly taken against him, sending him to the punishment cell, and he is deprived of the right to make phone calls.

On March 11, 2025, **Ruslan Mesutov** was moved from penal colony No. 1 in the city of Yakutsk to a hospital in the village of Tabagi, Republic of Sakha. According to his relatives, the man was placed in hospital due to heart problems – arterial hypertension. While being held in the penal colony (since November 2024), he stayed almost constantly in the punishment cell, that caused a significant **deterioration of his health**.

In March 2025, it became known that **Rustem Virati**, a resident of the Henichesk District, Kherson Region, sentenced to 8 years in the maximum security regime penal colony for allegedly serving in the Chelebidzhikhhan battalion, **died** in the penal colony in Dimitrovgrad, Ulyanovsk Region. Having been detained, the man was held in the pre-trial detention center in Chonhar, where he was tortured. As a result of torture, the man's kidneys failed, his blood sugar level increased, his limbs swelled, and fluid accumulated in his lungs. On February 10, 2025, relatives were informed of Rustem Virati's death.

CONSCRIPTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY TO THE ARMED FORCES OF OCCUPYING POWER AND MOBILIZATION

Russia has been using Crimeans in the full-scale war against Ukraine. To force people to serve in the Russian Armed Forces, the occupation authorities criminalize evasion of such service under Article 328 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Evasion of service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation). In January-March 2025, at **least 23 cases** under this article were considered in the courts of Crimea. Among them:

- 18 guilty verdicts in the “courts” of first instance
- 1 decision of the appellate instance to uphold the verdict
- 4 cases are under consideration in the “courts”.

Over the entire period of occupation, the CHRG has documented at least **577 such criminal cases**.

At least 577 criminal cases under RF CC Article 328 for evading service in the armed forces of the Russian Federation during the occupation*

*As of 31 March 2025

Most often, “courts” impose fines of up to 50 thousand rubles. However, the payment of a fine does not exempt from service.

On February 24, 2025, Judge Marina Ushakova of the Vlasikha Military Court of Appeal upheld the verdict of the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation against Denis Narolskiy. The man was detained in January 2023 and sentenced to 9 years in the penal colony under the article “desertion committed in conditions of armed conflict or hostilities” (part 3 of Article 338 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMEA



Since February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation has been constantly attacking many civil facilities of Ukraine with missiles, UAVs and air bombs from the territory of occupied Crimea and the Black Sea water zone that caused fatalities and injuries among the civilians. Since late September 2022, the Russian Federation has been active in using kamikaze drones to attack civilian infrastructure. A substantial part of such drones is also launched from the occupied peninsula territory.

In the evening of January 31, 2025, Russia **attacked Odesa** with missiles of various types, including Iskander ballistic and cruise missiles, and Shahed attack drones from the territory of Crimea. Some of the attack drones were launched from Cape Chauda in Crimea. At least **7 people** were injured in the attack. The greatest damage was done to the historic center of Odesa, in particular to the UNESCO protected area (Bristol and Decameron hotels, Philharmonic Hall, Vuchin's House, Museum of Western and Eastern Art, and a branch of the Literature Museum). At the time of the attack, members of the Norwegian diplomatic mission were staying in the Bristol Hotel.

In the evening of February 13, 2025, a Russian Iskander-M ballistic missile was **launched** from the territory of Crimea at the commercial seaport of **Odesa**. The attack damaged the port infrastructure.

On March 29, 2025, Russian troops attacked **Kryvyi Rih** with an Iskander-M ballistic missile from Crimea. The attack resulted in **9 people** being **injured**, and damage to civilian infrastructure (power supply and gas pipeline) and the residential sector (at least 3 multi-storey buildings and several private houses).