



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023

Ukrainian defence forces attacked military objects in Crimea. Opposition to mobilization and Ukrainian resistance continue in Crimea. The Muslim community suffered a new wave of repression. Oppression of the freedom of expression continues. New politically motivated criminal cases, enforced disappearances, politically motivated sentences, transfers to Russian prisons, procedural violations in politically motivated cases, health problems of political prisoners, cruel and inhuman treatment in places of detention were recorded. The militarization of children's education continues. A strong storm caused devastating consequences for Crimea. The occupation administration of Yalta had illegal contacts with the local authorities in Istanbul.

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New strikes on Crimea

The Defence Forces of Ukraine struck a [shipbuilding plant in Kerch](#), a [military unit in Dzhankoi](#), the [43rd aviation regiment in Saky](#) and twice attacked military objects in Chornomorske (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

In Sevastopol, a local resident who tried to set fire to the building of the Russian military commissariat was detained. A [colonel of the Russian army](#) died in Simferopol after being beaten by the mobilized soldiers.

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Resistance to the occupants

During one week, [about 50 persons joined](#) the “Yellow Ribbon” activist movement. The resistance movement provided coordinates of the military objects in Dzhankoi, which were [attacked](#) by the Defence Forces of Ukraine, and [penetrated the territory of the military unit of the Black Sea fleet in Feodosia](#). The occupants are forming lists of the “[unreliable](#)”, which include about 7,000 persons.

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New wave of repression against the Muslim community

Russian security forces conducted searches in the houses of four members of the Alushta Muslim religious community (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). After the detention, the “court” arrested [Vilen Useinov](#) and [Zinur Appazov](#) for 10 and 5 days, respectively, for allegedly displaying symbols of a banned organization (“judge” [Denys Kirieiev](#)). Imam [Yusuf Ashyrov](#) was arrested for 2 days for alleged petty hooliganism (“judge” [Denys Kirieiev](#)). An administrative protocol on illegal missionary activity was also drawn up against him. An administrative protocol was drawn up against [Abdula Hafarov](#) for the mass distribution of extremist materials.

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Oppression of the freedom of expression

From March 4, 2022 to November 30, 2023, “courts” in Crimea issued [514 resolutions on administrative liability under the article on discrediting the Russian army](#). 38 of them were issued in November 2023. The “court” sentenced [Liliia Mantserova](#) under two articles of the Russian code of administrative offences (demonstrating Nazi symbols, discrediting the Russian army) for posting video clips of Ukrainian artists on social media (“judges” [Olena Tymokhina](#) and [Anastasiia Shapoval](#)). Russian security forces searched the house of the [Dibrov family](#) due to criticism of the lack of electricity supply and mobilization. The “court” sentenced them under three articles of the Russian code of administrative offences: insulting the Russian state symbols, discrediting the Russian army, and disobeying the lawful order of a police officer (“judge” [Oleksandr Kuzmin](#)). The occupants detained Crimean [Khrystyna Ronzhyna](#) after her post on social media containing congratulations on the Day of Ukrainian Literature and Language.

The FSB announced the [detention](#) of a man in Crimea for “espionage” on the Russian guard. A criminal case was opened against [Emine Zekeriaieva](#) under the article on “failure to report a crime” due to correspondence with a citizen of Ukraine in 2016, who was in Syria.

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Enforced disappearances

FSB officers abducted [Farkhad Soliiev](#) and [Server Aliiev](#) in Sevastopol. Their fate and whereabouts are still unknown (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

“Courts” of Crimea sentenced Crimeans [Oleh Valieiev](#) to one and a half years of imprisonment for allegedly repeatedly discrediting the Russian army (“judge” [Andrii Terentiev](#)) and [Volodymyr Blahov](#) to 2 years in prison for allegedly repeatedly displaying Nazi symbols (“judge” [Heorhii Tsertsvadze](#)). A Russian court sentenced [Pavlo Zaporozhets](#) and [Dmytro Holubiev](#) who were abducted by the occupants in southern Ukraine and held in Crimea, to 12 and 18 years in prison, respectively (judge [Maksym Nikitin](#), details are [here](#) and [here](#)). A Russian court added 4.5 years to the prison sentence of political prisoner [Oleh Pryhodko](#) for allegedly justifying terrorism and rehabilitating Nazism (judge [Yevgeny Zubov](#)). The military court of appeal reduced [Ernes Seitosmanov's](#) prison term to 17 years and 6 months (judge [Vladimir Serebriansky](#)). The military court of appeal upheld the sentence of 6 Crimean Tatars (details [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#); judges [Igor Beldzeiko](#), [Anatolii Solin](#), [Dmitry Tepliuik](#)). The supreme court of the Russian Federation upheld the sentence of [Aider Dzhapparov](#), [Enver Omerov](#) and [Riza Omerov](#) (judge [Oleg Derbilov](#)).

[Vadym Bektemirov](#) was transferred from a prison in Lipetsk region to a penal colony in St. Petersburg. His family [had not known his whereabouts](#) for two months. Jehovah's Witnesses [Volodymyr Sakada](#), [Volodymyr Maladyka](#) and [Yevhen Zhukov](#) were taken to places of punishment. Activist [Nariman Dzhelial](#) was taken to a prison in Krasnoyarsk Krai. His family [had not known his whereabouts](#) for a long time. [Aziz Akhtemov](#) was transferred to another prison in Krasnoyarsk Krai.

The secret witness could not answer the questions of the lawyers during the interrogation in the case of “[the first Dzhankoi group of Hizb ut-Tahrir](#)”. The witness in the criminal case against [Yaroslav Zhuk](#) could not recall important circumstances. A “court” refused technical and linguistic examinations in the administrative proceeding against the human rights defender [Abdureshyt Dzhapparov](#).

[Lenur Seidametov](#) had a surgery in the prison hospital. [Remzi Memetov](#) needs a neurologist's consultation. [Tymur Ibrahimov](#) needs an artificial eye replacement. [Oleh Fedorov's](#) eyesight deteriorated due to poor lighting in the prison cell. [Ruslan Suleimanov](#) complained about the inaction of doctors and the conditions of detention in the pre-trial detention facility in Rostov region.

[Abdulmedzhyt Seitumerov](#) is not allowed to keep the Quran in his cell. [Oleksii Kyseliov](#) is allowed only one parcel and one package during a year. Prison staff forced [Tymur Yalkabov](#) to shave his head; personal hygiene objects are taken away from him. Political prisoner [Ivan Yatskin](#) is restricted in communicating with his relatives and receiving medication. [Oleh Prykhodko](#) is not provided with medical assistance, is not given medicine, and is intimidated. A “court” in Crimea refused to transfer [Eskender Abdulhaniiev](#) and [Arsen Abhairov](#) from prisons to a colony (“judge” [Khrystyna Pikula](#), details are [here](#) and [here](#)). The occupants opened the third [pre-trial detention facility in Simferopol](#).

In Crimea, Ukrainian children are taught to throw grenades, remove tripwire mines and other military tasks (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). Two more Ukrainian children [were taken](#) out of occupied Crimea.

The [storm](#) in the Black Sea left about [half a million people without electricity](#), destroyed protective structures near the [Kerch Bridge](#) and the [Sevastopol Bay](#), and also [damaged the basilica on the territory of the Tauric Chersonese](#), built approximately in the 6th century.

Representatives of the occupation administration of Yalta, contrary to the policy of non-recognition of the annexation of Crimea, [had contact with the Beylikdüzü municipal district of Istanbul](#).

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Politically motivated sentences

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Transfers of political prisoners

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Procedural violations

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Conditions of detention of political prisoners

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Consequences of the storm

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Illegal contacts of the occupants with Türkiye