



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## AUGUST 2023

New strikes on Crimea were recorded. Ukrainian troops landed in Crimea. Preparations for a new wave of mobilization and intensification of the militarization of education are underway. Resistance to the Russian occupiers continues, as well as persecution for allegedly discrediting the Russian army and repressions against the “disloyal”. There were new searches and detentions of Jehovah’s Witnesses and alleged members of Hizb ut-Tahrir, as well as a new massive wave of detentions of Crimean Tatars near the “court”. Transfers of Crimean political prisoners to Russian prisons, cruel and inhuman treatment, violation of cultural rights and looting continue.

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*New strikes and landing in Crimea*

The Ukrainian Defence Forces attacked a [Russian tanker](#), the Chonhar automobile bridge (details [here](#) and [here](#)), a logistics base of Russian troops near Yevpatoria (details [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), the [S-400 anti-aircraft missile system](#) in the west of Crimea, the 126th separate guards coastal defence brigade of the Black Sea fleet (details [here](#) and [here](#)). Ukrainian troops landed on the Crimean coast as part of a special operation (details [here](#) and [here](#)). In addition, there was a new attempt to attack the [Kerch bridge](#). In an effort to protect the bridge, occupiers set up [barges](#) and [flood ferries](#).

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*Preparation for mobilization*

Amendments to the Russian legislation were adopted, which raised the upper limit of the draft age to 30 years starting from January 1, 2024 (details [here](#) and [here](#)). Russia is preparing a [new wave of mobilization](#) in occupied Crimea, during which it plans to mobilize up to 30,000 persons. In addition to issuing summonses to military commissariats to the Crimean Tatars at the [occupation police station](#), the occupiers issue them at the [exits of mosques](#). The occupation administration plans to neutralize [dissatisfaction with the mobilization](#) in Crimea with the help of benefits. “Military commissars” in Crimea [make money on the bodies of the dead participants in the invasion](#).

The course “Basic military training” was launched in Crimean schools (details [here](#) and [here](#)). A Sevastopol university opened [combat drone training courses](#). [Memorial plaques](#) for the participants of the war against Ukraine were installed on the façade of a kindergarten and a school in Dzhankoi.

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*Resistance to occupiers*

Activists of the “Yellow Ribbon” movement hung out Ukrainian flags in different places in Crimea (details [here](#) and [here](#)). Criminal cases on vandalism were initiated against a [15-year-old girl](#) for graffiti in support of Ukraine and against [Oleksandr Tiurenko](#) for urinating on the symbols of the Russian invasion. [Serhii Salosh](#) was detained on charges of extremism due to public calls for the murder of Russian military. Civilians attack military bases in Crimea with [Molotov cocktails](#). The FSB announces the detention of a [Ukrainian saboteur](#) who allegedly “blew up a gas pipeline on the instructions of the Ukrainian special services” in the settlement of Koreiz.

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*Discrediting the Russian army*

During 1.5 years, “courts” in Crimea issued [409 decisions on bringing to administrative liability for allegedly discrediting the Russian army](#). In particular, in August, “courts” fined [three girls](#) who danced to the song of a Ukrainian performer RUB 15,000, a [pensioner](#) – RUB 100,000 for inscriptions on a gate “with an unacceptable meaning”. [Danylo Seriohin](#) was sent to a pre-trial detention centre on charges of allegedly re-discrediting the Russian army and drug possession. It became known that at the end of July [Dmytro Kozlia](#) was also sent to a pre-trial detention centre on charges of allegedly re-discrediting the Russian army.

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*Repressions against the “disloyal”*

Since the beginning of the year, occupiers have detained and are holding [more than 100 Crimeans](#) on suspicion of “disloyalty”. The FSB asks railway employees

to [identify passengers](#) with pro-Ukrainian statements and sentiments. Occupiers forbade the owners and captains of [small boats](#) to go to sea at a distance of more than a kilometre from the port of Feodosia.

Russian security forces conducted [at least 9 searches at the homes of Jehovah’s Witnesses](#) as part of the initiated criminal cases against [Kateryna Melnychuk](#) and [Dmytro Zakharevych](#). It also became known about the search in July at the home of Jehovah’s Witness [Viktor Ursu](#), against whom a criminal case was initiated. Russian security forces conducted 6 searches at the homes of the “Crimean Solidarity” activists and relatives of political prisoners, after which they detained [Ametkhan Umerov](#), [Seidamet Mustafaiev](#), [Ruslan Asanov](#), [Eldar Yakubov](#), [Remzi Nimetulaiev](#) and [Abdulmedzhyt Seitumerov](#) on charges of alleged involvement in Hizb ut-Tahrir. Russian security forces searched the house of the mother of correspondent [Kulamet Ibrahimov](#) who had just served his administrative arrest. Ibrahimov was threatened if he continued his activities. In addition, [Asan Zekeriaiev](#) was taken away in an unknown direction after the search. Later, his wife [Emine](#) was detained. In the evening the spouses were released.

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*New searches and detentions*

Russian security forces detained [23 Crimean Tatars](#) who came to a court session. One of the detainees, [Eldar Aliiev](#), was thrown to the floor and injured. Russian police officers had been drawing up [administrative protocols](#) for 22 detainees [within 12 hours](#). At the same time, the Russian police did not give medicine to 64-year-old [Remzi Zudiiev](#), he became ill in a stuffy room. In addition, a representative of a Russian military commissariat arrived at one of the occupation police stations and began [issuing summonses](#) to all the detainees. A “court” sentenced all the detainees to [administrative arrest from 1 to 7 days](#) on charges of allegedly “organizing a mass simultaneous stay of citizens in public places that violated public order” and/or “disobedience to a lawful order of a police officer”.

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*Mass detentions near the “court”*

[Bilial Adilov](#) was transferred to a prison in Krasnoyarsk Krai. [For more than a month](#), the relatives did not know his whereabouts. [Amet Suleimanov](#) was transferred to a prison in Vladimir, [Iryna Danylovych](#) – to a penal colony in Stavropol Krai.

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*Transfers to Russian prisons*

[Server Zekiriaiev](#) and [Server Mustafaiev](#) were again placed in a punishment cell. Recently arrested [Ametkhan Umerov](#) was forced to shave off his beard in a pre-trial detention centre. A prison officer insulted [Eldar Kantimirov](#) with obscene statements. Public defenders were not allowed to see [Nariman Dzhelial](#), [Asan Akhtemov](#) and [Aziz Akhtemov](#).

Human rights activists compiled the “[List of Hafarov-Shyrinh](#)”, which includes 20 Crimean political prisoners in need of urgent medical care. [Tymur Ibrahimov](#) has been diagnosed with cholelithiasis. All medicines were taken away from [Iryna Danylovych](#) and she is not being provided with the necessary medical assistance. [Amet Suleimanov](#), who has heart problems, was transported in a cramped and stuffy transport. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation refused to initiate a criminal case against the employees of the pre-trial detention centre and the medical unit, because of whom [Dzhemil Hafarov](#) died.

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*Health problems of political prisoners*

The Kherson Art Museum identified 4 more paintings that occupiers took to the Simferopol museum (details [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). The occupation administration forbade [raising the Crimean Tatar flag](#) during school ceremonies.

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*Cultural rights violations*

Occupiers take out [grain looted](#) from the southern regions of Ukraine through the Crimean seaports.