



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

JANUARY 2023

russia continues construction of defence structures, as well as mobilization and recruitment in Crimea. About 2,000 children taken from Kherson region disappeared in Crimea. Activism against russia's actions continues in Crimea. The data of people who condemned the russian missile attack on a residential building in Dnipro were posted in open access. New sentences were handed down. New politically motivated arrests on criminal and administrative charges took place. Violations of the rights of Crimean political prisoners continue. An African country is violating the regime of non-recognition and sanctions. Pressure on Crimean Tatar activists continues, as well as violations of property rights and destruction of nature in Crimea.



Construction of defence structures in Crimea

russia began digging trenches and erecting barriers around the "Belbek" airfield near Sevastopol and continues building defence lines along the Isthmus of Perekop and in the northeast of the peninsula.



Mobilization and recruitment for war

In Simferopol, an advertisement for the service in the PMC "Wagner" was placed. In the penal colony #1 of Simferopol, russia recruits prisoners for the war against Ukraine. In Crimea, a recruitment of mercenaries for the newly created private military companies "Shchit" (Shield) and "Rusich" has been announced. In Sevastopol, IT specialists, financial workers and other specialists who had reservations from mobilization began receiving calls to come to the military commissariats. Raids related to mobilization are being carried out in places densely populated by Crimean Tatars. Since 20 January, the russian military commissariats have been tasked with making up for russia's losses in the war against Ukraine at the expense of local civilians from the units of the Black Sea fleet. Since 24 February, 2022, at least 255 russian servicemen have been buried in Crimea, most of whom could be citizens of Ukraine.



About 2,000 children from Kherson disappeared in Crimea

It is reported about the disappearance of about 2,000 children forcibly taken from Kherson in Yevpatoria, about the facts of sexual abuse against them and the probable export of some of the children to Chechnya as slaves.



Activism against russia's actions

Since the beginning of full-scale hostilities, about 20 activists in Sevastopol have come to the attention of the russian security forces in Crimea. Some of them left Crimea, some became victims of criminal prosecution. In Feodosia, two women (names not specified) were detained for painting a car with the words "Glory to the Armed Forces of Ukraine". The "Yellow Ribbon" movement continues its activities in Crimea. Schoolchildren in Crimea are trying to resist russian military propaganda. In Sevastopol, patriots organized another resistance action: leaflets appeared on the streets of the city condemning the war against Ukraine. The Telegram channel "Crimean SMERSH" of a pro-russian blogger Aleksandr Talipov began publishing the personal data of Crimeans who accused the russian army of a missile attack on a residential building in Dnipro on 14 January.

A court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced Alim Karimov, Seiran Murtaza, Erfan Osmanov, Dzhemil Hafarov and Servet Haziiev to 13 years in prison for alleged membership in Hizb ut-Tahrir. Two of them are elderly people with disabilities. A court extended the sentence of 65-year-old pro-Ukrainian activist Oleh Prykhodko by a month, finding him guilty of contempt of court.

As a result of searches in the homes of Crimean Tatars, the russian security forces detained six people (Ekrem Krosh, Osman Abdurazakov, Aider Asanov, Refat Seidametov, Leman Zekiriaiev, Khalil Mambetov) on charges of alleged membership in Hizb ut-Tahrir. russian security forces detained 34 people who came to the court hearing on the case of the detainees. Seven of them were released, a disabled person of the second group was fined RUR 20,000, the rest were sent under administrative arrest for 10-16 days. russian security forces arrested Ibraim Asanov and a resident of Sevastopol on suspicion of alleged membership in the Noman Çelebicihan battalion, as well as a resident of Kerch on charges of allegedly calling for the murder of russian military.

In the pre-trial detention facility #2 of Simferopol, some of the people who were taken out of the newly occupied territories continue being held without charge and access to a lawyer. The convicted Tymur Yalkabov was transferred to a prison in the Ulianovsk region of russia, Emil Ziiadinov and Lenur Seidametov were transferred to a prison in the Lipetsk region. Pro-Ukrainian activist Bohdan Ziza who has been accused of "committing a terrorist act" was transferred to Rostov-on-Don. The administration of the colony in Ulianovsk is forcing the convicted Rustem Osmanov to take russian citizenship and participate in the war against Ukraine.

The Eritrean city of Massawa and occupied Sevastopol signed a "treaty" on cooperation.

russia wants to sell the Yevpatoria Aircraft Repair Plant, its shares are put up for sale. A number of russian officials from Crimea and Sevastopol went to work in the occupation administrations in the occupied Ukrainian territories. The occupation authorities decided to "nationalize" the IMAX cinema in Yalta.

Law enforcement officers massively visited the houses of Crimean Tatars, trying to hand them a "warning about the inadmissibility of breaking the law".

At least 14 dolphins were thrown ashore at Sevastopol in a month.



New politically motivated sentences



New politically motivated detentions and administrative penalties



Violations of the rights of political prisoners



Violation of the non-recognition and sanctions regimes



Violations of property rights



Destruction of nature