



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

APRIL 2024

In April, Ukrainian forces attacked a military airfield and air defence units in Crimea. The occupants plan to conscript about 3,000 residents of Crimea into the Russian army. The occupants continue persecuting the freedom of expression and oppressing human rights defenders and Muslim communities. New politically motivated criminal cases and verdicts, violations of the right to a fair trial and transfers of political prisoners to penitentiary institutions on the Russian territory were recorded. One political prisoner was released. Political prisoners continue complaining about the conditions of detention and health problems. Violations of economic, social and cultural rights were recorded in Crimea.

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Strikes on military objects in Crimea

On April 17, Ukrainian troops launched an effective missile attack on the military airfield in Dzhankoi (details are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). On April 30, Ukrainian forces attacked air defence units in Simferopol, Saky and Chornomorske districts and again the military airfield in Dzhankoi (details are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Ukrainian troops also attacked the Kommuna rescue ship in the Sevastopol bay (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). Ukrainian military intelligence disabled an electrical substation in Sevastopol (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). In addition, a Ka-27 helicopter was destroyed in Crimea (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Conscription and death of Crimean residents in the war

On April 1, the 19th conscription campaign began in Crimea, during which the occupants plan to illegally conscript 2,500 people in the [Autonomous Republic of Crimea](#) and about 500 people in the [city of Sevastopol](#) into the Russian army. “Draft commissions” were created to commit this [war crime](#) (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). At least 15 residents of [Crimea](#) were killed on the frontline in April 2024.

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Persecution of the freedom of expression

“Courts” in Crimea issued at least 630 resolutions on bringing to administrative responsibility under the article on discrediting the Russian army. A “court” fined [Ihor Brahuta](#) RUB 1,000 for a video file depicting the symbols of the Azov Battalion. He was also fined RUB 30,000 under the article on discrediting the Russian army and arrested for 3 days under the article on insulting the Russian state symbols (“judge” [Ihor Sokolovskiy](#)). A “court” fined [Valerii Filipov](#) RUB 100,000 under the article on insulting the Russian state symbols for memes about Vladimir Putin (“judge” [Nataliia Holubieva](#)). He was also arrested for 10 days. A [resident of Kerch](#) and a [pensioner from Feodosia](#) are prosecuted under three articles of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses for publications on social networks that insult the Russian president (names of “judges” are [here](#) and [here](#)). Russian security forces allegedly found cartridges in possession of a [resident of Simferopol](#) who was fined RUB 40,000 by a “court” under the article on discrediting the Russian army for anti-war expressions (“judge” [Oksana Karchevska](#)). Journalist from Sevastopol [Anastasiia Zhvik](#) is prosecuted under the article on participation in activities of an “undesirable” organization for publications in the online media Meduza.

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Persecution of human rights defenders and Muslim communities

“Courts” in Crimea left unchanged the fines imposed on human rights defenders [Lutfie Zudiieva](#) and [Abdureshyt Dzepparov](#) under the article on the abuse of freedom of mass information (“judges” [Kateryna Tymoshenko](#), [Nataliia Zinchenko](#)). Another “court” in Crimea fined [Zudiieva](#) RUB 2,000 based on another administrative protocol drawn up under the same article (“judge” [Serhii Moskalenko](#)). A “court” in Crimea returned a protocol on administrative offense against the imam of the independent Muslim community Eski Qırım [Izet Saifulin](#) to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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Politically motivated criminal cases

The FSB opened a criminal case against a resident of Feodosia, [Ruslan Rybalko](#), under the article on public calls for extremist activities for anti-Russian and anti-

government statements. A criminal case was opened against an activist [Iryna Horobtsova](#) who was abducted by Russian troops in May 2022 in Kherson under the article on espionage. A resident of Simferopol, [Serhii Yeremenko](#), faces a prison term due to the ammunition that employees of the Centre for Combating Extremism allegedly found in his possession during the search.

A “court” in Crimea sentenced [Dliaver Salimov](#) who threatened a person wearing a cap with the “Z” symbol to 1 year of imprisonment (“judge” [Heorhii Tsertsvadze](#)). A “court” in Sevastopol sentenced Jehovah’s Witness [Maksym Zinchenko](#) to 2 years of forced labour (“judge” [Valerii Kuznietsov](#)). A court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced [Vitalii Rastorhuiev](#) and [Volodymyr Kryvtsun](#) to 12 and 11 years of imprisonment, respectively, for allegedly intending to blow up a car of the head of the occupation administration of Berdiansk (judge [Aleksei Magomadov](#)). A court of appeal replaced [Oleksandr Tiurenko’s](#) suspended two-year term of imprisonment with a real one (judge [Evgenii Saltykov](#)).

The announcement of the sentence to [Dliaver Salimov](#) took place behind closed doors. The parties’ debates, the defendant’s last plea and the verdict in the case of [Maksym Zinchenko](#) took place on the same day. A “court” did not allow the relatives of political prisoners to attend a court session in respect of the “3rd Dzhankoi Hizb ut-Tahrir group”.

Citizen journalists [Osman Arifmemetov](#) and [Rustem Sheikhaliiev](#) were transferred to prisons in Krasnoyarsk Krai to serve illegal punishment, [Ruslan Suleimanov](#) – to a prison in Chelyabinsk region. [Serhii Tsyhipa](#), abducted in Kherson region, was transferred from the Simferopol pre-trial detention facility to Russia. [Zekiria Muratov](#) was transferred from a prison in Saratov region to a penal colony in Nizhny Novgorod.

[Refat Alimov](#) was released after serving an illegal imprisonment.

The jailers beat [Asan Yanikov](#), after which he has got a headache. It became known that [Refat Alimov](#), [Ruslan Zeitullaiev](#), [Ernes Seitosmanov](#) and [Oleh Prykhodko](#) were in punishment cells this year. [Server Mustafaiev](#) and [Viktor Stashevskiy](#) are still in the strict conditions of detention. [Ernes Seitosmanov](#) and [Server Mustafaiev](#) also stated that the conditions of detention in the cells were improper.

[Tofik Abdulhaziiev](#) was diagnosed with 8 different diseases, including tuberculosis. [Server Mustafaiev](#) was scheduled a medical examination following a complaint by Front Line Defenders to the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation. [Amet Suleimanov’s](#) health is rapidly deteriorating. [Iryna Danylovych](#) refused to participate in the trial due to her health. [Arsen Kashka](#) fainted twice in the pre-trial detention facility.

The occupation authorities allocated another 50 land plots in Saky district to participants in the war against Ukraine. The occupation authorities banned foreign citizens from working in 35 fields, including crop production, livestock, wholesale and retail trade (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). A shortage of medical personnel is observed in Crimea (details are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). The occupants dismantled the dome of the [Cathedral of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine](#) in Simferopol, destroyed a [unique Ukrainian mosaic](#) in Yevpatoria, and ordered books that mention the history of Ukraine to be removed from libraries. The occupation authorities put a [historic building](#) in Sevastopol up for auction.

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Politically motivated sentences

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Transfers to penitentiary institutions on the Russian territory

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Conditions of detention of political prisoners

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Health problems of political prisoners

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Violations of economic, social and cultural rights