



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

OCTOBER 2021

Courts announced six politically motivated sentences. The police conducted three mass detentions of Crimean Tatar activists. Crimea experiences a critical situation with COVID-19. Political prisoners continue suffering from violations of their rights. “Courts” fined two religious organizations. The occupying authorities expel people from their homes. The problems with electric, gas, and water supply caused by emergencies and repairs continue. The occupation continues damaging the environment of Crimea.

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Courts announced six politically motivated sentences. The court in Rostov-on-Don convicted the defendants in the 3rd Bakhchysarai group of the “Hizb ut-Tahrir case”: **Seitumer Seitumerov** was sentenced to 17 years in prison, **Osman Seitumerov** was sentenced to 14 years in prison, **Amet Suleimanov** was sentenced to 12 years in prison, **Rustem Seitmemetov** was sentenced to 13 years in prison. **Amet Suleimanov** has a disability due to his heart condition. The imprisonment puts his life in danger. The court in Crimea¹ convicted 61-year old **Kostiantyn Shyrinh** to 12 years in prison for alleged espionage. The court in Sevastopol convicted Jehovah’s Witness **Ihor Shmidt** to 6 years in prison for an alleged organization of activity of an extremist organization.

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The police conducted three mass detentions of Crimean Tatar activists

The police conducted three mass detentions of Crimean Tatar activists. Those activists gathered near the court building to find out information about the results of court hearings. On October 11, the police detained 20 Crimean Tatar activists; 7 of them were fined from 5,000 to 20,000 RUR. On October 25, the police detained 21 persons. Lawyers were not allowed to access the detainees and were threatened with administrative punishment for alleged “failure to abide by a lawful demand of a police officer.” The lawyer **Edem Semedliaiev** was also detained. 14 of the detainees were fined from 10,000 to 15,000 RUR. On October 29, the police detained 31 Crimean Tatar activists and journalists.

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Crimea experiences a critical situation with COVID-19

Crimea experiences a critical situation with COVID-19. The daily records of the new COVID-19 cases and deaths rise in the AR Crimea and Sevastopol. The AR Crimea has a deficit of available hospital beds. According to Russian media, ambulances do not always hospitalize patients with high fever and other symptoms of COVID-19. There is information that at least two Crimean residents died for this reason. Morgues are full beyond limits, so that local authorities have to purchase module fridges in order to lessen the pressure on morgues.

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Political prisoners continue suffering from violations of their rights

Political prisoners continue suffering from violations of their rights. **Ivan Yatskin** has been convoyed outside of Crimea to serve a sentence in Kemerovo Oblast of Russia. 63-year old **Oleh Prykhodko** does not receive the necessary medicines and letters from relatives. He has been in solitary confinement for three months, and he has to stand during the whole day,

as he is allowed to lay down only during bedtime. **Nariman Dzhelial** was unreasonably sent to a forced psychological examination. **Andrii Zakhtei** was put into punitive confinement for ten days after he refused to join the physical exercises. However, the real reason for his punishment might be that he speaks the Ukrainian language and wears a T-Shirt with Ukrainian symbols. **Teimur Abdullaiev** was placed in punitive confinement again. During a court hearing on the Krasnohvardiisk group of the “Hizb ut-Tahrir case”, the prison authorities searches the cells of the defendants and expropriated many personal items. The prison cell of **Rustem Murasov** has roaches and rats. The administration of the detention facility forced him to take part in the Russian parliamentary election. The political prisoners are kept in SIZO-3 of Rostov Oblast in overcrowded cells. The food that they get does not correspond to Muslim beliefs and is generally of low quality. There are also problems with the water supply in the cells.

Courts fined two religious organizations for an alleged “illegal missionary activity.” One Evangelical community, as well as **Edhar Babaian**, head of another Evangelical community in Yalta, were fined 30,000 RUR.

The occupying authorities expel people from their homes. The court ruled to demolish an allegedly illegally built house of a veteran of the Crimean Tatar national movement **Rustem Useinov**. In Yalta, the authorities are checking the legality of the construction of houses that suffered from the flood: instead of restoration, those houses might be demolished.

The problems with electric, gas, and water supply caused by emergencies and repairs continue (details here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here). Since the beginning of the heating season, 10% of multistorey houses in Crimea did not receive heating. In Kerch, more than 50 houses, a school, kindergartens, and a tuberculosis dispensary did not receive heating.

The occupation continues damaging the environment of Crimea. Unknown people cut down more than 100 trees of the Red Book cedar near Sevastopol. Russian prosecutor’s office started a criminal investigation into the cutting-down of 19 trees in the Bakhchysarai District. According to the Russia-controlled Crimean media, there are around 200 illegal waste deposits in Simferopol.

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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.