



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

MAY 2024

Ukrainian troops hit a record number of military objects in Crimea. Residents of Crimea continue being called up for military service, killed in the war and persecuted for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian expressions. There was a new wave of persecution of journalists and human rights defenders. New criminal cases, politically motivated sentences and facts of unlawful transfers and deportation were recorded. Political prisoners continue complaining about the conditions of detention and health problems. New violations of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights were recorded in Crimea.

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Strikes on military objects

Ukrainian troops hit an Iskander operational-tactical missile system and ammunition in the north of Crimea, an air defence base on Mount Ai-Petri, a communications centre of the Russian army near Alushta, a radar near Armiansk, military objects in Simferopol district and near Yevpatoria, 2 ferries in Kerch (details are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), the missile ship Tsiklon, 5 speedboats (details are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) and hit the military airfield in Belbek twice (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Conscription and death of Crimean residents in the war

The occupants have so far fulfilled their spring conscription plan by 34% and are conducting propaganda activities to recruit at least 2,700 people to contracted military service in the Russian army. Mobilization exacerbated the shortage of taxi drivers in Crimea. At least 33 residents of Crimea were killed in hostilities on the Russian side in May 2024. At least 819 Russian servicemen were buried in Crimea, 628 of them were likely the citizens of Ukraine.

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Persecution for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian expressions

“Courts” in Crimea issued at least 706 resolutions on administrative liability under the article on discrediting the Russian army. In particular, the “courts” fined a resident of Kerch and a nurse due to their expressions on social networks (“judges” Olena Bohdanovych, Ivan Udut). The “court” arrested pensioner Mariia Zamyrailo for 5 days and fined her RUB 35,000 due to pro-Ukrainian images on social media (“judge” Heorhii Tsertsivadze). Russian security forces broke through a window into the home of the Avdieiev family who were listening to Ukrainian songs and shouting Ukrainian slogans, and kicked them. The “court” fined a resident of Kherson region, Viktoriiia Bakalets, RUB 40,000 for calling not to go to the “referendum” and accusing Russia of war crimes. The “court” arrested two residents of Simferopol for 8 and 11 days for posting the “Chervona Kalyna” song on social network, and fined another resident RUB 1,000 (“judges” Halyna Khulapova, Anton Tsykurenko – [here](#) and [here](#)).

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Persecution of journalists

Russian security forces searched the houses of Qırım newspaper editor-in-chief Bekir Mamutov, its founder Seiran Ibrahimov, and the newspaper’s editorial office. Subsequently, two administrative protocols were drawn up against both Mamutov and the Qırım newspaper under the articles on discrediting the Russian army and spreading false information. The “court” fined Sevastopol journalist Anastasiia Zhvik RUB 10,000 under the article about participation in activities of an “undesirable” organization (“judge” Yuliia Stepanova).

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Intimidation of human rights defenders

The occupation police handed a “warning” about the inadmissibility of violating the law to human rights defenders Lutfie Zudiieva and Seit-Osman Karaliiev, lawyers Lilia Hemedzhi, Rustem Kiamiliev and Nazim Sheikhmambetov. On the eve of the “warning” being handed to her, an employee of the occupation criminal investigation tried to interview Zudiieva. The “court” fined lawyer Emil Kurbedinov for post on the Telegram channel about the illegal draft of students who have a deferment (“judge” Serhii Moskalenko).

A criminal case was initiated against a resident of Alushta, Denys Yezhov, under the article on repeatedly discrediting the Russian army. A man and a woman were detained in Crimea, who were allegedly planning to blow up a railway line.

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New criminal cases

The “court” in Crimea sentenced a local resident Mykola Onuk to 5 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 50,000 under three articles (“judge” Yevheniia Romanenkova). The Russian court sentenced a resident of Kerch, Andrii Borzenkov, to a fine of RUB 40,000 under the articles on public calls for terrorist activities and activities against state security due to anti-mobilization posts in Telegram (judge Oleg Terentiev). The court of cassation left the sentences of Iryna Danylovych and Appaz Kurtamet unchanged (judges Ivan Gromov, Rustem Asanov).

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Politically motivated sentences

About 50,000 Crimean Tatars left Crimea after 2014, including 6,000-8,000 who left to avoid mobilization into the Russian army. Russian border guards indefinitely banned Crimean scientist Hurii Korniliev from entering Crimea. Ernes Ametov was transferred to a penal colony in Vologda region to serve an illegal sentence. It became known that Osman Arifmemetov and Serhii Tsyhipa arrived at the places of punishment. In turn, the occupants are transferring Jehovah’s Witness Dmytro Barmakin from the Far East to Crimea.

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Unlawful transfers and deportation

Rustem Osmanov has been beaten, threatened with murder and kept in a punishment cell for at least three weeks (head of the penal colony Ivan Davydenko). Yashar Muiedinov stated about the use of physical force, psychological pressure and dampness in his cell (head of the prison Aleksandr Loginov). The Russian court ruled to transfer Viktor Stashevskiy from the penal colony to the prison. The Federal Penitentiary Service refused to transfer Server Zekiriaiev to a colony closer to Crimea. Aziz Azizov, Enver Khalilaiev, Arsen Kashka and Vakhid Mustafaiev were sent for compulsory psychiatric examination. Server Zekiriaiev’s family is constantly refused to see him. Eldar Yakubov’s wife received a permission to see her husband for the first time in 8 months. Ruslan Suleimanov was put on preventive registration.

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Detention conditions of political prisoners

Rustem Seitmemetov had a surgery after a myocardial infarction. Eldar Yakubov suffers from headaches and noise in his head, Yashar Muiedinov – pain in his hand and teeth, Emil Ziiadinov – headaches and teeth, Ismet Ibrahimov – stomach pain and teeth.

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Health problems of political prisoners

1,500 land plots in the west of Crimea were given to the participants in the war against Ukraine. Russia’s Ministry of Defence plans to seize more than 950 land plots in Crimea for the needs of the Russian army. The “court” in Sevastopol seized a land plot from a South African citizen. It became known about the export of 27,000 tons of Ukrainian wheat by the Enisey vessel from Sevastopol to Venezuela.

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Violations of property rights

In Crimea, 13% of medicines for beneficiaries are missing. There had been no water supply in Yevpatoria for at least 6 days (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). In schools, grades are lowered for students who did not write letters to the participants in the war. The occupants built fortifications and placed military equipment in the Tarkhankut Nature Park. The St. Petersburg Hermitage Museum plans to carry out illegal excavations on the territory of the Tauric Chersonese Museum-Reserve, the Akra ancient city, in Kerch, Feodosia, Sudak and Staryi Krym. Since the beginning of 2024, at least 226 dolphins have washed up on the Crimean coast.

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Violations of social, cultural and environmental rights