



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## DECEMBER 2022

russia continues using Crimea as a bridgehead for aggression against mainland Ukraine. New politically motivated sentences, detentions and criminal charges appeared in December. Violations of the rights of political prisoners continue. russia continues damaging the Crimean cultural heritage and using educational institutions to support the war against Ukraine.

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*Bridgehead for aggression against mainland Ukraine*

Production of drones for the russian army has been launched in Crimea. There are about 750 units of russian military equipment in Dzhankoi district. PMC “Wagner” is trying to recruit medical staff from Crimea. Due to the overflowed morgues in Melitopol, the invaders are taking the corpses of their soldiers to the peninsula. Residents of the coastal areas in the village of Mizhvodne are forcibly evicted to accommodate the military and build defensive structures on the beach. russia wants to increase the term of military service for conscripts from Crimea.

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*Enforced disappearances in Crimea*

Ukrainian law enforcement bodies opened 8 criminal proceedings on the facts of 8 enforced disappearances recorded from 24 February, 2022 to 30 November, 2022.

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*Persecution for allegedly discrediting the russian army*

From March to mid-December 2022, the “courts” in Crimea issued at least 165 indictments in administrative cases for allegedly discrediting the russian army against 162 persons (53 women, 109 men). Indictments were issued by 75 “judges” from 23 “courts” on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The largest number of indictments were issued by the “courts” of Simferopol (39), Yalta (21) and Sevastopol (20).

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*Detentions in December*

Marlen and Ernest Akhaievs were detained in Dzhankoi district. FSB officers had been concealing information about their whereabouts for almost a day. Two residents of Sevastopol were detained for allegedly collaborating with the Security Service of Ukraine. russian security agencies conducted searches in the houses of about 40 persons as a part of persecution of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Dmytro Naukhatskyi and Oleksandr Voronchykhin were charged with allegedly organizing activities of an extremist organization. At least 110 civilian persons who were transferred by the occupants from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions are kept in Simferopol pre-trial detention facilities. At least 95 of them are held without any charges.

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*New politically motivated sentences*

Nasrulla Seidaliiev and Kostiantyn Tereshchenko were sentenced to 9 and 4 years in prison respectively for their alleged membership in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion. Jehovah’s Witnesses Oleksandr Lytvyniuk and Oleksandr Dubovenko each received 6 years in prison. The previously acquitted Ernes Ametov was sentenced to 11 years in prison; Iryna Danylovyh – to 7 years and Yevhen Petrushyn – to 12 years in prison.

Teimur Abdullaiev got in a prison hospital with suspected tuberculosis. Rustem Osmanov, forcibly removed from Kherson region and convicted in Crimea, spoke about the circumstances of his abduction and torture. Citizen journalist Iryna Danylovyh and Yaroslav Zhuk (removed from Melitopol) partially lost their hearing. The conditions of detention of Ruslan Abdurakhmanov in a pre-trial detention facility were tightened. It became known that during the arrest, Ruslan Abdurakhmanov was kicked, tortured with electric current and threatened to cut off his genitals.

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*Torture and cruel conditions of detention*

Intimidation of activists continues, the police handed warnings to 4 Crimean Tatars about the inadmissibility of breaking the law.

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*Intimidation of activists*

Occupants are preparing to export museum collections from Crimea to russia, the museums have already received packaging materials. As part of the reconstruction, occupants damage the Bakhchisarai Khan’s Palace.

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*Cultural rights violations*

In Crimea, teachers are forced to write statements for donating part of their wages in support of hostilities.

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*Teachers are forced to donate money to support the war*