CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT
AUGUST 2021

Courts announced five new politically motivated sentences. Russian law enforcement bodies conducted new searches and detentions in the Crimean Tatar houses. The occupying authorities continue oppressing freedom of religion. Violations of the right to health and procedural violations in politically motivated criminal cases remain in place. The Russian FSB collects personal information of schoolchildren. The Russia-controlled prosecutor's office sent another warning to a Crimean Tatar activist. An activist from Yalta was put under night house arrest. The occupation continues causing damages to the cultural heritage and environment of Crimea. Crimean pharmacies lack medical products. Problems with electricity and water supply remain in place.

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Courts announced five new politically motivated sentences. A Russian court sentenced the defendants from the Alushta group of the "Hizb ut-Tahrir case" – **Ruslan Nahaiev, Eldar Kantimirov, Lenur Khalilov, and Ruslan Mesutov** – to prison terms from 12 to 18 years. A court in Crimea[1] sentenced a Crimean Tatar activist **Ilver Ametov** to 8 months of custodial restraint for alleged illegal possession of component parts of firearms.

Russian law enforcement bodies conducted new searches and detentions in the Crimean Tatar houses

Russian law enforcement bodies conducted new searches and detentions in the Crimean Tatar houses. Rustem Tairov, Dzhebbar Bekirov, Raif Fevziiev, Rustem Murasov, Zaur Abdullaiev were arrested under suspicion of their alleged involvement in "Hizb ut-Tahrir" and taken into custody.

The occupying authorities continue oppressing freedom of religion

The occupying authorities continue oppressing freedom of religion. In Armiansk, Russian law enforcement bodies searched the houses of 8 Jehovah's Witnesses. Russian investigators opened 5 criminal cases against this religious group. As a pre-trial restriction, **Daria Kuzio** was put under recognizance not to leave; **Petro Zhyltsov**, **Oleksandr Lytvyniuk, and Oleksandr Dubovenko** were put under house arrest, **Serhii Liulin** was taken into custody. Russian law enforcement bodies disrupted a service at the monastery of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. The head of the monastery, **Archimandrite Damian**, was fined 15,000 RUB for alleged illegal missionary activity.

Russian authorities continue violating the right to health of political prisoners

Russian authorities continue violating the right to health of political prisoners. **Ivan Yatskin** does not receive medical treatment for his acute trophic ulcer on his leg and for consequences of a chest injury that he received in the Moscow detention facility. Ambulance was called for **Kostiantyn Shyringa** and **Rustem Sheikhaliiev** during the court hearing. **Vladyslav Yesypenko** suffers from problems with arterial blood pressure, his kidney stone disease and eyesight worsened. **Volodymyr Dudka** suffers from problems with arterial blood pressure and aggravation of chronic illnesses. **Dzhemil Hafarov** still does not receive adequate medical help after being released from the prison hospital, where doctors did not provide him with it either. **Remzi Memetov** suffers from high blood pressure and problems with teeth. **Servet Haziiev** could not participate in court hearings due to vascular neuropathy of the facial nerve. **Zekiria Muratov** was diagnosed with COVID-19 and bilateral pneumonia. **Hennadii Lymeshko** was forcefully vaccinated from COVID-19 under the threats of punitive confinement and prohibition to communicate with relatives.

Procedural violations in politically motivated criminal cases remain in place

Procedural violations in politically motivated criminal cases remain in place. The secret witness in the investigation of the 2nd Simferopol group of the "Hizb ut-Tahrir case" cooperates with FSB and purposefully gives false testimonies, says the defense. The court once again rejected an appeal of **Mustafa Dzhemilev's** defense to study the material evidence. **Servet Haziiev** was once again evicted from the courtroom for speaking the Crimean Tatar language. The court dismissed Nikolai Polozov from defending **Refat Chubarov**. During the hearing of the case against **Emil Ziiadinov**, the judge openly gave tips to the prosecution witness as to how to respond to questions. The defense complained about falsifications in a criminal case against **Vadym Bektemirov**. The court questioned the prosecution witness without prior notification of the political prisoner's defense. The court rejected an appeal of **Ernest Ibrahimov** for a translator. The judge did not allow the defense of **Rustem Seitkhalilov** and other political prisoners to finish questioning the secret witness.

FSB collects personal information of schoolchildren

The Russian FSB collects personal information of schoolchildren between 12 and 17 years of age in Crimea. By demand of security services, Kerch schools provided information about their full names, dates of birth, and phone numbers.

On the eve of Ukraine's Independence Day, a Russia-controlled **prosecutor's office sent a warning to a Crimean Tatar activist Zair Smedliaiev** about the inadmissibility of participation in unsanctioned mass events.

An activist from Yalta was put under night house arrest

An activist from Yalta Liudvika Papadopulu was put under night house arrest for suspicion of alleged defamation of a Crimean official.

The occupation continues causing damages to the cultural heritage and environment of Crimea

The occupation continues causing damages to the cultural heritage and environment of Crimea. One of the walls of the 19th century building of the Crimean philharmonic in Simferopol collapsed after reconstruction. Residents of Kerch complaint about piles of garbage in the city. During the 8th stage of construction of the Tavrida highway, authorities plan to cut down up to 8,000 Red Book trees.

Crimean pharmacies lack 339 medical products. The supply of some of those drugs is expected by 1 October.

Problems with electricity and water supply remain in place

Problems with electricity and water supply remain in place due to breakdowns, repairs, and floods (more information here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here).

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