



# CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Illegal elections of members of the occupation administration took place. The occupants continue recruiting Crimean residents for the war and persecuting them for pro-Ukrainian and anti-war expressions. The third case has been opened in six months in respect of a Crimean Tatar newspaper. New criminal cases and sentences were recorded. Crimean political prisoners continue being transferred to penitentiary institutions on the Russian territory and subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment. Political prisoners continue complaining about health problems. A well-known Kremlin prisoner was released. A rashist blogger called for strikes on foreign leaders and civilian vessels.

“  
The so-called “local elections”

In order to hold illegal local elections on September 6-8, 28 “territorial election commissions” and 1,129 “precinct election commissions” were created in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea; 4 “territorial election commissions” and 187 “precinct election commissions” in the city of Sevastopol. Prisoners in the Simferopol pre-trial detention facility were forcibly taken out to vote, without asking their consent and threatening punishment for spoiling the ballot. Residents of Crimea threw away and burned campaign materials and spoiled ballots.

“  
Recruitment for the war

Russian security forces are looking for men of conscription age and have set a quota for recruitment under contract among detainees. According to the Atesh partisan movement, Russian troops are using civilians to build fortifications in Sevastopol. As of the end of September 2024, at least 1,231 Russian servicemen were buried in Crimea, including 776 probable citizens of Ukraine.

“  
Pro-Ukrainian and anti-war expressions

At least 979 cases under the article on discrediting the Russian army have been submitted to the “courts” in Crimea. In particular, the “court” fined Yehor Sirin RUB 30,000 for shouting insults about Vladimir Putin, Andrii Luhovyi – the same amount for his negative attitude towards the war and shouting “Glory to Ukraine!” (“judge” Oleksii Nanarov, details are here and here). The “court” arrested Suleiman Yusupov for 10 days under the article on petty hooliganism due to a protest against the blocking of YouTube with criticism of Putin (“judge” Serhii Proskurnia). The “court” fined Natalia Beltiukova under two articles due to online publications with the slogan “Glory to Ukraine!” and in support of the “blockade” of Crimea (“judge” Venera Isroilova). Employees of the Centre for Combating Extremism detained Svitlana Zybnytska for anti-war comments in Telegram, Petro Skrypnyk who spat in a box for collecting aid for participants in the war against Ukraine, Yevhen Tkachov, Nazim Muzhdabaiev and Vladyslav Boltak for pro-Ukrainian images on social networks, as well as a resident of Sevastopol for photos of anti-Russian slogans.

The third case on an administrative offence has been opened in six months in respect of the Qırım newspaper.

“  
Criminal cases

FSB officers detained a resident of Kerch for allegedly transferring data on air defence in Crimea to Ukrainian special services; two more people for allegedly transferring data about military objects; and a resident of Sevastopol for allegedly preparing to blow up a railway bridge.

“  
Verdicts of “courts” in Crimea

The “courts” in Sevastopol sentenced Kseniia Svitlyshyna to 5 years and 3 months in prison for allegedly collecting data on Russian military units and anti-Russian signs on benches (“judge” Ihor Kozhevnikov); another resident – to 16 years in prison and a fine of RUB 450,000 for allegedly transferring data on fortifications to the Security Service of Ukraine; another resident of Sevastopol – to a year and a month in prison for allegedly calling for violence against a certain national group on a social network (“judge” Valerii Kuznetsov).

The “courts” in Crimea sentenced Denys Yezhov to a fine of RUB 100,000 under the article on repeatedly discrediting the Russian army due to pro-Ukrainian shouts in a public place (“judge” Svitlana Vashchenko); M.Sukhachov – to 14 years in prison for allegedly transferring data on Russian troops in Zaporizhzhia region; Mamut Belialov – to 12 years in prison for an alleged attempt on the former occupation minister of tourism (“judge” Mykhailo Bielousov).

The Rostov court sentenced Oleksandr Liubas, a serviceman of the Ukrainian military intelligence, to 20 years in prison under 5 articles for attempting to land in Crimea last year (judge Sergei Obraztsov) and Volodymyr Pazin – to 16 years in prison and a fine of RUB 300,000 for allegedly preparing a terrorist attack against a Russian military (judge Igor Kostin). The same court sentenced Artur Ahasarian to 20 years in prison and a fine of RUB 500,000; Oleksii Vasiutin – to 6 years and RUB 350,000 for allegedly attempting on an FSB employee, collecting data on railway infrastructure and the movement of Russian troops (judge Sergei Obraztsov).

The Military Court of Appeal upheld long prison terms to blind Oleksandr Sizikov, Alim Sufianov, Seiran Hairedinov (judge Maksim Panin) and imam Raif Fevziiev (judge Anatolii Solin). The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation upheld long prison terms to 7 Crimean Tatars (details are here, here and here, judges Aleksandr Voronov, Igor Krupnov, Sergei Sokerin).

Viktor Stashevskiy was transferred from a colony in Krasnodar Krai to a prison in Vladimir. The prison administration in Krasnoyarsk Krai refused to inform Aziz Akhtemov’s wife where her husband was transferred to. Rustem Seitkhalilov and Eldar Kantimirov are expected to be transferred to other penitentiary institutions. The Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) refused to transfer Remzi Bekirov to a colony closer to Crimea. The “court” in Crimea found FSIN’s refusal to transfer Arsen Abkhairov closer to home illegal.

Russian policemen detained blind Oleksandr Sizikov, refusing to show the court decision, threatening to use force and not allowing him to pack his things. For some time he was in a cell with an unglazed window. The administration of the colony has been keeping Remzi Bekirov in a punishment cell for almost a month, does not allow him to write letters and call (head of the colony Aleksandr Chizh). Rustem Huhuryk was also placed in a punishment cell (head of the colony Nikolai Kozhevnikov). The “Supreme Court” of Crimea rejected Eldar Kantimirov’s appeal against his repeated placement in a punishment cell. Despite feeling unwell, Raif Fevziiev had been kept in a stuffy room for 6 hours.

Enver Omerov needs a surgery. His son Riza Omerov has vision problems. Yashar Muiedinov has severe pain in his hand and swelling of his legs. Tymur Yalkabov who has asthma was not given an inhaler. As a result of being kept in harsh conditions, the health of Eldar Kantimirov and Server Zekiriaiev has deteriorated.

Leniie Umerova was released as a result of an exchange.

Blogger Oleksandr Talipov called for a missile attack on foreign leaders during the Crimea Platform Summit, Ursula von der Leyen and rejoiced an attack on a vessel carrying wheat.

“  
Verdicts of courts in Russia

“  
Decisions of courts of appeal and cassation

“  
Transfers of political prisoners

“  
Cruel and inhuman treatment

“  
Health problems of political prisoners