



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## MAY 2021

Russian law enforcement bodies killed an asylum-seeker from Uzbekistan and are trying to deport his wife. 4 politically motivated sentences were awarded. 5 searches were conducted. At least 11 political prisoners suffered from violations of their rights. A political prisoner Oleksii Chyrynii was released. Mothers of 3 political prisoners were fined for single-person protests in Crimea. 5 activists received warnings about the inadmissibility of violations of law. The Russian government changed the rules of entry to Crimea. The Russian army conducted 3 military exercises in Crimea. The occupiers cannot solve the problem of water shortage in Crimea yet. 178 trees and bushes were illegally chopped on the territory of Sudak forestry.



*Russian security officials killed an asylum-seeker from Uzbekistan and are trying to deport his wife*

Russian security officials killed an asylum-seeker from Uzbekistan and are trying to deport his wife. Security officials claim they wanted to detain Ayub Rakhimov, but he allegedly resisted and used a weapon. However, Crimean human rights defenders are convinced that security officials could torture him and stage a special operation with a shoot-up. Earlier Russian authorities tried to extradite Rakhimov to Uzbekistan. However, he won a lawsuit in the ECHR that banned his extradition. The Investigative Committee refuses to release the body of Rakhimov to his lawyers. His wife **Sokhiba Burkhanova** was sent to a migration facility. The officials demanded samples of biological material from her, threatening her and her children. Crimean courts<sup>1</sup> ruled to deport Burkhanova from Russia, despite the decision of the ECHR that ruled to withhold from this action for the period while the case is being considered.



*4 politically motivated sentences were awarded*

4 politically motivated sentences in criminal cases were awarded. A political prisoner **Ivan Yatskin** was sentenced to 11 years in prison for alleged high treason. A civic journalist of “Crimean Solidarity,” **Aider Kadyrov**, and activist **Ridvan Umerov** were fined 30 thousand RUB for an alleged failure to report a crime. A student of the Ukrainian university was sentenced to one year in prison for an alleged creation of a social media group that aims to return Crimea to Ukraine.



*5 searches were conducted in Crimea*

5 searches were conducted in Crimea. Three searches happened on 11 May: in a family of a citizen of Uzbekistan **Ayub Rakhimov**, in a place of his location and residence of **Seidamet Hafarov**. Besides, the law enforcement bodies searched the house of **Zidan Adzhykeliamov**, a reporter of “Crimean Solidarity” and an activist **Muslim Zevriiev**.



*At least 11 political prisoners are known to have suffered from violations of their rights*

At least 11 political prisoners are known to have suffered from violations of their rights. Relatives and lawyers demand a hospitalization for **Teimur Abdullaiev**, **Servet Haziiev**, **Dzhemil Hafarov** and **Medzhyt Abdurakhmanov** due to their critical health condition. **Ivan Yatskin** received threats from his cellmates. **Hennadii Lymeshko** received threats from correctional officers. **Valentyn Vyhivskyi** is intended to begin a hunger strike due to psychological pressure. **Uzeir Abdullaiev**, **Emir-Usein Kuku**, **Refat Alimov**,

and **Emil Dzhemadeniv** spent time in punitive confinement. **Teimur Abdullaiev** has been in punitive confinement for almost the whole time since March 2020.

A political prisoner Oleksii Chyrynii was released and returned to mainland Ukraine after serving 7 years in prison.

A court fined mothers of 3 political prisoners for single-person protests. **Zure Emiruseinova** (mother of Rustem Emiruseinov) was fined 5 thousand RUB, **Zelikha Abkhairova** (mother of Arsen Abkhairov), and **Emine Abdulhaniieva** (mother of Eskander Abdulhaniiev) were fined 10 thousand RUB.

5 activists received warnings about the inadmissibility of violations of law before the Day of Commemoration of Victims of Crimean Tatar deportation (details here, here, here, here, and here).

The Russian government changed the rules of entry to Crimea. These amendments cancelled the rule of one-time entry from Crimea to mainland Ukraine and vice versa. They expanded a list of close relatives that gives grounds for crossing the administrative border with Crimea. Meanwhile, the new rules have many controversial points.

The Russian army conducted 3 military exercises in Crimea (details here, here, and here). More information on disastrous impact of military exercises on environment of Crimea is available in the report by CrimeaSOS (p. 80-99).

The occupation administration cannot solve the problem of water shortage in Crimea yet. Russian servicemen built a temporary water supply that is 32 km long. Pumps, that had been manufactured by Siemens (Germany) and Grundfos (Denmark), and appeared in Crimea in contravention of the EU sanctions, were installed at a water-well near Simferopol. The local bodies froze the construction of one of the desalination plants until water reserves are explored under the bottom of the Sea of Azov. The occupying authorities are planning to construct new water reservoirs in Simferopol and Alushta, as well as to transfer water from waterfalls to water reservoirs. Meanwhile, the water levels in the Bilohirsk water reservoir started to decrease due to the release of water for the needs of south-eastern Crimea.

178 trees and bushes were illegally chopped on the territory of Sudak forestry. The occupiers estimate that environmental damages exceed 3.4 million RUB.



*Oleksii Chyrynii was released*



*Mothers of 3 political prisoners were fined for single-person protests*



*5 activists received warnings about the inadmissibility of violations of law*



*The Russian government changed the rules of entry to Crimea*



*3 military exercises were conducted in Crimea*



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*178 trees and bushes were illegally chopped on the territory of Sudak forestry*

<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 the control of the occupying Russian authorities and therefore are not legitimate from the point of view of the Ukrainian and international law.