



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

MARCH 2016

In March 2017, the occupation authorities used traditional methods of pressure on civil activists - arrests, unreasonable searches and seizures, interrogations. The freedom of peaceful assemblies is blatantly violated, and criminal prosecution against some undesirable activists is still in place.

Occupying power continues using illegal detentions. There are cases of people disappearances who are not associated with political activity. In addition, one more Crimean Tatar man has gone missing under unclear circumstances. Crimean de facto authorities restrict freedom of peaceful assembly by prohibiting or not allowing any mass event which does not support them. Pro-Ukrainian actions as well as actions of the Russian opposition activists were prohibited. On March 9, de facto authorities of Simferopol did not allow local activists to celebrate birthday of famous Ukrainian poet and writer Taras Shevchenko. On March 26, de facto authorities of Sevastopol banned an anti-corruption rally.

However, the most egregious case occurred **on March 4 in the village Krasnokamenka which is near Feodosiya, where the director of the local school and police banned children's football match labeling it as "unauthorized rally" that requires coordination of the city administration.**

As in the past month, we continue to observe high pressure on civil activists conducted in the form of unreasonable searches, seizures, interrogations and administrative arrests. On March 13, Center for Combating against Extremism summoned for questioning Nariman Dzhelalov, the deputy head of Mejlis. On March 15, plain-clothed FSB officers detained Emil Mukhtemerov, a Crimean Tatar. Mukhtemerov was taken to the field and forced to dig his own pit, and testify against the figurants of the Yalta "Hizb ut-Tahrir" case. He was released in the evening of the same day.

On March 20, armed FSB officers searched the house of Veldar Shukurdzhiyev, a coordinator of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Crimea. His pre-investigation check was carried out under clause 2 of Art. 205 of the Criminal Code of Russian Federation (act of terrorism). On March 21, four activists of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Crimea were interrogated (Leonid Kuzmin, Mikhail Batraka, Galina Balaban, Alena Popova). A psychological pressure was exerted on them during the interrogations. On March 25, seven people, who planned to hold several one-person anti-corruption protest theme, were detained in Simferopol. Russian activists Dmitry Kisiev and Alexei Efremov were among the detainees. On March 30, activists Riza Izetov, Osman Arifmemetov and journalist of the media "Article 20" Taras Ibrahimov were detained near the building of the Center for Combating against Extremism. A few hours earlier, Kremlin's powerbrokers detained activist Remzi Bekirov. Izetov, Arithmemetov and Ibragimov were released after interrogation, while Bekirov was arrested for 3 days for publishing a 6-year-old post in the social network "VKontakte".

On March 29, near the building of Supreme Court of Crimea, unknown persons in masks kidnapped Crimean Tatar activist **Bilyal Adilov**. Later it turned out that Adilov was detained in the criminal case under art. 318 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (use of violence or threats against authorities representative). On March 31, Adilov was released on a recognizance not to leave the place.

Not only civil society activists are detained and disappearing, but also people who have not shown any political or civic activity. On March 18, it became known that **in November 2016, allegedly in Feodosia, a 49-year-old Crimean Tatar Rizvan Abduramanov was disappeared.** The circumstances of this case as well as possible involvement of de facto authorities are being clarified.

In March 2017, it also became known that on September 14, 2016 at the entrance to Crimea, Russian border guards detained a Ukrainian citizen **Kabir Mohammad**. De facto authorities plan to extradite detainee to Iran. Kabir Mohammad has spent more than 6 months in jail. His relatives say the occupation authorities confused him with the namesake who is a citizen of Afghanistan.

1.

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2.

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4.



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One of the most important March's events: 12 prisoners who were serving their sentences in penitentiary institutions of the peninsula, had been returned to mainland Ukraine. This is the first precedent, when prisoners were moved from the occupied territory to the territory controlled by Ukrainian government.

At the same time, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine continues to record tortures and ill-treatment of prisoners in Crimean prisons, denial of medical assistance, as well as illegal transfer to the territory of the Russian Federation and other violations.

5.



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In March 2017, International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN), concluded first public hearings in the case (Ukraine v. Russian Federation). Ukraine requests the Court to declare that Russian Federation has violated its obligations under the ICERD (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination) by "Systematically discriminating against and mistreating the Crimean Tatar and ethnic Ukrainian communities in Crimea". The Court began its deliberation in respect to the request of Ukraine for the indication of provisional measures against the Russian Federation.