



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

MARCH 2023

The russia's prosecutor general's office recognized the activities of CrimeaSOS as "undesirable". Liability for discrediting and "fakes" about the participants in the war was introduced. New explosions were reported in Crimea. The occupation authorities are preparing for the entry of the Armed Forces of Ukraine into Crimea. Anti-war and pro-Ukrainian activities continue. 17 children transferred from the newly occupied territories returned to the government-controlled area of Ukraine. Humanitarian problems are aggravating in Crimea. The occupation authorities continue looting property, passing politically motivated sentences and detaining undesirable persons. russian security forces conducted 8 searches at the houses of Crimean Tatars. New case of enforced disappearance was recorded. Violations of the rights of Crimean political prisoners continue. Two former political prisoners cannot return to Ukraine.

The russia's prosecutor general's office recognized the activities of CrimeaSOS as "undesirable" on the territory of the russian federation and occupied Crimea.

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Liability for discrediting PMC
Wagner and “fakes” about
them

Amendments to the russian legislation were adopted, providing for administrative and criminal liability for discrediting all participants in the war against Ukraine, rather than just the russian army. They also toughened criminal liability for these actions. Similar changes relate to criminal liability for disseminating “fakes”.

Explosions were reported in the south of Crimea, in Saky district, near the military airfield “Belbek”, a military airfield in the village of Hvardiiske (details [here](#) and [here](#)) and in Dzhankoi. Explosion in Dzhankoi destroyed “Caliber” missiles and damaged railway junction.

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The occupiers are preparing
for the entry of the Armed
Forces of Ukraine into Crimea

russia managed to fulfil the plan for the autumn conscription by 78.8%. The occupation authorities are actively recruiting firefighters, rescuers and penitentiary service workers into the army and forcing the civilian population to dig trenches and equip defensive structures in the north of Crimea. The occupiers dug about 200 km of trenches along the Crimean beaches. In Simferopol, the occupation authorities announced the creation of the so-called “voluntary squads”, whose duties include patrolling the city, identifying spotters and saboteurs.

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Anti-war and pro-Ukrainian
activities

“Courts” in Crimea sentenced a resident of the village of Pionerske (name not specified) to 10 years in prison and a fine of RUB 70,000 for allegedly attempting to set fire to a recruitment office and an explosion on a railway, russian contract soldier Denis Narolsky to 9 years in prison for refusing to participate in military actions. A resident of Simferopol, Kseniia Holubenko, was forced to apologize on camera for the tattoo “Crimea is Ukraine”. A protocol was drawn up on her on the alleged discrediting of the russian army. Volodymyr Subotin was arrested for 13 days for the flag of Ukraine in his car.

17 Ukrainian children forcibly transferred by russia to its territory and to occupied Crimea, were returned to the government-controlled area of Ukraine.

In Crimea, control over the distribution and sale of food products and essentials, centralized water supply schedules, curfew and other measures have been introduced. The shortage of medicines is aggravated. Residents of Sevastopol complain about air pollution due to a nearby crematorium which is used to dispose of used consumables, tissue remnants after surgeries, expired vaccines, corpses of laboratory animals.

russia continues looting in the newly occupied territories, exporting grain from Zaporizhzhia region to Crimea by wagons. Occupation authorities confiscate livestock from Crimeans, claiming that it is allegedly infected.

A court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced Ametkhan Abdulvapov to 10.5 years in prison on charges of alleged membership in Hizb ut-Tahrir. A “court” in Crimea sentenced Stanislav Khudolei (Stetsenko) to 12 years in prison on charges of alleged high treason. For allegedly repeatedly discrediting the russian army, Ihor Rylov was sentenced to 14 months of suspended prison term, Andrii Bilozero – to a fine of RUB 100,000.

It became known that Serhii Kotov and Hennadii Lasinskyi who were abducted in the territory of Kherson region are being held in the Simferopol pre-trial detention facility #2 for allegedly opposing the conduct of a “special operation” and on charges of alleged possession of weapons, respectively. Crimean resident Dmytro Papenko is also in the Simferopol pre-trial detention facility #2 on charges of alleged espionage. russian security forces detained a 39-year-old citizen (name not specified) on suspicion of alleged participation in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion, a 23-year-old Crimean (name not specified) on suspicion of alleged extremism in social networks, and Jehovah's Witness Yurii Herashchenko.

russian security forces conducted 8 new searches at the houses of Crimean Tatars, allegedly in connection with the explosion on the railway. Searches were carried out at the houses of Edem Murtazaiev, brother of Asan Abduramanov being delegate of the Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar People, Memet Ashurov, Akhtem Ismailov, Qurultay delegate Lemmar Yunusov, citizen journalist Rolan Osmanov, Qurultay delegate Mustafa Mustafaiev, and his nephew Shevket Erhashev.

On 17 March, unidentified persons in civilian clothes took Tair Seidametov away in an unknown direction. Only on 20 March, it became known that he was in the FSB building. On the same day, the Crimean Tatar was released.

Iryna Danylovych went on a hunger strike until “the start of treatment or biological death” due to the failure to provide her with medical care. She supposes that her symptoms may indicate a microstroke. Political prisoners Server Zekiriaiev, Tymur Yalkabov and Eldar Kantimirov have been kept in punishment cells for at least a month.

Political prisoner Mykola Shyptur was placed in the Temporary Detention Center for Foreign Citizens after serving a 9-year sentence. The former political prisoner Andrii Zakhtei is also kept there. The State Migration Service of Ukraine refused to issue a document that would allow him to return to Ukraine.

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Humanitarian problems

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Property looting

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New politically motivated
sentences

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New detentions

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Searches at the houses of
Crimean Tatars

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Case of enforced
disappearance

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Violations of the rights of
Crimean political prisoners

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Political prisoner was
released from a colony