



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

MARCH 2024

In March, Ukrainian forces hit at least 4 military objects in Crimea and 5 warships. The occupants continue the illegal conscription of Crimean residents. Russia conducted sham presidential election in occupied Crimea. A new case of enforced disappearance and administrative fines for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian views, human rights activities and freedom of religion were recorded. A new wave of searches and detentions of Crimean Tatars took place. Violations of the right to a fair trial, politically motivated sentences and transfers of political prisoners to penitentiary institutions on the Russian territory were recorded. Political prisoners continue complaining about the conditions of detention and health problems. In Sevastopol, military personnel are treated in the same wards with civilians.

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At least 4 military objects and 5 warships were hit

In March, Ukrainian troops hit at least 4 military objects in Crimea (details are [here](#) and [here](#)), in particular, the Hvardiiske airbase (details are [here](#) and [here](#)), oil depots in Feodosia (details are [here](#) and [here](#)) and Hvardiiske (details are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), a communications centre and other objects of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol (details are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Ukrainian troops also sank the patrol ship Sergey Kotov (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). The reconnaissance ship Ivan Khurs (details are [here](#) and [here](#)), as well as the large landing ships Yamal (details are [here](#) and [here](#)), Azov and Konstantin Olshansky (details are [here](#) and [here](#)) were damaged. In addition, Russian air defence shot down its own SU-27 fighter jet near Sevastopol (details are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Conscription and death of Crimean residents in the war

From 2015 to 2023, the occupants conscripted about 44,500 residents of Crimea into the Russian army. During the occupation of Crimea, the occupants instituted 520 criminal cases over draft evasion. At least 30 residents of Crimea were killed on the frontline in March 2024. The occupants are campaigning for students to join the ranks of the Russian army as volunteers, and students of schools and technical colleges to join the Yunarmiya (Young Army Movement) and other militaristic clubs. The occupation administration plans to create a new military-patriotic youth education centre “Avangard” (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Russian presidential election

For conducting illegal Russian presidential election in the occupied territories, 28 “territorial election commissions” and 1,130 “precinct election commissions” were created in the AR of Crimea, 4 “territorial election commissions” and 186 “precinct election commissions” were created in the city of Sevastopol. The occupants forced public sector employees to vote in the Russian presidential election, take photos of completed ballots and post them on social networks (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Enforced disappearance

At least 61 persons have become victims of enforced disappearances in Crimea since 2014, the fate and whereabouts of 18 of them are still unknown. It became known that at the end of January 2024, FSB officers detained **Ismail Shemshedinov** after a search of his parents’ house. His whereabouts are still unknown.

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Persecution for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian views

The “court” in Simferopol fined **Refat Abliamitov** RUB 2,000 for the image of a trident with the inscription “Glory to the Nation” (“judge” **Denys Didenko**), **Rehina Halahan**, **Nataliia Prokhorova** and **Oleh Buzlanov** - the same amount for posting the song “Chervona Kalyna” in the social network (“judge” **Denys Didenko**). **Oleh Lukashevych** was fined RUB 40,000 for pro-Ukrainian expressions and arrested for 14 days for the slogan “Glory to the Nation” (“judge” **Yevhen Pronin**). The “court” in Armiansk fined **Ivan Sanin** RUB 30,000 for the image of a tram with the inscription “Russians go ...” (“judge” **Venera Isroilova**).

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Persecution of human rights defenders and lawyers

The “court” in Crimea fined the human rights defender and journalist **Lutfiye Zudiieva** RUB 2,500 under the article about the abuse of freedom of mass information (“judge” **Kateryna Chumachenko**). The “Supreme Court” of Crimea again

rejected the appeal against the administrative arrest of the lawyer **Oleksii Ladin** (“judge” **Nataliia Kucherenko**).

The Centre for Combating Extremism drew up an [administrative protocol](#) against the independent Muslim community Eski Qırım under the article on the mass distribution of extremist materials, after which the “court” in Crimea [fined](#) it RUB 100,000 (“judge” **Georgii Tsertsvadze**).

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Persecution of a Muslim community

Russian security forces conducted another wave of searches in the houses of Crimean Tatars, after which **Rustem Osmanov**, **Aziz Azizov**, **Memet Liumanov**, **Mustafa Abduramanov**, **Remzi Kurtnezirov**, **Vakhid Mustafaiev**, **Ali Mamutov**, **Arsen Kashka**, **Enver Khalilaiev** and **Nariman Ametov** were detained on charges of alleged involvement in Hizb ut-Tahrir. Criminal cases were initiated against a resident of Crimea and a resident of Sudak on charges of public calls for extremist activities. Russian security forces searched the house of the delegate of the Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar People, **Edem Dudakov**, after which he was taken to the FSB office and [released](#).

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11 searches and criminal cases against at least 12 persons

The court did not provide the defendants of the “2nd Dzhanqoi Hizb ut-Tahrir group” with copies of the appellate complaint. The court declares that it cannot find a witness in the case of **Yaroslav Zhuk**. The “court” in Crimea rejected the request to summon **Eldar Yakubov** as a witness in the administrative proceedings against his wife. The court hearing in the administrative proceedings against **Lutfiye Zudiieva** took place without her participation.

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Violations of the right to a fair trial

The Court of Cassation left unchanged the verdict to an Alushta resident **Oleksandr Tarapon** (judge **Natalia Polozova**). The “Supreme Court” of Crimea revoked the sentence of 4 Jehovah’s Witnesses (**Taras Kuzio**, **Petro Zhylytsov**, **Serhii Liulin** and **Daria Kuzio**) and sent the case for retrial (“judge” **Natalia Grebennikova**). In addition, it became known that in January 2024, the Military Court of Appeal reduced the prison term of pro-Ukrainian activist **Oleh Prykhodko** by one month (judge **Aleksandr Peresada**).

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Politically motivated sentences

Rustem Murasov was transferred to Vladimir to serve an illegal sentence. **Eskender Abdulhaniiev** was transferred from a prison in Vladimir to a penal colony in Kemerovo region.

Eskender Abdulhaniiev was placed in a punishment cell on the very first day upon his arrival at the penal colony. For the second time in a year, **Teimur Abdullaiev** was placed in a punishment cell. **Server Zekiriaiev** has many complaints about the detention conditions. The court refused to release **Amet Suleimanov**, despite the presence of diseases that do not allow for detention. The “court” in Crimea refused to include **Eldar Kantymyrov**’s stay in a pre-trial detention facility as part of his prison sentence (“judge” **Andrii Kulishov**).

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Conditions of detention of political prisoners

Tofik Abdulhaziiev was brought to intensive care in critical condition. **Server Zekiriaiev**’s health deteriorated due to improper detention conditions. **Vladlen Abdulkadyrov** has problems with his back, gastrointestinal tract and other health problems. **Arsen Abkhairov** is not provided with qualified dental care; he also has an exacerbation of varicose veins.

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Health problems of political prisoners

In the hospital of Sevastopol, both military and civilians are treated in joint wards. The number of planned surgeries for civilians has been reduced by more than twice; and the military force civilians to bring alcohol to the hospital.