



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

Ukrainian defence forces carried out new attacks on military objects in Crimea. Lawyer Oleksii Ladin was subjected to repression. New politically motivated charges, arbitrary searches, violations of the freedom of expression, politically motivated sentences, transfers to Russian prisons and violations of the rights of political prisoners were recorded. The 18th conscription campaign into the occupation army has started in Crimea. The occupants continue carrying out propaganda activities. Anti-Russian sentiments are growing in Crimea and social problems are aggravating.

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Attacks on military objects

Ukrainian troops re-landed on the western coast of Crimea and inflicted significant losses on the occupants (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). Ukrainian defence forces launched missile attacks on a Black Sea fleet weapons depot near Sevastopol (details are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) and S-300 air defense system in the west of Crimea (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). On October 30, ATACMS missiles struck Crimea for the first time.

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Repression against lawyer
Oleksii Ladin

At least 15 cases of pressure on Crimean lawyers have been recorded since 2017. In October, Russian security forces detained lawyer **Oleksii Ladin** on the eve of a trial against his client. Later, employees of the Centre for Combating Extremism conducted a search of his house without court decisions. During the search, materials containing attorney-client privilege were confiscated from **Ladin**. The “court” arrested Ladin for 14 days and fined him RUB 45,000 on charges of allegedly demonstrating prohibited symbols and discrediting the Russian army due to posting Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar symbols and an anti-war post on a social network (“judges” **Kateryna Chumachenko** and **Oleksii Mykytiuk**). The “Supreme Court” of Crimea left Ladin’s arrest unchanged, while “judge” **Volodymyr Ahin** refused to allow him to participate in the trial. In addition, the police made a request to get lawyer **Ladin** stripped of his license.

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Politically motivated charges

The FSB announced the detention of a man who allegedly transferred data to Ukraine about defence fortifications in Crimea. Based on the denunciation of his cellmates, a criminal case was opened against **Oleh Prykhodko** under articles on the rehabilitation of Nazism and the justification of terrorism. A person who tried to find out about the whereabouts of forcibly transferred Ukrainian children in Crimea was detained and tortured.

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3 arbitrary searches

After the search, **Lutfie Veliieva** was taken away for interrogation by the FSB, after which she was released. Two days prior to this, Russian security forces had already conducted an inspection in her house. Russian security forces also searched the houses of **Amet Bairov** and lawyer **Oleksii Ladin** (see above).

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472 court decisions on
discrediting the Russian army

From March 4, 2022 to October 31, 2023, the “courts” in Crimea issued 472 decisions on administrative liability under the article on discrediting the Russian army. 27 of these decisions were issued in October 2023. In particular, the “courts” fined **Lenur Khalilov** and **Dmytro Kamyshantsev** RUB 40,000 for publicly listening to a Ukrainian patriotic song (“judge” **Oleksandr Kuzmin**), lawyer **Oleksii Ladin** – RUB 45,000 for an anti-war post on a social network (see above). The “court” fined **Asida Bodzhek** RUB 100,000 under the article of insulting Russian state symbols (“judge” **Anna Klimova**). In addition, the “court” fined **Vladyslav Kysliakov** a total of RUB 100,000 and arrested him for 10 days under three articles: discrediting the Russian army, insulting Russian state symbols and public display of Nazi symbols (“judge” **Oleksandr Kyselevych**).

The “court” sentenced journalist and volunteer from Kherson region **Serhii Tsyhyra** to 13 years in prison on charges of alleged espionage (“judge” **Viktor Skliarov**). The “court” sentenced **Dmytro Kozlia** to a year in prison on charges of

repeatedly discrediting the Russian army (“judge” **Andrii Dolhopolov**). It became known that in September the “court” sentenced pro-Ukrainian resident **Danylo Seriohin** to 1.5 years in prison on charges of repeatedly discrediting the Russian army and illegal possession of drugs (“judge” **Oleksandr Serdiuk**). The “court” sentenced a 27-year-old Ukrainian citizen (name not disclosed) to 5 years in prison on charges of allegedly participating in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion. The Military Court of Appeal confirmed the 19-year imprisonment of **Ismet Ibrahimov** (judge **Igor Beldzeiko**). The “court” left the sentence of three Jehovah’s Witnesses – **Volodymyr Maladyka**, **Yevhen Zhukov** and **Volodymyr Sakada** (“judge” **Hennadii Nikitin**) unchanged.

Nariman Dzhelial and **Aziz Akhtemov** are expected to be transferred to a prison in Krasnoyarsk Krai, **Asan Akhtemov** and **Appaz Kurtamet** to a prison in Vladimir. **Marlen Mustafaiev** was transferred to a prison in Ulyanovsk region. **Oleksii Kyseliov** was brought to a prison in Vladimir. Employees of the Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) had not informed his relatives about his whereabouts for a long time. The lawyer appealed to the “court” with a demand to declare illegal the refusal of the FSIN to transfer **Marlen Asanov** to a colony closer to home.

Abdulmedzhyt Seitumerov, **Remzi Nimetulaiev**, **Ruslan Asanov**, **Ametkhan Umerova** and **Seidamet Mustafaiev** were unreasonably sent for a psychiatric examination. The prison administration twice denied **Riza Omerov** family visits. The “court” declared illegal the refusal of the FSIN to transfer **Riza Omerov** from a prison to a strict regime colony. The administration of penitentiary institutions tightened the conditions of detention of **Viktor Stashevskiy** and **Bilial Adilov**. Letters are not delivered to **Ametkhan Umerov**.

Tofik Abdulhaziiev suffers from pain in the joints of his hands and legs and has lost 15 kg. **Riza Omerov** needs help of an ophthalmologist. **Vladlen Abdulkadyrov** has severe pain in the lumbar area and his right leg is getting numb. **Remzi Nimetulaiev** has pain in the heart area. The persons involved in the deterioration of **Iryna Danylovych’s** health have been identified.

The 18th conscription campaign into the occupation army has started in Crimea, during which Russia can conscript about 2,500 persons. Russia plans to change the leadership of military registration and enlistment offices on the occupied peninsula due to the failure of the mobilization plan.

The occupants hold propaganda events for children to support the war against Ukraine. The occupants disseminate propaganda materials aimed at shaping public opinion about Russia’s enemies that the Kremlin needs.

Anti-Russian sentiments are sharply growing in Crimea due to the rising prices for medicines, essential products, fuel, as well as labour shortages.

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4 new politically motivated
sentences

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Transfers of political
prisoners

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Conditions of detention

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Health problems of
political prisoners

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18th conscription campaign

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Growth of anti-Russian
sentiments