



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

FEBRUARY 2023

russia continues construction of defensive structures and mobilization in Crimea. New explosions are reported on the peninsula. russia continues forcible transfer of children from the newly occupied territories. There is a shortage of medicines and medical facilities for the civilian population in Crimea. Pro-russian propaganda in schools and pro-Ukrainian activism continue in Crimea. New politically motivated sentences, detentions, criminal cases and administrative penalties. Two Crimean political prisoners died in custody. One political prisoner was released from a colony. Violations of property rights continue. The pressure on Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians continues.

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Construction of defensive structures in Crimea

russia established a new military base in northern Crimea. The construction of defensive structures in Armiansk and Dzhankoi continues.

Explosions were reported in Armiansk and Sevastopol.

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Mobilization continues in Crimea

russia has used about 1,200 persons from the PMC Wagner who were recruited in Crimean prisons. At the same time, there are at least 100,000 places in medical institutions and 30,000 places in cemeteries provided in Crimea for the mobilized. The corpses of russian soldiers are burnt around the clock near Simferopol, which is why cremation of civilians is not carried out. For the first time, the russian servicemen were convicted in Sevastopol for refusing to fight against Ukraine.

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Transfer of children from the newly occupied territories

russia continues unlawful forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to Crimea, as well as to the russian territory. At the same time, the data of children are classified by russia and most of the children have parents. It became known that children from Zaporizhzhia region are planned to be sent “on vacation to Crimea.” According to the occupation administration, about 10,000 children from the newly occupied territories have already been in Crimean camps and sanatoriums. It is known about at least 7 camps in Crimea where the transferred children are kept.

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Shortage of medicines and medical facilities for the civilian population

There is a growing shortage of medicines for civilians in Crimea due to the reorientation of the medical system toward the needs of russian military. At least 6 medical institutions in Crimea were partially or completely requisitioned for the needs of military hospitals, to the detriment of the needs of the civilian population.

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Pro-russian propaganda among schoolchildren

It is planned to teach schoolchildren in Crimea a course about russia’s war against Ukraine. The administration of a Sevastopol school requires parents to tell the children at home learning about “Ukrainian aggression” against russia, the fight against “fascism”, biological laboratories, etc.

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Pro-Ukrainian activism

The partisans raised the Ukrainian flag over the Grafskaya Wharf in Sevastopol. The “Yellow Ribbon” movement in Crimea repaints the “Z” symbols into blue and yellow sandglasses.

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New politically motivated sentences

The “court” sentenced Oleksii Kyseliov and Ihor Khalilov to 8.5 and 5 years in prison, respectively, on charges of alleged participation in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion. The “court” issued a guilty verdict against 4 Jehovah’s

Witnesses: Taras Kuzio received 6.5 years in prison, Petro Zhylytsov and Serhii Liulin received 6 years and 1 month in prison, Daria Kuzio was sentenced to a 3-year suspended prison term. The “court” sentenced social worker Olha Saienko to a 2-year suspended prison term for allegedly calling for extremism because of criticism of the russian army. It also became known that in January a court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced Raif Fevziiev to 17 years in prison for alleged involvement in Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

The FSB detained one man in Crimea (name not reported) on suspicion of alleged participation in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion. The FSB also announced the detention of a pro-Ukrainian resident of Sevastopol (name not reported) who has been accused of creating a “radical” pro-Ukrainian movement in the Telegram channel where calls for terrorist attacks were allegedly posted. On the denunciation of pro-russian blogger Aleksandr Talipov, Veronika Nosonova was detained for having painted the coat of arms of Ukraine on the playground. Talipov was awarded a commendation from Moscow for persecuting pro-Ukrainian residents of Crimea. The Investigative Committee opened a criminal case against a resident of Yalta (name not reported) for allegedly repeatedly discrediting the russian army.

Two Crimean political prisoners died in custody due to the disregard of their health problems by the administration of facilities: Kostiantyn Shyrinh and Dzhemil Hafarov.

Political prisoner Andrii Zakhtei was released after 6.5 years in prison. However, he was not allowed to travel to mainland Ukraine and was placed in the Temporary Detention Center for Foreign Citizens.

Tymur Yalkabov and Eldar Kantimirov were placed in the punishment cell of the prison (details [here](#) and [here](#)).

The court in Rostov-on-Don closed the criminal case against Nabi (Ayub) Rakhimov, a citizen of Uzbekistan, who was killed by russian security forces on 11 May, 2021. His body has been in a morgue for almost 2 years.

About 700 assets of Ukrainian individuals were “nationalized” in Crimea. By selling the “property of Ukrainian businessmen” the occupation authorities in Crimea intend to finance the war. The occupation authorities promise land plots by the sea to all local participants in the war against Ukraine, including prisoners from the PMC Wagner. At the same time, participants in the war submitted almost three thousand applications for land in Sevastopol.

russian security forces conducted a search at the head of the regional Mejlis, Ilver Ametov, in Sudak. The FSB conducted a search in the house of the Crimean Tatars Dzhemilovs in Bakhchysarai district due to damage to the railway. russian security officials issued warnings to at least 7 Crimean Tatars, including the parents of two political prisoners and a Crimean Solidarity correspondent. russian security forces searched the home of Halyna Balaban, an activist of the former Ukrainian Cultural Centre. After the search, she was fined RUB 2,000 for allegedly displaying extremist symbols because of a social media post in 2018.

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New politically motivated cases and detentions

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Two Crimean political prisoners died

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Political prisoner Andrii Zakhtei was released from a colony

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Violations of property rights

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Pressure on Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians