

CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024

Ukrainian troops hit 4 radar stations. The occupants continue conscripting residents of the occupied territories. New facts of combat deaths of Crimeans and the use of civilians as human shields were recorded. Russian security forces abducted the editor-in-chief of a Crimean Tatar magazine, searched the house of a couple of lawyers, and beat a blind resident. New facts of persecution for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian expressions, criminal cases, sentences, and transfers to penitentiary institutions in Russia were recorded. Political prisoners continue complaining of cruel and inhuman treatment, as well as health problems. The leaders of the occupation administration of Yalta visited an international forum in Cairo. Rashist blogger denies the existence of Ukrainians.

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Warfare

Ukrainian troops destroyed one radar station and hit three more. Black Sea Fleet officer and war criminal Valery Trankovsky died in a car bombing (details are here and here). The Atesh partisan movement carried out sabotage on the railway between Kherson region and Crimea.

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Congscription and combat deaths of Crimeans

The “courts” in Crimea passed at least 260 sentences for evading service in the Russian army since the start of the full-scale war. The occupants send illegally drafted persons from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions to Crimea. At least 54 Crimean residents died in combat in November. Since the start of the full-scale war, at least 1,453 Russian servicemen stationed in occupied Crimea have been killed and at least 79 have been captured.

Russian troops transport ammunition and missiles in civilian trucks and use adolescents as a cover at the military training ground.

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A new case of enforced disappearance

FSB officers detained the editor-in-chief of the Crimean Tatar children’s magazine, Ediie Muslimova. For 35 hours, she had been in a “conversation” at the FSB building incommunicado and without access to a lawyer. Human rights defenders identified at least 1,932 civilians abducted or illegally detained in the occupied territories since February 24, 2022, including 149 - in Crimea.

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Repression against lawyers

Russian security forces searched the house of a couple of lawyers Rustem Kiamilev and Lilia Hemedzhi. During the search, they seized work documents and used force against family members. Later, the “court” arrested Rustem Kiamilev for 10 days and fined him RUB 50,000 for reposting a photo of a red-and-black flag and a video about the war in Syria (“judge” Liudmyla Solohub).

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Persecution of the blind

Russian security forces brutally beat blind Ihor Nikitenko during his detention for a video with statements about a “cotton audience” (ватна публика) and searched his home. The “court” fined Nikitenko for inciting hatred and disobeying a lawful order of a police officer RUB 10,000 and RUB 2,000, respectively (“judge” Olena Nikolaeva).

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Persecution for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian expressions

At least 1,093 cases under the article on discrediting the Russian army have been submitted to the “courts” in Crimea. In the fall of 2024, cases involving at least 50 residents of Kherson region were submitted to the “Armiansk city court” after their phones were checked by Russian border guards. The “courts” in Crimea brought two residents of Simferopol to responsibility under the article about demonstrating prohibited symbols due to Ukrainian songs and symbols on a social network (“judges” Liudmyla Solohub, Yanina Okhota), a resident of Armiansk – under two articles due to pro-Ukrainian images on a social network (“judge” Tetiana Fedenieva). Occupation transport police fight against UA stickers on cars.

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Criminal cases

Russian security forces detained a resident of Crimea for allegedly transferring data on military objects on the peninsula to Ukrainian intelligence, a resident

of Sevastopol for allegedly attempting to set fire to railway equipment, and two people for allegedly blowing up the car of Black Sea Fleet officer Valery Trankovsky.

For allegedly transferring data on military objects to Ukrainian special services, the “courts” in Crimea sentenced Mykola Lozenko to 16 years in prison and a fine of RUB 340,000, Andrii Dovhan to 13 years, and Yevhen Melnychuk to 17 years (“judges” Ihor Kozhevnykov, Viktor Skliarov, Alla Khinevych). The “court” in Crimea sentenced Viacheslav Piskunov to 16 years in prison and a fine of RUB 600,000 for allegedly attempting to murder a Russian serviceman (“judge” Eduard Pikula). The “court” in the occupied part of Kherson region sentenced a local deputy Ihor Protokovsky, who had been held in the Simferopol pre-trial detention facility, and a local resident Oleh Kovalenko to 12 years in prison for alleged espionage. The Rostov court sentenced Eldar Abduraimov to 16 years in prison and a fine of RUB 100,000 for allegedly calling for people to join the Atesh partisan movement (judge Maksim Nikitin).

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Sentences

The “Supreme court” of Crimea replaced Denys Yezhov’s fine with a year in prison for shouting “Glory to Ukraine, everything will be Ukraine” (“judge” Nadiia Shkilna). The Military Court of Appeal upheld the verdict against Kostiantyn Yevmenenko and Oleksandr Lytvynenko for allegedly preparing terrorist attacks against the leaders of the occupation administration of Crimea (judges Sergei Butusov, Igor Beldzeiko). The courts of cassation upheld the verdicts against Oleksandr Dubovenko, Oleksandr Lytvyniuk, Asan and Aziz Akhtemov, Servet Haziiev, Erfan Osmanov, Seiran Murtaza, and Alim Karimov (judges Sergei Liashev, Aleksei Karlin, Sergei Sokerin).

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Decisions of courts of appeal and cassation

Aziz Azizov, Rustem Osmanov, Memet Liumanov, and Mustafa Abduramanov were transferred to the Rostov pre-trial detention facility to participate in the illegal trial. Aziz Akhtemov was transferred to a penal colony in Altai to continue serving his illegal sentence.

Ivan Yatskin had been in a punishment cell for 50 days, while other prisoners stole his belongings. Ruslan Abdurakhmanov and Ivan Yatskin receive poor nutrition. Mice periodically appear in Rustem Huhuryk’s cell. Seiran Salieiev and Server Mustafaiev practically do not see sunlight. Seiran Salieiev’s translation of the Quran was seized.

According to human rights defenders, 67 Crimean political prisoners need medical care. The health of Amet Suleimanov, Servet Haziiev, and Ruslan Abdurakhmanov continues deteriorating. Ruslan Nahaiiev was placed in a hospital that was unable to provide proper treatment. Nasrulla Seidalieiev has high blood pressure, severe varicose veins and leg swelling, Viktor Stashevskyi has problems with his teeth, Server Mustafaiev - with eyesight, Seiran Salieiev - with teeth and eyesight, Rustem Huhuryk - with teeth and liver, Teimur Abdullaiev - with eyesight and blood pressure. In addition, Rustem Huhuryk and Teimur Abdullaiev lost hearing in one ear.

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Transfers to penitentiary institutions in Russia

The leaders of the occupation administration of Yalta visited the World Urban Forum, which was held in Cairo with the support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (details are here, here and here).

Rashist blogger Oleksandr Talipov denies the existence of Ukrainians.

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Cruel and inhuman treatment

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Health problems of political prisoners