

CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

JUNE 2021

Crimean Tatar activists received warnings from prosecutor's office. Politically motivated cases involved systematic violations. The health of political prisoners is deteriorating. Two political prisoners were transferred outside of Crimea. Teimur Abdullaiev was moved from punitive confinement. Four verdicts in absentia were delivered. Russian occupying authorities continue persecuting Crimeans for dodging the military service. A court again fined imam of the local Muslim community. Crimean resident was fined for a single-person protest against the inactivity of investigative authorities. Emergency situation regime was introduced in Kerch and Yalta due to the flood. Occupying authorities try to prevent Crimean residents from applying to Ukrainian universities.

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Two political prisoners were transferred from the territory of Crimea

Prosecutor's office¹ again sent warnings to Crimean Tatar activists about the inadmissibility of participating in unsanctioned mass gatherings, including those dedicated to the Day of the Crimean Tatar flag (details [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

Politically motivated cases involved systematic violation of the right to a fair trial. Courts prevent Ihor Shmidt, Yashar Muiedinov, Osman Arifmemetov, and four other indictees from examining materials of their criminal cases. The court appointed state defenders for Raim Avazov against his will. Servet Haziiev was expelled from the courtroom for his speech in the Crimean Tatar language. Riza Izetov appealed to the panel of judges to recuse themselves from participating in his case, believing that they are biased. Attesting witnesses in the 3rd Bakhchysarai group of the "Hizb ut-Tahrir case" confirmed that the lawyer had not been present during the house search of the defendants. The court rejected a lawsuit asking to check whether the FSB intimidated the witness in the case against Enver Seitosmanov. Court hearings in the cases against the 2nd Simferopol and Alushta groups of the "Hizb ut-Tahrir case" were conducted with violations of the principle of openness. Sokhiba Burkhanova still cannot receive the body of her deceased husband, Ayub Rakhimov, who was killed during a special operation of Russian law enforcement services.

At least 11 political prisoners were reported to complain about their health conditions. Dzhemil Hafarov suffered a heart attack caused by renal disease. Medzhyt Abdurakhmanov was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. Ambulance was called for Servet Haziiev and Shaban Umerov during the trial. Rustem Seitmemetov's eyesight worsened during his detention. Oleh Prykhodko complained about the condition of some of his internal organs. Zekiria Muratov has not yet undergone a medical examination regarding the prolongation of his disability status. Edem Smailov, Seiran Saliiev, Tymur Ibrahimov and Memet Bielialov complained about dental problems.

Political prisoners Alim Sufianov and Seiran Khairedinov were transferred from the Crimean detention center to Rostov-on-Don. This constitutes a war crime.

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Teimur Abdullaiev was moved from punitive confinement into a crew with maximum security conditions. Teimur Abdullaiev had been almost constantly kept in punitive confinement since March 2020.

Courts announced four politically motivated verdicts in absentia. A court sentenced the Head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Refat Chubarov to 6 years in prison for an alleged organization of mass civil unrest. Crimean Tatar activist Edem Bekirov was sentenced to 7 years in prison for an alleged keeping of explosives. Two Crimean Tatars were sentenced to 8 years in prison for their alleged participation in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion (names yet unknown).

In June, 11 sentences were awarded and 9 new criminal cases were opened for evading service in the Russian army.

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Yusuf Ashyrov, imam of the Muslim community "Alushta", was fined again for an "illegal missionary activity". Ashyrov's lawyer believes that the occupying authority is trying to pressure the religious community to force it to join the Russian Muslim Spiritual Directorate of Crimea (more on previous fines [here](#) and [here](#)).

Crimean resident Dmytro Formalev was fined for a single-person protest against the inactivity of investigative authorities. For three years, Formalev has been demanding an opening of a criminal case against the coach of a sports school, where his adopted son received serious injuries. Occupying authorities actively apply pandemic-related restrictions to ban peaceful gatherings.

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Emergency situation regime was introduced in Kerch and Yalta due to the flood. In addition to heavy rains, among the reasons for the emergency in Yalta was a concentration of construction debris and household rubbish on illegal waste deposits. In Kerch, local rivers were not cleaned from rubbish and bulrush. As a result of pollution, the occupants closed 83 beaches. Sufferers of the flood could submit appeals for material support within an unreasonably short time till 30 June. The declared amount of compensation might not cover the damages that people suffered.

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Occupying authorities try to prevent Crimean residents from applying to Ukrainian universities. There are reported cases when Crimean residents who are willing to study on Ukrainian-controlled territory are not allowed to cross checkpoints.

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New cases and sentences for evading service in the Russian army

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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.