



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022

russia continues using Crimea as a bridgehead for the invasion of mainland Ukraine and promoting participation in hostilities. Civil resistance against russian actions intensified in Crimea. Looting continues in the occupied territories. New politically motivated sentences, criminal charges and administrative penalties have been recorded.

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Militarization of the peninsula

On July 21, Putin announced a partial mobilization, 60,000 conscription notices were issued in Crimea, and 20,000 people were mobilized. Moreover, the conscription notices began to be distributed on the eve of the official announcement of mobilization. From September 19, it will be possible to leave from the occupied Crimea only provided the written permission of the military commissar. Russia fired more than 750 missiles into mainland Ukraine from occupied Crimea during the full-scale war.

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Civil resistance against russian actions

A new underground resistance “Crimean fighting gulls” began to operate in Crimea. A mural picturing russian military was doused with red paint in Simferopol. A resident of Simferopol has been detained on charges of allegedly calling for reprisals against the Russian military. In Sevastopol, a primary school teacher was fired for a lesson “in the colours of the flag of Ukraine”. Teacher Andrii Bilozeroz was fired because he played the Ukrainian song “Bayraktar” in the technical school. The Crimean was forced to record a video with an apology for calling Russia “a fascist state that attacked a sovereign state, killing children, the elderly and pregnant women”.

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Propaganda of hostilities against Ukraine

In Crimea, the occupation administration¹ issued a decree obliging schools to hold classes about “special operation heroes”, “friends and enemies of the Russian Federation” and “the advantages of contract service in Russia”. In Sevastopol, civilian participants (mechanics, electricians, etc.) are rewarded for the “special operation” so that they do not quit their jobs. In Crimea, students and public sector workers were forced to participate in a rally for the war and mobilization.

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Looting in the occupied territories

When leaving Kherson, Russian military take out the property stolen from Ukrainians to the territory of Crimea, and then to Russia across the Kerch bridge.

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New politically motivated sentences

Arsen Ibrahimov was sentenced to 10 years in a strict regime colony on charges of alleged participation in the Noman Çelebicihan volunteer battalion. Yashar Shikhametov was sentenced to 11 years in prison on charges of alleged involvement in Hizb ut-Tahrir. Those accused of allegedly sabotaging a gas pipeline received the following sentences: Nariman Dzhelial – 17 years in prison and a fine of 700 thousand rubles, Asan Akhtemov – 15 years in prison and a fine of 500 thousand rubles, Aziz Akhtemov – 13 years in prison and a fine of 500 thousand rubles. Renat Naumov was sentenced to 8 years in prison for allegedly having links with “Ukrainian nationalists” and possession of weapons.

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.

It became known that in June Kostiantyn Tereshchenko, a resident of the Kherson region, was detained and taken to Crimea on charges of allegedly belonging to the Noman Çelebicihan volunteer battalion. FSB officers in Crimea have detained an alleged supporter of Ukrainian nationalists who allegedly kept an improvised explosive device and other prohibited items at home. The following persons were fined for allegedly discrediting the armed forces of the Russian Federation: 64-year-old Crimean resident, activist Rolan Osmanov, residents of Sevastopol and Yevpatoria, as well as 6 persons for the song “Chervona Kalyna” (“Red viburnum”) at a wedding (four received administrative arrest from 5 to 15 days, and the restaurant owner was forced to record a video with an apology). Russian security forces searched at least four buildings of Jehovah’s Witnesses, as well as the house of Mustafa Dzhemilev.

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New politically motivated criminal charges and administrative fines

The investigation ignores statements of Enver Krosh about beatings and torture in the FSB car during his detention. Yashar Shikhametov could not take part in the court debate due to high blood pressure, he was called an ambulance. The court rejected petitions of Dzhemil Hafarov requesting to exclude evidence obtained with procedural violations. A witness to the search in the case against Ametkhan Abdulvapov gave testimony in court that contradicted the protocol of the search in the defendant’s house. Six convicted political prisoners from Crimea were transferred to colonies in various parts of Russia: Tymur Ibrahimov, Suleiman (Marlen) Asanov, Server Mustafayev, Server Zekirayev, Eldar Kantymyrov, Memet Belialov.

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Violations of rights of Crimean political prisoners

The Ministry of Defence of Russia has proposed to give land plots in Crimea free of charge to the participants in the war against Ukraine. The occupying authorities demand that the residents of Yalta, by December 1, re-register the rights to property that was received before the Russian occupation of Crimea.

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Violation of land rights