



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## DECEMBER 2023

During December, the Defence Forces of Ukraine hit 8 military objects, including the large landing ship Novocherkassk. The occupants began launching shahed drones from Balaklava, recruiting people for FPV drone operator courses and building a new hospital in Crimea. At least 542 killed Russian soldiers from occupied Crimea have been identified. Two arbitrary searches, new facts of violation of the freedom of expression and the freedom of religion, politically motivated criminal charges and sentences, and violations of the right to a fair trial were recorded. 8 political prisoners were transferred to penitentiary facilities in Russia. Crimean political prisoners continue complaining about the conditions of detention and health problems. New details of the displacement of the civilian population and looting have been identified. In Crimea, there is a shortage of occupation police officers and fuel.

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8 military objects were hit

During December, the Defence Forces of Ukraine hit 8 military objects in Feodosia, Kerch districts, Dzhankoi, near Alushta, near Yevpatoria, in Armiansk and Krasnoperekopsk (details are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). In particular, the Air Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine destroyed the large landing ship Novocherkassk in the port of Feodosia, on which 74 sailors were killed and 27 were injured (details are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). A radar system near Kerch (details are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), oil depot in Feodosia (details are [here](#) and [here](#)), objects of the aerospace forces in Alushta and near Yevpatoria (details are [here](#)) were also attacked. In December, ATESH partisans penetrated the territory of at least two military objects in Crimea (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Militarization of Crimea

In addition to Cape Chauda, the occupants began [launching shahed drones from the Balaklava area](#). The occupants are [recruiting for FPV drone operator courses](#) with the obligation of further participation in hostilities. [At least 542 killed Russian servicemen from occupied Crimea](#) have been identified, including at least 6 former Ukrainian servicemen. Due to heavy losses, the occupants are building a [new hospital](#) in Sevastopol, which is designed for 150 persons. The occupants plan building the [“special military operation museum”](#) in Crimea.

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At least 2 arbitrary searches

Russian policemen searched the house of activist [Rustem Mustafaiev](#), looking for the prohibited literature, weapons and explosives. The house of Imam [Ismail Yurdamov](#) was also searched, after which an [administrative protocol](#) was drawn up against him under the article on illegal missionary activity.

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Violation of the freedom of expression and the freedom of religion

From March 4, 2022 to December 31, 2023, “courts” in Crimea issued [560 resolutions on administrative liability under the article on discrediting the Russian army](#). 54 of them were issued in December 2023. The “courts” in Crimea fined human rights defender [Abdureshyt Dzhapparov](#) RUB 40,000 under the article of the Russian code of administrative offences on abuse of the freedom of mass information (“judge” [Halyna Shuvalova](#)), resident of Yalta [Svitlana Veretennikova](#) for social media posts that, according to her, could offend the Russian president (the amount of the fine is unknown, “judge” [Oleksandr Altunin](#)), and the [Alushta Muslim religious community](#) RUB 100,000 for allegedly distributing extremist materials (“judge” [Tetiana Zakharova](#)). The “Supreme Court” in Crimea upheld the administrative arrest of three members of the Alushta Muslim religious community (“judges” [Nataliia Kucherenko](#) (details are [here](#) and [here](#)), [Maryna Kolotsei](#)).

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Politically motivated criminal charges

[Dliaver Salimov](#) was taken into custody after repeatedly refusing to apologize to propaganda Telegram channels. The charges against him were also toughened. Salimov verbally threatened an interlocutor, demanding him to remove his cap with rashist symbols. A new criminal case under the article on high treason was opened against Russian army contractor [Denys Narolskyi](#), convicted for refusal

to fight. After the destruction of the Novocherkassk large landing ship, the occupants reinforced [checks of residents of Feodosia](#).

The Russian court sentenced Crimean [Dmytro Fomin](#) to a year of compulsory labour and a fine of RUB 350,000 due to publications on the social network directed against a certain nationality and in support of the Freedom of Russia Legion (judge [Pavel Gubarev](#)). The military court of appeal left [Yashar Shykhmetov's](#) sentence unchanged (judge [Maksim Panin](#)). The “Supreme Court” in Crimea upheld the sentence of [Dmytro Kozlia](#) (“judge” [Halyna Redko](#)).

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Politically motivated sentences

The audio recording of conversations about prayer became proof of the “guilt” of the defendants of the [“first Dzhankoi Hizb ut-Tahrir group”](#). Numerous violations of the right to a fair trial are recorded in the cases of the [“second Simferopol Hizb ut-Tahrir group”](#) and [Yaroslav Zhuk](#). The defense party claims a biased and unprofessional examination in the case of Jehovah's Witnesses [Serhii Parfenovych](#) and [Yurii Herashchenko](#).

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Violations of the right to a fair trial

In order to serve the illegal sentence, [Eskender Suleimanov](#) and [Erfan Osmanov](#) were transferred to a prison in Chelyabinsk region, [Alim Karimov](#) and [Seiran Murtaza](#) - to prisons in Krasnoyarsk Krai, [Seitveli Seitabdiiev](#) - to a prison in Lipetsk region, [Servet Haziiev](#) - to a prison in Vladimir, [Volodymyr Maladyka](#) - to a penal colony in Tambov region, [Yevhen Zhukov](#) - to a penal colony in Yaroslavl.

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8 political prisoners were transferred to penitentiary facilities in Russia

Penal colony staff beat [Vadym Bektemirov](#), and took away Quran and medicines from him. [Ruslan Nahaiev](#) and [Shaban Umerov](#) are given food with pork. [Ruslan Suleimanov](#) and [Osman Arifmetov](#) do not receive purchases made by their relatives from the prison store.

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Conditions of detention of political prisoners

[Vilen Temerianov's](#) eyesight has sharply deteriorated, he is also troubled by periodic stomachaches and teeth. [Rustem Seitmetov](#) has cataracts in both eyes, he also suffers from hypertension. [Yashar Shykhmetov](#) was carried out of the courtroom on a stretcher, he is suffering from problems with his back, heart and kidneys. [Amet Suleimanov](#) is not given a parcel with the necessary medicines. [Shaban Umerov](#) has high blood pressure. [Ruslan Nahaiev](#) also has health problems.

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Health problems of political prisoners

According to various estimates, up to [800,000 Russian citizens](#) have illegally arrived in Crimea since 2014 while about 100,000 Ukrainian citizens have left the peninsula. After the attack on the port of Feodosia, [grain trucks](#) carrying looted Ukrainian grain are diverted to Kerch.

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Other war crimes

In Crimea, there is a [shortage of occupation police officers](#) due to their business trips to Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. In Crimea, there is also a [shortage of fuel](#) due to logistical problems and priority in meeting the needs of the occupying army.

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Shortage of occupation policemen and fuel