



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## APRIL 2021

**FSB tortured the Ukrainian journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko. The rights of 12 political prisoners are blatantly violated. 6 searches and 2 arrests happened in Crimea. 2 politically motivated court decisions have been announced. 7 administrative cases remain under investigation. Russia destroys natural preserves as well as culturally important landmarks in Crimea. The 13th military draft campaign enlists Crimean residents into the Russian army.**



*FSB tortured the Ukrainian journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko*

**Illegally arrested journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko stated during the trial that FSB tortured him with electrocution for two days.** They threatened to hang him in his prison cell if he refused to confess to espionage and possession of a grenade. Yesypenko admitted his guilt and refused of an independent lawyer under torture. After his statement in court, FSB threatened Yesypenko with physical punishment. They forcefully took samples of Yesypenko's biological material (possibly to falsify evidence). FSB also conducted investigative actions without the presence of Yesypenko's lawyer.



*The rights of 12 political prisoners are blatantly violated*

**The rights of at least 12 political prisoners are blatantly violated.** Three political prisoners remain in solitary confinement under contrived reasons. Those prisoners are Uzeir and Teimur Abdullaev (Teimur has been in solitary confinement for over 10 months), and Andrii Kolomyets. The latter had already been to solitary confinement 13 times. Because of that, he has now been transferred to a cell with more severe incarceration conditions. The prison administration ignores **the critical health condition of at least 4 political prisoners** (more here, here, here, and here). Due to poor nutrition, **2 political prisoners lost their teeth**. Oleh Fedoriv is forcefully kept in a psychiatric institution for expert evaluation. Ivan Yatskin remains in inhumane conditions at Simferopol detention center #1. His cell is a basement, it is damp, has mold, rats and bed bugs. Yatskin has not been receiving medical treatment for his feet that got frostbitten in October 2020. He is not allowed to see relatives or receive packages with medicine. In addition, the Crimean "court"<sup>1</sup> again forbade Crimean Tatar political prisoners to **speak Crimean Tatar** during the trial.



*6 searches and 2 arrests happened in Crimea*

**There were 6 searches and 2 arrests.** On April 9, FSB conducted searches in the homes of Izet Abliamitov and Dmytro Obukhovski. They allegedly found explosives. Both men have been detained on suspicion of membership in the terrorist organization Khaiat Tahrir ash-Sham. They are also suspected of preparing a terrorist attack in a Simferopol educational institution. As part of the investigation, FSB conducted 3 more searches on April 14, 22, and 23 in the homes of Abduseliam Seliametov, Eldar Fetliaev, and Ruslan Ramazanov. On April 28, Russian law enforcement have, for the 3rd time, searched the house of Ernest Seitosmanov, brother of Enver Seitosmanov, who was convicted to 17 years in prison under trumped-up charges of terrorism. During the search, FSB officers used a chokehold on

E.Seitosmanov until he felt unwell. After 6 hours of interrogation in the FSB station, FSB released him but forbade to inform anyone about the content of interrogation. They secretly took a battery out of Ernest's phone, therefore, leaving him without means of communication.

**2 politically motivated court decisions were announced.** Bekir Mamutov, editor of the newspaper "Qirim," was fined 4000 RUB on April 20. He was found guilty of "abusing the freedom of the press." Mamutov re-printed a report by the UN Secretary-General. The report was dedicated to the issue of human rights in Crimea, including the prosecution of the Crimean Tatar Majlis. Ukrainian serviceman Yevhen Dobrynski was convicted to 3.5 years in prison on April 21. He was found guilty of an allegedly illegal crossing of the Russian border ( the administrative border with Crimea).



*2 politically motivated court decisions have been announced*

There are **7 pending administrative cases**. Crimean occupying authorities are persecuting 5 female relatives of those accused of alleged participation in "Hizb ut-Tahrir." Those women face charges for participating in one-person protests in support of their detained relatives. Despite the fact that one-person protests do not require special permits and that protestors followed all anti-pandemic rules, the occupying authorities accuse the protestors of violating the rules of conducting protest art. 20.2(5) of Russian Administrative code) and of violating the rules of behavior during the emergency ( art. 20.6.1(1) of Russian Administrative code)



*7 administrative cases remain under investigation*

The occupying authorities resume its administrative persecution of the religious community "Alushta" and its imam Yusuf Ashyrov. They are being accused of allegedly violating the rules of missionary activity (art. 5.26(3) of Russian Administrative code). Ashyrov's case will be reviewed by the same judge that had once before found Ashyrov guilty of "violating the rules of missionary activity."

**Russia destroys natural preserves as well as culturally important landmarks in Crimea.** The Russian company that conducts construction in the Foros park of Yalta continues to destroy trees in the park. It also conducts some additional construction there (more information here). The illegal construction on the territory of the historical preserve Chersonesus continues too. The official reason for the construction is to make the territory more "comfortable." Meanwhile, the court refused to involve UNESCO in the court case related to the harm that Chersonesus, a place of World Heritage, suffered as a result of construction.



*Russia destroys natural preserves as well as culturally important landmarks in Crimea.*

**The 13th military draft campaign enlists Crimeans into the Russian army.** The majority of Crimeans will serve in Russia. These actions violate the international law that forbids the occupying power to draft the population of the occupied territory into its army (art. 51 and 49 of Geneva Convention IV). It is also a war crime according to the Rome Statute of the ICC (art. 8.2.v).



*Russia is violating the norms of international humanitarian and criminal law by drafting Crimeans into its army*

<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter all state institutions on the territory of the occupied Crimea and their representatives are mentioned with a note that they remain under control of the Russian occupying authorities and therefore are not legitimate from the point of view of Ukrainian and international law