



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023

Ukrainian defence forces attacked the headquarters of the Russian Black Sea fleet and other military objects in Crimea. There are problems with shelters in Sevastopol. The occupants held illegal by-election in Crimea. New detentions, persecutions, threats, politically motivated sentences, transfers to Russian prisons, as well as facts of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, violations of the rights of political prisoners and their health problems were recorded. The occupants threaten the cultural heritage of Crimea and issue land plots to war participants. There are problems with fuel in Crimea. An Iranian plane flew to the peninsula. The renaming of settlements and the new administrative-territorial division came into force.

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Hostilities

Ukraine regained control over gas and oil production platforms (the so-called “Boiko Towers”). The Armed Forces of Ukraine attacked a shipbuilding plant in Sevastopol, as a result of which the Minsk large landing ship and the Rostov-on-Don submarine were damaged (details [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Ukrainian defence forces destroyed the S-400 Triumph air defence complex near Yevpatoria (details [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), damaged [two patrol ships](#) of the Black Sea fleet, attacked the fleet command post near Sevastopol (details [here](#) and [here](#)), [Saky airfield](#) and the headquarters of the Black Sea fleet in Sevastopol (details [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). The occupants [are transferring air defence systems](#) to Crimea. A [military unit](#) was on fire in Simferopol. Elon Musk thwarted a Ukrainian drone attack on the Black Sea fleet in 2022 (details [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Problems with shelters

The occupants have begun [inspecting shelters in Sevastopol](#), but they refuse to improve them. In Sevastopol, [people were not allowed into one of the shelters](#) during an air alert.

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New detentions, threats and persecutions

The Russian Federation held [illegal by-election](#) of the state Duma MP from the so-called “single-mandate constituency #19”, which was won by [Yurii Nesterenko](#).

Russian security forces detained [Emil Nazarbekov](#) and former political prisoner [Arsen Dzhepparov](#). They both were taken to an unknown direction and [released after questioning](#) at the Centre for Combating Extremism. Physical force was used against [Arsen Dzhepparov](#). An unknown person, introducing himself as an FSB officer, threatened [Emine Zekeriaieva](#) on the phone, demanding her to come to the Investigative Committee. It became known that in August, Russian security forces conducted a search in the house of the former chairman of the Muslim community “Alushta” [Ruslan Emirvaliev](#) in connection with the search for “Ukrainian saboteurs”, checking for cooperation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine and anti-Russian propaganda. After a series of attacks on military targets, [arrests are occurring almost daily on suspicion of alleged espionage](#). In particular, the FSB announced the detention of the following persons: a [45-year-old resident of Kerch](#) who allegedly conducted photo and video recording of the movement of Russian military equipment; a [45-year-old resident of Sevastopol](#) who allegedly planned sabotage on the railway; a [man in Sevastopol](#) on suspicion of alleged high treason. Russian security forces broke into the apartment of the Babychenko family, after which they forced [Andrii Babychenko](#) to apologize on camera for pro-Ukrainian posts on social networks. The “court” brought him to administrative liability under articles about allegedly discrediting the Russian army and disobedience to the police (“judges” [Kateryna Danylenko](#) and [Ihor Havryliuk](#)).

The “court” refused to return the materials of the administrative case against human rights activist [Abdureshyt Dzhepparov](#) for further investigation, the

“judge” told the witness how to answer the lawyer’s questions. The “court” confirmed the legality of the [detention of Crimean Tatars](#) on administrative charges.

The “court” in Crimea sentenced the abducted residents of Kherson region [Mykola Petrovskiy](#) and [Serhii Kotov](#) to 16 and 15 years in prison, respectively, for alleged espionage (“judge” [Viktor Skliarov](#)). The military court of appeal upheld the sentence of [Dzhemil Hafarov](#) who died in a [pre-trial detention centre](#), and four other Crimean Tatars (judge [Sergei Vinnik](#)) and artist [Bohdan Ziza](#) (judge [Maksim Panin](#)).

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Politically motivated sentences

[Akim Bekirov](#) was transferred to a prison in Saratov region, [Rustem Seitkhalilov](#) – to a prison in Ulyanovsk region, [Asan Yanikov](#) – to a prison in Vladimir region, [Azamat Eiupov](#) – to a prison in Chelyabinsk region. [Ekrem Krosh](#), [Khalil Mambetov](#), [Refat Seidametov](#), [Aider Asanov](#), [Osman Abdurazakov](#) and [Leman Zekeriaiev](#) were transferred from Crimea to a pre-trial detention centre in Rostov-on-Don to participate in the trial (judge [Viacheslav Korsakov](#)). [Viktor Stashevskiy](#) was refused in transfer to a penal colony in Crimea.

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Transfers of political prisoners

[Pavlo Zaporozhets](#) spoke about [torture](#) and [falsification](#) of his criminal case. The court rejected the request to summon [Mykhailo Chupil](#) and [Yaroslav Zhuk](#) for questioning as witnesses of torture. The FSB officers held [six Crimean Tatars arrested in August](#) with their eyes closed, handcuffed and in a half-bent position for about five hours.

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Torture, cruel and inhuman treatment

Relatives of [Abdulmedzhyt Seitumerov](#), [Ruslan Asanov](#), [Ametkhan Umerov](#), [Eldar Yakubov](#) and [Leniie Umerova](#) were denied a meeting with them. Relatives are also not allowed to call [Leniie Umerova](#) and pass her some things. Letters are not passed to [Kyrylo Barannyk](#). [Seidamet Mustafaiev's](#) beard and head hair were forcibly shaved off in a pre-trial detention centre. [Arsen Abkhairov](#) and [Eskender Abdulhaniiev](#) are refused in transfer from a prison to a strict regime colony.

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Violations of the rights of political prisoners

An ambulance was called for [Osman Seitumerov](#) due to exacerbation of gastritis. [Vladlen Abdulkadyrov's](#) back pain increased. [Vilen Temerianov](#), [Rinat Aliiev](#) and [Viktor Stashevskiy](#) have dental problems. [Arsen Abkhairov](#) complains of dental problems, varicose veins and leg pain. [Ruslan Mesutov](#) also has health problems. [Tymur Yalkabov](#) lost 25 kg.

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Health problems of political prisoners

Every year the occupants conduct [up to 15 illegal archaeological excavations](#) in Crimea. The further fate of these finds is unknown. The occupants are planning [“evacuation of cultural values”](#) from Sevastopol.

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Threats to cultural heritage

The occupants decided to [give free land plots](#) to participants in the war against Ukraine in four districts of Crimea. Some of these lands are unsuitable for life.

There are [problems with fuel](#) in Crimea due to disruptions in logistics with the Russian territory.

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Fuel problems

An [Iranian transport aircraft IL-76TD](#), owned by Pouya Air, took off from the closed Simferopol airport.

[Amendments to the Ukrainian legislation](#) were adopted, which introduced the [renaming of settlements](#) in Crimea as part of decommunization and a [new district division](#).

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Renaming and new district division