



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

JANUARY 2021

Three Crimean Tatar activists were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for political reasons. Medzhit Ablyamitov's lawyer reported gross procedural violations in the case against his client. The administration of the detention facilities creates unsatisfactory detention conditions for persons persecuted in Crimea for political reasons. Crimean servicemen nearly died due to vaccination against COVID-19 with an unauthorized Russian vaccine. Crimeans are forced to reuse water for their household needs due to its shortage. Russia has put up for sale another Crimean winery belonging to Ukraine. The occupying authorities intimidate Crimeans with warnings about the prohibition of holding and attending rallies.

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Three Crimean Tatar activists were sentenced to prison terms from 13 to 18 years

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The Southern District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced the defendants in the Belogorsk “Hizb-ut-Tahrir case” Enver Omerov, Ayder Dzhapparov, and Riza Omerov to prison terms from 13 to 18 years. The only evidence that allegedly proves their guilt is the audio recordings of their political and religious discussions. Crimean Tatar activists who headed to Rostov-on-Don to support the defendants during the court hearing when the verdict was delivered, were detained on the Crimean bridge. After the verdict, Enver Omerov's daughter, Fatma Ismailova, was charged with an administrative offense for asking to “touch her father's hand”.

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Medzhit Ablyamitov's lawyer reported gross procedural violations in the case against his client

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The interrogation protocol of the witness in the case against Medzhit Ablyamitov was drawn up with gross procedural violations. On January 20, witness Aydin Mamutov withdrew his previous testimony during the court hearing in the case of Medzhit Ablyamitov (the case of participation in the “N. Çelebicihan battalion”). His lawyer A. Azamatov noted that Aydin Mamutov was not allowed to read the protocol of his interrogation, which he was said to sign. Much information from the protocol he heard for the first time during the court hearing when the prosecutor was reading it out loud.

Unknown persons attacked and beat up the wife and daughter of a pro-Ukrainian activist, political prisoner Oleg Prikhodko. Natalya Prikhodko, the daughter of Oleg Prikhodko, said that the neighbors had been “trying to force them out of the village” due to the high-profile criminal case against her father.

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Crimeans who are prosecuted for political reasons are held in unsatisfactory conditions in detention facilities

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Political prisoner Teymur Abdullayev has been kept in solitary confinement in inhuman conditions for more than 250 days. The defendants in the Krasnogvardeiskoye “Hizb-ut-Tahrir case” are held in unsanitary conditions in Detention center #3 in Novocherkassk.

A Sevastopol serviceman nearly died from a severe allergic reaction, caused by the Russian COVID-19 vaccine which has neither been properly tested in Russian nor approved by WHO. The servicemen warned the medical personnel that he has allergies but was still compelled to vaccination.

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Crimean servicemen nearly died due to vaccination against COVID-19 with an unauthorized Russian vaccine

Due to acute water shortage, Crimeans are forced to reuse the same water for their household needs. The occupying authorities increased chlorination of tap water in Simferopol after the local population's complaints of its foul smell.¹ The Crimean authorities reported that the smell is due to silt. Chemist Konstantin Rabotyagov claims that the water in the Simferopol reservoir is polluted and cannot be used for drinking at all.

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Crimeans are forced to reuse the same water for their household needs due to water shortage

De facto Crimean authorities put up for auction the Koktebel winery, a state-owned enterprise of Ukraine. Such actions violate the norms of IHL (Art. 53, 148 of Geneva Convention IV).

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Occupying authorities put up for sale another Ukraine-owned winery in Crimea

The occupying authorities intimidate Crimeans with warnings about the prohibition of holding and attending rallies. De-facto police officers gave written warnings to 9 Crimean Tatar activists (more details here, here, here, and here). On the eve of the rally in support of the detained Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the de facto Crimean Ministry of Education sent out a letter to school principals and education officials that orders them to prevent schoolchildren from participating in extremist activities and rallies in support of A. Navalny. The administration of a number of Simferopol schools demanded that parents report every two hours that their child was “under supervision”.

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Occupying authorities intimidate Crimeans with warnings about the prohibition of holding and attending rallies

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