



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## OCTOBER 2016



### 1.

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**In October there have been new searches and six criminal cases against Crimean Tatars have been initiated.** On October 14 in the suburbs of Simferopol five Crimean Tatars - Emil Dzhemadinov, Rustem Ismailov, Teimur and Uzeyir Abdullayev and Aider Saledinov were arrested on accusation of organization and participation in “Hizb ut-Tahrir” unit. The organization is recognized terrorist one by the Russian authorities. ‘Kyiv District Court’ of Simferopol decided on two-months arrest during the investigation for pre-trial period. The searches were carried out with numerous violations of legal procedures and guarantees. Detentions within “Hizb ut-Tahrir” case are held in the same manner: 4-6 persons are detained in certain area -Sevastopol, Yalta, Bakhchysarai, Simferopol, and security forces claim disclosure of a “terrorist cell” in a particular region. Thus, further arrests are not excluded within same logic. The policy of persecution on religious grounds led not only to intimidation of the Crimean Tatars, but also to tensions and hatred within the community (for example, some neighbors are afraid to communicate with families of detainees), and possible radicalization of the Crimean Tatars. In October, they were also searches in Bakhchisarai, in the houses of Enver and Asan Serverovy, and Enver Abduveliev, there were no detentions.

On October 11 the criminal case was initiated against a Crimean tatar activist, human rights defender and a member of Feodosiya Medjlis – Suleiman Kadyrov. On October 5 there was a search in his house, and on October 11 he was interrogated by security services. The same day Mr. Kadyrov was informed about initiating criminal case against him on article 280.1 because of his comment on the video ‘New Batallion’ on Facebook. The action and the sanction is disproportionate – one comment on social networks is punished by criminal liability with maximum punishment of four years of imprisonment. Moreover, such case could become a precedent for criminal liability for any comment in social networks.

### 2.

“ ix members of the Mejlis - Shevket Kaybullaev, Sadykh Tabah, Enver Kurtiev, Bekir Mamutov, Emine Avamileva and Dilyaver Akiev – were found guilty in violating art

**De facto authorities in Crimea more and more often use the system of administrative offenses for pressure.** In October, **six members of the Mejlis** - Shevket Kaybullaev, Sadykh Tabah, Enver Kurtiev, Bekir Mamutov, Emine Avamileva and Dilyaver Akiev – were found guilty in violating art. 20.28 “Organization of activity of a public or religious association, which activities were suspended” of the Administrative Code and **sentenced to fines** by Bakhchisaray “district court”. The reason was a meeting of the members of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar peoples at home of Ilmi Umerov. In case of future violation of the same article, criminal liability is prescribed.

On October 27 Sudak “court” re-examined the case against four Crimean Tatars accused of participating in the rally on May 18. The “court” appointed fines of 20 thousand rubles to Ablyakim Ablyakimov and Enver Chavush.

### 3.

“ Russian authorities have refused in transfer of Oleg Sentsov and Aleksander Kolchenko to Ukraine because of their Russian citizenship

In October the accused within the sabotage case – Eugen Panov and Andrey Zahtiy – were transferred to ‘Lefortovo’ prison in Moscow. Their families were not informed in the required procedure, lawyers and consul do not have access to the prisoners. This amounts to violation of international humanitarian law. In October, Russian authorities **have refused in transfer of Oleg Sentsov and Aleksander Kolchenko to Ukraine because of their Russian citizenship.**

There have been changes in the ‘government’ of Crimea. Igor Mikhaychenko was appointed as a new ‘vice-minister’. Due to absence of any biographic data in open sources and statement of Aksionov that Mikhaychenko is one of ‘little green men’, he has worked in security forces before. The position of ‘vice-prime minister on ethnicities’ was not appointed, but its functions were transferred to Aksionov. Also, new ‘minister’ of agriculture and new ‘minister’ of sport were appointed.