



CRIMEAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
GROUP

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# REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA

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The Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG) is a public non-profit organization of the Crimean human rights defenders and journalists, aimed at promoting the observance and protection of human rights in Crimea by attracting wide attention to problems of human rights and international humanitarian law in the territory of the Crimean peninsula, and the search for and development of mechanisms for the protection of human rights in Crimea<sup>1</sup>.

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



After the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the CHRG also joined the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition, that collects and documents war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Russian armed aggression in Ukraine<sup>2</sup>.



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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <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 **94 civilians** abducted from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and transferred to Crimea\*

\*As of June 2025



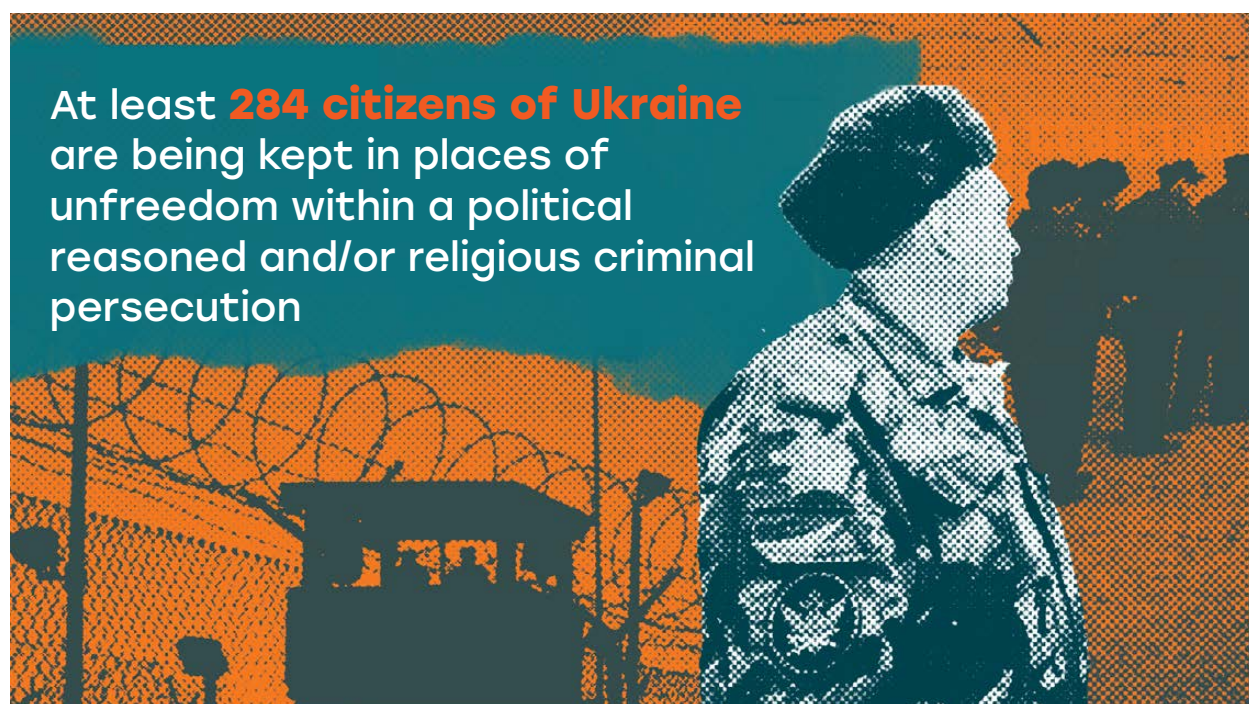


As of June 2025, the CHRG verified at least **94 civilians** abducted from the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions and deported to Crimea. Most of them are held in Pre-Trial Detention Center No 2 during the investigation stage and moved to the Russian Federation for the court proceedings in their criminal cases.

On April 23, 2025, the Military Appeal Court of the Russian Federation **upheld the Southern Area Military Court sentence** for volunteer **Yaroslav Zhuk** – 14 years in custody on the charge of committing an act of international terrorism (RF CC Articles 361-1, 30-1).

## POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

At least **284 citizens of Ukraine** are being kept in places of unfreedom within a political reasoned and/or religious criminal persecution. The list of such persons is constantly updated on the CHRG website: <https://dela.crimeaahrg.org/en/>



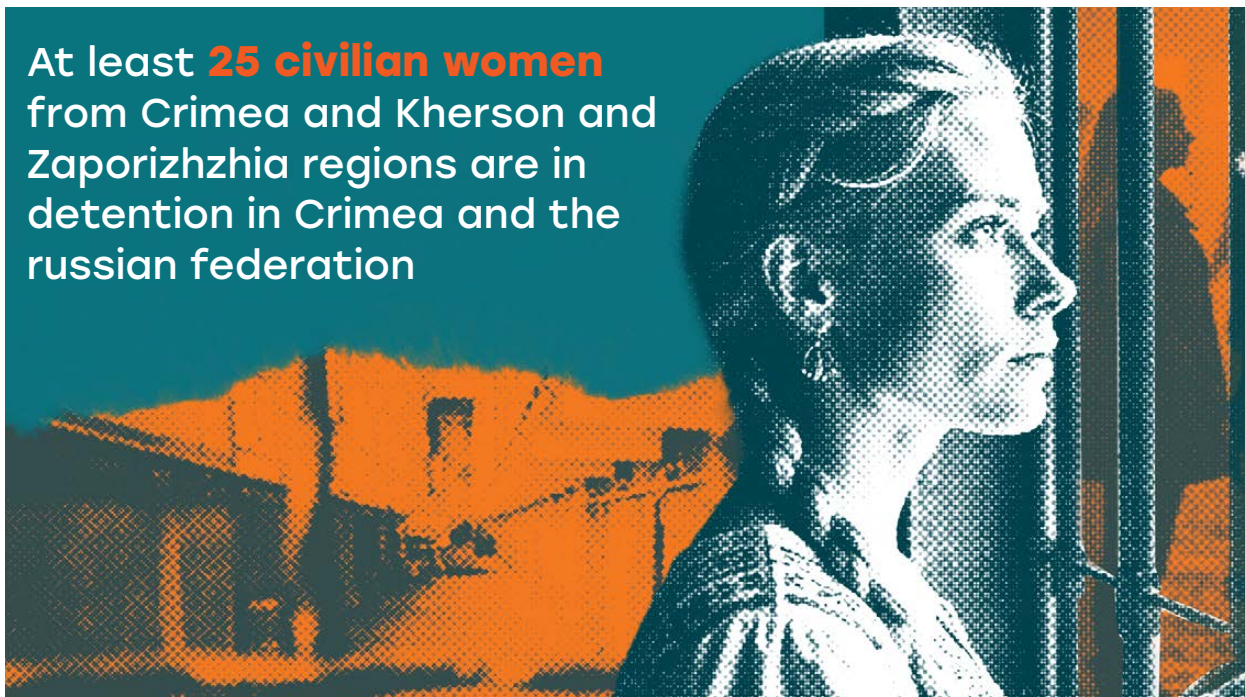
## WOMEN DEPRIVED OF FREEDOM DUE TO POLITICALLY REASONED CRIMINAL PERSECUTION

At least **25 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<sup>1</sup>.

On April 7, 2025, it became known that the occupation “Kherson Regional Court” sentenced **Yulia Sokolova**, a 19-year-old resident of the occupied part of Kherson region, to 9 years in a general regime colony under RF CC Article 276 (espionage) and RF CC Article 275 (high treason). After her arrest, the woman was held in a pre-trial detention center in Simferopol for some time.

<sup>1</sup> All the names of women are not disclosed in the interests of detained and for security purposes

## At least **25 civilian women** from Crimea and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions are in detention in Crimea and the Russian Federation



It became known **on May 6, 2025**, that **Khatidzhe Buiukhchan**, a 24-years' old Crimean Tatar girl, disappeared. The girl took a bus in Saryi Krym to get to Simferopol. Then the communication with her was lost. Several days later her relatives found out that she was held in the RF FSB department in Simferopol. A lawyer contracted by her parents was not allowed to see her that proves prevention from defending her. According to the CHRG information, Khatidzhe is held in Pre-Trial Detention Center no 1 of Simferopol. The FSB accuses her of committing the crimes under RF CC Articles 30-1, 205-1 (management of terrorist organization activities) and 222.1-3 (illegal purchase, transfer, storage of explosive substances or devices). Her detention was officially processed only on May 13. This proves that she was kept without any grounds for a week and was abducted by the RF FSB men. On May 15 the "court" decided to keep her in custody.

**On May 15, 2025**, the Southern Area Military Court **sentenced Oksana Shevchenko** accused in the faked case of assassination attempt on S.Aksionov, "Head" of Crimera, to 10 years in custody and a fine of 500,000 rubles.

It **became known on May 26, 2025**, that RF FSB abducted **Tamara Chernukha**, a 62-years' old emergency medical technician, in the village of Chornomorske. The woman disappeared on February 5, 2025, the latest, and the Russian law enforcement bodies have been still denying officially that they possess any information on her procedure status and the whereabouts. The woman's relatives addressed the police after her disappearance, and an operational investigation group arrived to examine the place of her residence. But while examining a group official was called by phone, and the examination stopped then. Unofficially the policemen informed the relatives that Tamara Chernukha had been detained on suspicion of "high treason".

**On June 5, 2025**, the "Supreme Court" of Crimea **sentenced Liudmyla Kolesnykova**, a 35-years' old resident of Yalta, to 17 years in the general security regime penal colony under RF CC 275 (high treason). Liudmyla Kolesnykova joined the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Crimea in 2011. After the occupation she kept the position of the investigator till 2018, and then, till 2019, she worked as inquiry officer in the occupational authorities. In 2019 she quitted the job. Since 2022 she has been living in Ireland. In June 2024 she came to the occupied Yalta for the mother's funeral and detained by FSB. She was accused of supporting Ukraine financially to an amount of EUR25 due to the purchase of digital stamps "Russian Warship". Liudmyla is being currently kept in Pre-Trial Detention Center no 2 of Simferopol.

On June 5, 2025, the Third Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction of City of Sochi upheld the conviction of **Nina Tymoshenko**, a 66-years' old woman born in Zakarpattia Region, awarded by "Sevastopol City Court" – 16 years of confinement for allegedly "high treason in favour of Ukraine". On March 24, 2025, the "Sevastopol City Court" sentenced Nina Tymoshenko to 16 years in the general security regime penal colony. She was accused of passing information about the location of the Russian Black Sea Fleet ships to the Ukrainian special services.

On June 11, 2025, it became known that three women in Crimea were accused of "high treason". According to the RF FSB, a 28-years' old resident of Dzhankoi District, as it was said, took photos of dislocations of the Air Defence and Russian military units in Crimea. In addition, a criminal case on charges of "high treason" was started against a 42-years' old woman and her 24-years' old daughter in Sevastopol. The RF FSB is accusing them of collaboration with the Ukrainian security services and transfer of information on the Russian military facilities to the Main Intelligence Department of Ukraine.

It became known that in February 2025, Iryna Horobtsova, a volunteer abducted in Kherson in 2022, wrote a letter to the Coordination Headquarters for Treatment of Prisoners of War, the Security Service of Ukraine, Office of President of Ukraine with a request to return Ukrainian women unlawfully detained in the occupied territories from the Russian prisons. Iryna was sentenced to 10 and a half years in the penal colony on charges of "espionage". In her letters to the parents she told about women who died in the places of unfreedom in the newly occupied territories. Among the victims, Iryna mentioned **Tetiana Mudrenko**, who was raped and killed in Skadovsk, Kherson Region, **Tetiana Plachkova**, who died after torture in Melitopol, **Natalia Rybalchenko**, who committed suicide due to cruel treatment in the occupied village of Pryazovske, Zaporizhzhia Region.

## «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 June 2025, the number of Crimean residents deprived of freedom within the "Case of Crimean Muslims", was at **least 109 persons**.

On April 1, 2025, searches were carried out in the homes of Crimean Tatars, namely in the homes of four residents of the Bilohirsk District. RF FSB officers were looking for weapons and other prohibited items, including books on the list of prohibited literature. In addition, on April 1, 2025, in the village of Zemlianychno, Bilohirsk District, the FSB searched the home of the parents of Crimean Tatar journalist **Gulsum Khalilova**, who now works for the ATR television company in Kyiv. The search resulted in a report stating that "nothing was found."

On April 1, 2025, Olga Kuznetsova, a judge of the "Kievskiy District Court" of Simferopol, extended the term of detention until July 4 for the defendants of the "Fourth Dzhankoi Group": **Emir Kurtnezirov, Bakhtiar Abilaev, Rustem Mustafaiev, Abibulla Smedliaiev, and Mirzaali Tazhibaiev**. Three of them were unable to attend the hearing because they have been undergoing forensic psychiatric examination in a closed medical facility.



On April 3, 2025, the occupation police interrogated **Anna Bogachova**, the wife of Crimean political prisoner Vadim Siruk, at her home. Anna was questioned about her husband and the arson attack on the grave of Alexandr Fedorchak, a military correspondent for the Russian newspaper IZVESTIYA. The police threatened the woman with searches and confiscation of her phone if she did not answer all their questions.

On April 17, 2025, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation **rejected** the cassation appeal and upheld the sentence of the Southern Area Military Court of the Russian Federation for five Crimean Tatars serving sentences on charges of Hizb ut-Tahrir membership. **Akim Bekirov, Rustem Seitkhalilov, and Seitveli Seitabdiev** were sentenced to 14 years in prison, while Asan Yanikov and Eskender Suleimanov were sentenced to 15 years.

On April 29, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court of Rostov-na-Donu **read out the verdict** for the defendants in the “Second Dzhankoi Group” case. **Khalil Mambetov**, a 69-year-old resident of Dzhankoi and a repairman of household appliances, and **Refat Seidametov**, a 55-year-old entrepreneur from the Dzhankoi district, were sentenced to 14 years in custody, with the first four years to be served in prison, and the remainder to be served in the maximum security regime penal colony.

41-year-old construction worker **Osman Abdurazakov**, 51-year-old construction worker **Leman Zekeriaiev**, and 39-year-old household appliance repairman **Ekrem Krosh** were also sentenced to 14 years in custody. **Aider Asanov**, a 31-year-old ATM repair specialist, was sentenced to 11 years in custody, with the first three years to be served in prison.

All six activists were found guilty by the court on charges of the Islamic political party Hizb ut-Tahrir membership (RF CC Article 205.5-2) and of the preparation to violently seize power (RF CC Article 30-1 and Article 278).

On June 25, 2025, the Simferopol “Kievskiy District Court” **extended the term of detention** until October 4, 2025, for the defendants of the “Fourth Dzhankoi group”: **Emir Kurtnezirov, Rustem Mustafaiev, Abibulla Smedliaiev, and Mirzaali Tazhibaiev**.

## «CASE OF UKRAINIAN COMMANDOS»

**At least 102 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 April 3, 2025, Alla Khinievich, a judge of the “Supreme Court” of Crimea, sentenced **Charaz Akimov**, a Yalta resident, to 5 years in confinement under RF CC Article 275.1 (collaboration with a foreign power). The man was accused of transferring information on the Russian military equipment via Ukrainian Military Intelligence telegram channel.

On April 3, 2025, the “Supreme Court” of Crimea **sentenced** a Yalta resident to 5 years and 25 days in the general security regime penal colony for supposedly “collaboration with a foreign power”. According to the RF FSB, a 31-year’s old man allegedly communicated with the Ministry



of Defence of Ukraine staff via messengers from July 2023 to March 2024, and took photos and videos of Russian Armed Forces dislocations in Yalta.

**In the night of May 7, 2025**, men who introduced themselves as RF FSB staff, **detained Serhii Hrishchenkov** and moved him in an unknown direction. He was openly pro-Ukrainian. The man is accused of “high treason”, though no official information is available.

**On April 8, 2025**, an 18-years’ old resident of Simferopol **was detained** on suspicion of preparing an arson of one of the city buildings (RF CC Article 30-1, 205-1) and placed in custody, as ruled by the “court”.

**On April 10, 2025**, it became known that **Hennadii Lymeshko** sentenced in 2018 in Crimea for so-said preparation of sabotage **served** his unlawful sentence. But it seems that a new criminal case was opened against him for “public calls to extremist activity”, as it was said. Hennadii Lymeshko served his sentence in February 2025 and was to be released. But at first, he was transferred to the Center for Detention of Foreign Citizens. Then his spouse Iryna was informed that Hennadii had been moved from the Center to the Pre-Trial Detention Center, probably, of Stavropol.

**On April 23, 2025**, Maksim Panin, a judge of the Military Court of Appeal, **upheld** the conviction of **Yaroslav Zhuk** abducted in Melitopol in 2022, awarded by a judge of the Southern Area Military Court. He is sentenced to 14 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony under RF CC Article 361-1 (act of international terrorism).

**In May, 2025**, the occupation “court” convicted three residents of Crimea who were accused of “high treason” under Article 275. **Vladyslav Afanasyev** was sentenced to 15 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony for supposedly transferring the information about ships in the Feodosiia Bay and photos of the military unit to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and funding the Ukrainian troops. **Kovirnychenko** was sentenced to 16 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony and a fine of 400,000 rubles for supposedly transferring coordinates of the Russian military dislocations in Krasnodar Area and dislocations of border guard ships in Kerch. **Yurii Vyunenko**, according to the FSB, supposedly connected the SBU and transferred coordinates of the AD unit and information on moving the equipment to the area of hostilities. He was sentenced to 15 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony.

**On May 2, 2025, Oleh Lysenko**, an owner of bathing complex, **was accused** of “high treason” under RF CC Article 275. He was said to have transferred the funds to an account associated with the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The man was placed in custody, but he does not admit his guilt.

**On May 13, 2025**, a Kerch resident was accused of “collaboration with Ukrainian security services”. According to the FSB, the man is said to have established a contact with a representative of Main Intelligence Department of Ukraine via social networks and collected the data on the dislocations of AD units in Kerch.

**On May 15, 2025**, two residents of Sevastopol **were detained** on suspicion of collaboration with SBU. According to the FSB, one of the men provided SBU with the information of “dislocations of weapons and military equipment”, and it was said that an explosive device had been found at the other man’s place.

**On June 5, 2025**, a 47-years’ old resident of Sevastopol born in Zhytomyr Region, **was sentenced** for “high treason” to 20 years in the penal colony and a fine of 50,000 rubles. The FSB claims that he allegedly had video recorded “the situation at the building of MIA in Simferopol to send the video to SBU”.

**On June 23, 2025, Volodymyr Bodnar** detained together with **Oksana Shevchenko** within the faked case on “assassination attempt on Sergey Aksionov, “Head” of

Crimea, **was sentenced** to 13 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony and a fine of 500,000 rubles. Volodymyr Bodnar and Oksana Shevchenko entered into pre-trial cooperation agreements with the investigation under the FSB pressure.

**Volodymyr Ananyev**, the third defendant in the “case of assassination attempt on Sergey Aksionov”, aged 76, announced during the court hearing that the case had been fabricated and he did not admit his guilt. On June 28, 2025, his period of detention in the Pre-Trial Detention Center of Rostov/Donu **was extended** to November 2025.

**On June 19, 2025**, the Southern Area Military Court **sentenced Serhii Kucherenko**, a Sevastopol resident, to 17 years in the maximum-security regime penal colony, having convicted him of “high treason” and preparation of terrorist act. According to the FSB, he planned to blow up KA-27 military helicopter on the airfield of separate mixed aviation regiment of Black Sea Fleet.

**On June 27, 2025**, two residents of Sevastopol – 59-years’ old **Dmytro Podobiedov** and 52-years’ old **Kostiantyn Korolkov** – **were accused** by the FSB of “attempt to blow up a gas pipeline on order of the Ukrainian intelligence” and “collection of data about Russian military facilities”.

**On June 30, 2025**, it became known that two residents of Yalta were detained for “high treason”. According to the FSB, the suspected born in 1977 and 1993 sent SBU photos and videos of critical infrastructure facilities and military equipment in Crimea.

In addition, women are also persecuted under the similar accusations, including Yulia Sokolova, Khatidzhe Buiukhchan, Oksana Shevchenko, Tamara Chernukha, Liudmyla Kolesnikova, Nina Tymoshenko and others. For more information, see section “Women deprived of freedom due to politically reasoned criminal persecution”.

## PERSECUTION ON CHARGES 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 36 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. Chelebidzhukhan 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.

It became known **in April** that **Khalil Ametov**, a Crimean Tatar detained in the August, 2022 in the occupied part of Kherson Land, **was sentenced** to 5 years in the penal colony on charges of involvement in the N. Chelebidzhukhan Battalion activities. After the detention he was transferred to the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center, and now he is being held in the VLADIMIRSKIY TSENTRAL Penal Colony in the Vladimir Region of the Russian Federation.

On May 23, 2025, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu sentenced Ihor Varchuk, a Ukrainian citizen, to 20 years in custody on charges of “terrorist activities” for, supposedly, his serving in the N.Chelebidzhikhan Battalion.

## 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 Shabliy, Maksym Zinchenko, Serhiy Parfenovych, and Yuriy Heraschenko).

It was reported on June 10, 2025, that Yelena Yelanskaya, a judge of “Sevastopol City Court”, upheld the conviction of “Gagarinskiy District Court of Sevastopol” that in January had sentenced Viktor Kundinov and Serhii Zhyhalov, Jehovah’s Witnesses, to 6 years in custody. They were detained after searches in August 2022.

In June 2025, the case of Vitalii Buryk, a 53-years-old Kerch resident, was sent to the “occupation court”. In October 2024, the man was detained at his workplace and brought home to carry out the search. After the search he was placed under house arrest. Vitalii Buryk is accused of managing activities of the “forbidden religious 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. Had he ever left the colony, he was detained by Russian police and transferred, as decided by court, to the Center for the Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Department in the Gulkevichi District. On April 10, 2025, the Gulkevichi District Court of the Krasnodar Area ruled on extending for Andrii Kolomiets the period of staying in the Center for the Temporary Detention of Foreign Citizens for another 90 days. The previous 90-days’ period was to expire on April 14, 2025.

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

On April 23, 2025, Oleksandr Tarapon, a Crimean resident, who served a sentence on charges of “discrediting the Russian army”, walked free after 2 and half years in custody. Oleksandr was detained in March 2022. On October 21, 2022, the “Alushta Court” sentenced him to two and a half years in the maximum security penal colony in the case of “spreading fake information about the Russian Army” (RF CC Article 207.3). According to the RF FSB, the 31-year’s old man pasted up leaflets about a wife’s relative who participated in the war against Ukraine, across the town. To stop him and prevent other family members from participating in the war, Oleksandr produced leaflets saying “Zdes’ zhyVet Voyennyi prestupnik – ubiytsa detey Orlenko Yu.” (Here a military criminal and killer of children – Yuriy Orlenko lives) and pasted them up.



**On May 26, 2025**, the Minusinsk City Court of Krasnoyarsk Area **waived** serving the punishment in the penal colony for **Oleksandr Sizikov**, a blind political prisoner, due to his illness (RF CC Article 81, RF CPC Article 397.6). Oleksandr Sizikov has lost vision completely and needs a special care. The defence emphasized that his illness was on the list of the illnesses preventing from serving the punishment in the places of unfreedom, approved by the Russian government.

Oleksandr was detained on July 7, 2020, in the village of Sevastianivka, Bakhchisarai District, and accused under RF CC Article 205.5-1 (“activities of terrorist organization”, the standard charges in the faked cases against Crimean Tatars, allegedly for participation in the Hizb-ut-Tahrir activities). Then he was placed under house arrest. On May 17, 2023, the Southern Area Military Court in Rostov-na-Donu sentenced Oleksandr Sizikov to 17 years in the penal colony, and then he was convoyed to the penal colony of Minusinsk City, Krasnoyarsk Area, Russia.

**On June 20, 2025**, Vladyslav Yesypenko, a Radio SVOBODA (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) journalist, **finished serving** his unlawful confinement period. He was detained on March 10, 2021, and sentenced to 5 years in the penal colony for “storing and processing an explosive device”. But a real reason for the persecution was his journalistic work in Crimea. Since September 1, 2022, Vladyslav was held in the penal colony no 2 of Kerch City.

## FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On June 12, 2025, officials of “Main Extremism Counteracting Department of RF MIA” (E Center) [served an administrative report notice](#) to Idrys Yurdamov, head of the ESKI QIRIM (Old Crimea) independent Muslim community. He is accused of “storing extremist files” forbidden in the Russian Federation.

## 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 **17 Crimean journalists** are behind the bars in the cases: Oleksii Bessarabov, Dmytro Shtyblikov, 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.

The Russian occupation authorities keep on persecuting administratively the journalists. In May, 2025, Lutfiie Zudiieva, a GRATY news outlet correspondent, human rights defender and activist from Crimea, was added to the Russian “Register of Foreign Agents”. The Russian Federation considers that individuals, mass media and organizations listed in the register act under the impact of other countries. Having been entered in the register, the individuals or organizations have to label themselves as “inoagent” (foreign agent) in all publications and report regularly to the authorities.

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

In April – June 2025, the Crimean Human Rights Group recorded at least **122 administrative cases** sent by the occupation authorities to the Crimea “courts” under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”), with **115 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 **1274 such administrative proceedings**.

On May 6, 2025, a local resident, aged 52, [was detained](#) by RF FSB in the village of Sovietskem Feodosiia District. According to the prosecution, the man wrote comments in the pro-Ukrainian Telegram chats calling, allegedly, to destroy the “Crimean” Bridge. The man is accused under RF CC Article 205.2 (public calls for terrorist activities via Internet). The article provides a punishment of up to 7 years in confinement. As stated by the FSB, the man supposedly commented consistently the Ukrainian Telegram channels, demonstrating “extremely destructive position”.

On May 7, 2025, the “Leninskiy District Court” of Crimea [fined](#) a 30-years’ old woman, an employee of transport state enterprise, 45,000 rubles for “discrediting the Russian army”: she supported the actions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Ukrainian Telegram channels and wrote that she was waiting for the Ukrainian Army in Sevastopol.

For the period of the full-scale invasion, the CHRG has documented at least **1274 administrative proceedings** under RF CoAO Article 20.3.3 (“discrediting of the Russian Army”)

**On May 8, 2025**, Denys Sass, a resident of Simeiz, was detained for post on the social network “expressing” the support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and featuring “Nazi symbols”. An administrative report was drawn on him, and the “Yalta Court” ruled him 10 days of administrative arrest.

**On May 22, 2025**, the “Leninskiy District Court” **fined** a 49-years’ woman from the settlement of Lenino 50,000 rubles for “discrediting the Russian Army and President of Russian Federation”. It was said that the Crimean published a post in the house residents’ chat on her behalf that “discredited the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and V.Putin”.

**In April – June, 2025**, the CHRG kept on documenting 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”. 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. According to the CHRG analysts, Talipov’s actions **may be assessed** as a direct accompliceship in persecuting the occupied territories residents for their public pro-Ukrainian position.

**In April 2025** it became known about the search carried out in the house of Susanna Ismailova, a Crimean Tatar woman from the village of Sofiivka, Simferopol District, in March due to her pro-Ukrainian position expressed on the social networks. The local “court” fined her 50,000 rubles.

Talipov’s channel informed that a resident of Krasnogvardiysk District supposedly made negative statements about the Russian Armed Forces actions. The man was arrested for 10 days and fined 40,000 rubles.

**On May 20, 2025**, Talipov’s channel reported the detention of Olha Drobchuk, a 25-years’ old Crimean woman, by the FSB, she was said to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine and “wait for the ZSU”. The girl was forced to excuse on video and drawn up a report under Article 20.3.3-1.

**On June 13, 2025**, Elnaz Charukhova, a 24-years old resident of village of Skvortsove, Simferopol District, was fined 50,000 rubles for posts, as it was said, supporting Ukraine on the social networks. But the girl rejected “video” excuse.

**On June 26, 2025**, Talipov’s channel reported detention of Ihor Kachurest, a 38-years old resident of Alushta, who supposedly “had video recorded the operations of Russian Anti-Air Defence and posted records on Telegram channel”.



# 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 April 11, 2025, Ansar Osmanov** a Crimean Tatar sentenced to 20 years in confinement was convoyed from Pre-Trial Detention Center no 3 of Novocherkassk, Rostov Region, to a Russian prison in Vladimir.

**On April 25, 2025,** it became known that **Arsen Abkhaliyev**, an entrepreneur, sentenced to 13 years, was convoyed to a penal colony of Novocheboksarsk, Chuvashia. Since January 2024 he had been held in the colony in Ulan-Ude (Republic of Buriatia), earlier he had been held in the prison of Yeniseysk (Krasnoyarsk Area). According to his relatives, recently his teeth issues and varicosity have aggravated.

**On April 28, 2025, Tymur Yalkabov**, aged 44, sentenced to 17 years in confinement, was convoyed from prison no 2 of Dimitrovgrad, Ulyanovsk Region, to the penal colony in Murmansk.

**On May 21, 2025, Rustem Sheikhaliyev**, a 45-years' old citizen journalist, was convoyed to the prison of Blagovieshchensk, Amur Region. On May 30, 2025, it became known that Rustem, sentenced to 14 years, was delivered to the penal colony in the village of Sredniebelaya, Amur Region.

**On June 16, 2025, Lenur Seidametov**, sentenced to 13 years in custody, was convoyed from the prison of Yelets, Lipetsk Region. According to his wife, her husband was held in several institutions during the transfer. He told her that the final transfer destination would be penal colony no 3 in the village of Sredniebelaya, Amur Region. On June 27, 2025, **it became known** that Lenur Seidametov was convoyed to this penal colony.

**On June 23, 2025, Enver Mamutov**, sentenced to 16 years and 9 months in custody, **was transferred** from the penal colony in Stavropol Area to penal colony no 3 in the Republic of Chuvashia.

**On June 24, 2025, Yashar Muiedinov**, sentenced to 13 years in custody **was convoyed** to penal colony no 5 of Koriyazhma, Arkhangelsk Region.

## 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 April – June 2025, **at least 36 cases** under this article were considered in the courts of Crimea. Among them:

- 23 guilty verdicts in the “courts” of first instance
- 4 decisions of the appellate instance to uphold the verdict
- 9 cases are under consideration in the “courts”.

Over the entire period of occupation, the CHRG has documented **at least 613 such criminal cases**.

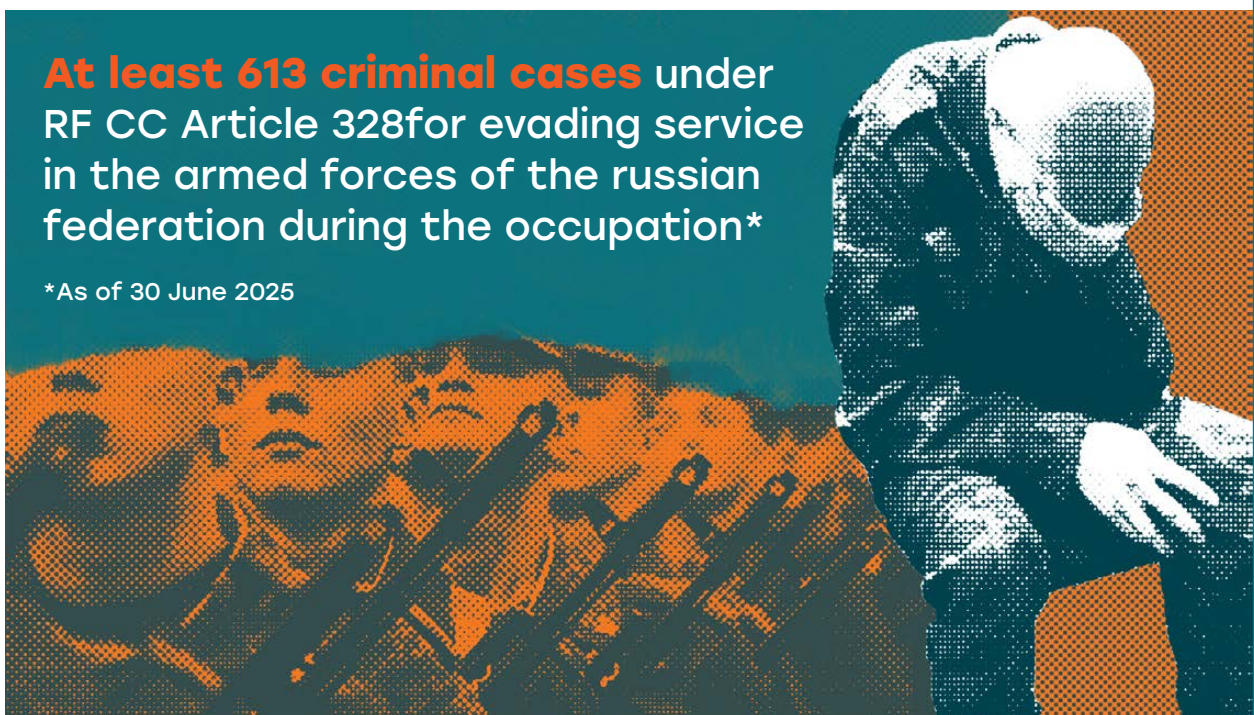
Most often, “courts” impose fines of up to 50,000 rubles. However, the payment of a fine does not exempt from service.

**On April 1, 2025**, a new scheduled unlawful conscription campaign to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation started in Crimea.

**On June 24, 2025**, V.Putin [signed edict no 412](#) “On amending the list of data classified as national security information”. This document introduces changes to the list of data defined as state secret in the Russian Federation. Since June 24, 2025, all data on mobilization preparation, mobilization plans, and state political fundamentals regarding the mobilization in the Russian Federation shall be considered national security information. They are classified and shall not be distributed without a dedicated authorization. In addition, the edict extended the provisions on mobilization facilities, their plans, locations, administration, security, activity during the mobilization and war that were also classified as state secret.

**At least 613 criminal cases** under RF CC Article 328 for evading service in the armed forces of the Russian Federation during the occupation\*

\*As of 30 June 2025





## ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS FROM CRIMEA



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

**On April 24, 2025**, the Russian troops **attacked Ukraine with a combined strike**, having launched 215 air threats including SHAHED loitering drones from Chauda Cape (Crimea) and 12 KALIBR cruise missiles from the Black Sea water area. The attack affected Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhzhia and Khmelnytskyi Lands. At least 12 persons were killed and 90 were injured in Kyiv, including children. Destructions were recorded in five districts of Kyiv, with Sviatochynsky district being most affected: residential buildings and infrastructure facilities were damaged and destroyed.

**On May 1, 2025**, the Armed Forces of Russian Federation **carried out a large-scale combined attack** on Odesa using SHAHED loitering drones and ISKANDER M ballistic missiles from the occupied Crimea. The attack caused damage of railway and port infrastructure, a 16-storied residential building, over 50 flats, private houses, an educational establishment and a supermarket. Two employees of UKRZALIZNYTSIA (Ukrainian Railways) were killed, with another 15 persons being injured.

**On June 29, 2025**, the Russian troops **massively attacked Ukraine**, having launched over 500 air threats, including drones and missiles. Among the launch locations were Crimea and the Black Sea water area. Mykolaiv, Poltava, Lviv Lands and city of Kremenchuk were affected. The most damaged was Smila where 11 persons were injured, and buildings and educational establishments were destroyed.