



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## FEBRUARY 2021

In February the occupying authorities conducted 8 house-searches in Crimea, 11 people were detained, 8 of them were put in custody or under house arrest. Teimur Abdullaev has been kept in solitary confinement for over 8 months. 9 activists in Crimea received a warning regarding “impermissibility of unsanctioned protests.” Russian border guards issue fines to Crimean residents that cross the administrative border with Ukrainian passports. Yalta local occupying authorities decided to demolish a historic building in order to use the territory for a new construction.

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““ In February the occupying authorities conducted 8 searches, detained 11 people, 8 of them were later been put in custody or under house arrest. On February 4, Russian police<sup>1</sup> searched the house of an activist, **Liudvika Popadopulu**, (all electronic equipment has been seized). This investigative action was part of a criminal investigation regarding “defamation in media or Internet” ( Art. 128 (2) of the Russian Criminal Code). The reason for the criminal investigation was a [Facebook post](#) regarding the illegal seizure of sanatorium “Parus” in Crimea. On February 14, the law enforcement officers detained a nurse, **Lilia Reshydova**. She was informed that she had to serve as a witness in a criminal investigation about “financing of terrorism”, therefore, she was called in for an interrogation (more information [here](#) and [here](#)). On February 15, Kyiv district court of Simferopol put **Ruzil Yapparov**, resident of Tatarstan, [into custody](#) for 2 months. His wife, **Latifa (Nina) Malakhova**, a citizen of Ukraine from Feodosiia, who has a month-old baby, was put under house arrest for 1 month and 26 days. The couple is suspected of financing terrorism, because they collected funds for charity. Lawyer L. Gemedzhy informs that N. Malakhova pleaded guilty under pressure from FSB, who threatened to [take away her daughter and send her to an orphanage](#). On February 17, the law enforcement officers conducted [7 home-searches](#) and arrests in Bakhchisarai, Bilohirsk, Sevastopol, Simferopol, and Radiansky area of Crimea. Crimean courts [arrested 6 activists](#) for 2 months under suspicion that they were involved in Hizb ut-Tahrir (Art. 205.5 of the Russian Criminal Code). One of the detained, 59 year old Timur Yalkabov, was [sent to the detention center](#) no matter that he has a disability and chronic asthma. During the search, the [law enforcement officers](#) planted 3 books in the house of Yashar Shikhmetov. They later “found” them in a closet that stored outerwear and footwear. According to the defence lawyer, A. Ladin, the place where books were found proves that they had been planted, because a practicing Muslim would never keep religious literature in a place like this<sup>2</sup>. On February 18, FSB officers together with the representatives of tax authority conducted a [check](#) in a car repair center in Bakhchisarai area that belongs to the activist, **Nariman Temirkaliev**. The reasoning for the check was to make sure everything was in “accordance with the federal legislation”. Temirkaliev is also suspected of an alleged financing of an “extremist activity”. In violation of article 51 of the IVGeneva Convention, Crimean police [detained two local residents](#) for “draft evasion”. They are facing an [administrative arrest](#).

<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter, all state bodies in the territory of the occupied Crimea and their representatives are mentioned on the understanding that they are under the control of the occupying Russian authorities and are not legitimate from the point of view of Ukrainian and international law.

<sup>2</sup> The internal sources of CrimeaSOS inform that the Russian law enforcement officers often come to illegal home-searches with their own literature and plant it as evidence of guilt. They usually have a person responsible for such planting.

Nakhimov district court of Simferopol [convicted](#) Ruslan Bekirov, a government’s witness in the Hizb ut-Tahrir case, to 300 hours of obligatory work for “falsifying statements”. Ruslan Bekirov withdrew [his previous testimony](#) and claimed he had given them under threats from FSB.

Prison administrations create inhumane incarceration conditions for defendants in Hizb ut-Tahrir cases. **Teimur Abdullaev** has yet again received [an extension of his term in solitary confinement](#). In total, he spent 250 days in solitary confinement with inhumane incarceration conditions. [Riza Izetov](#) has been [in solitary confinement](#) for over 10 days. And [Rustem Sheikhaliev](#), who has a number of chronic diseases, [had his medication taken away](#) by the administration of the detention center of Krasnodar.

The occupying authority intimidates activists with warnings and administrative prosecution. On the eve of the Day of native language and the Day of commemoration of Noman Çelebicihan the Crimean prosecution office [issued](#) warnings about “impermissibility of unsanctioned protests” to 9 Crimean Tatar activists, including lawyers, citizen journalists and human rights defenders in several areas of Crimea (more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Sevilia Omerova faces administrative charges for a [single-person protest](#) in support of her husband, [Riza Omerov](#), who had been convicted in Bilohirsk Hizb ut-Tahrir case.

Russian border guards fine Crimean residents who cross the administrative border with Ukrainian passports. On February 10, during the forum “[Ukraine 30. Crimea and Donbas against the virus](#)”, the head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, M. Bogner, [informed](#) that occupying authorities in Crimea allow a single crossing of the administrative border with Crimea over the whole period of COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the FSB border guards issue fines to Crimean residents for the use of Ukrainian passports, whenever they want to mainland Ukraine. On February 19, during the briefing, Oleksii Reznikov (Minister for reintegration of temporary occupied territories of Ukraine) [informed](#) that around 2.5 million Ukrainian citizens in Crimea had been forced to accept Russian passports.

Russia continues to militarize Crimean peninsula. Minister of Defense of Ukraine Andrii Taran [informed](#) that Russia is increasing the number of combat ships of the Black Sea Fleet as well as its military personnel in Crimea. Russia creates new military camps, storage depots for missiles and ammunition, armament and military equipment. In addition, the airfield capabilities are being increased and the basing structure of the Black Sea Fleet is being developed. According to minister Taran, Russia is preparing to deploy nuclear missiles in Crimea.

The occupying authorities in Crimea are planning to [demolish historical buildings in downtown Yalta](#) in order to build a high-rise building.

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