



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

DECEMBER 2024

Ukrainian naval drones hit military objects in Crimea. Combat deaths of Russian soldiers from Crimea rise. Persecution of Crimeans for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian expressions continues. A Crimean Tatar newspaper and a blind resident of Crimea received new administrative fines. Russian security forces closed another Muslim school. New criminal cases and sentences were recorded. Political prisoners continue being transferred to penitentiary institutions on the Russian territory, being placed in punishment cells and complain of health problems. An incident involving tankers in the Kerch Strait resulted in an environmental disaster. Guests from foreign states attended a congress of Crimean Tatar collaborators.



Warfare

On December 31, Ukrainian troops set a historical precedent, destroying two Russian helicopters and damaging one more using "Magura V5" naval drones (details are [here](#) and [here](#)). Besides, naval drones destroyed [surveillance systems](#) on gas platforms near the Crimean coast and engaged in a battle with [military helicopters and aircrafts](#) in the Kerch Bay. Ukrainian troops also destroyed a train with 40 fuel tanks in Zaporizhzhia region going from Crimea (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).



Combat deaths of Crimeans

Since the beginning of the full-scale war, at least 1,642 Russian servicemen stationed in occupied Crimea have been killed (1,107 of them were probable Ukrainian citizens) and at least 98 have been captured. The edition of Krym. Reali published the "Cargo 200" database that contains information about more than 1,000 Crimeans who died in combat on Russia's side.



Persecution for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian expressions

Since March 2022, at least 1,126 cases under the article on discrediting the Russian army have been submitted to the "courts" in Crimea. In particular, an employee of a waste recycling plant in Sevastopol is being prosecuted under this article for criticizing the full-scale invasion in a conversation with his colleagues while a local resident is being persecuted under the same article for a comment in a pro-Ukrainian Telegram channel. Russian security forces forced a resident of Simferopol [Ruslan Dzhapparov](#) to apologize on camera for [supporting Ukraine in an online chat](#). A resident of mainland Ukraine [Yevhen Poskrebko](#) is being prosecuted under two articles of the Russian Code of Administrative Offences for criticizing the full-scale invasion and insulting Vladimir Putin. [Asan Buberdzhi](#) is being prosecuted due to his [anti-Russian expressions in a swearing contest](#).



Persecution of journalists

At the end of 2024, the "courts" in Crimea awarded a third fine to the editorial office of the [Qırım newspaper](#) and its editor-in-chief [Bekir Mamutov](#). This time, the editorial office and the editor-in-chief were fined RUB 40,000 and RUB 4,000, respectively, for a publication without marking Voice of America and Radio Liberty as "foreign agents" ("judges" [Dliaver Berberov](#) and [Mariia Domnikova](#)).

The "court" in Crimea fined [Ihor Nikitenko](#), who is blind, RUB 40,000 for collecting and sharing personal data of occupation policemen. Before that, the occupation authorities [cut off his home from electricity](#).

Russian security forces closed a Muslim school of the Tauric Muftiyat in Simferopol and sealed up its building (detailed are [here](#) and [here](#)).



Criminal cases

FSB officers detained [Denys Yanchus](#) for allegedly calling for violent actions against Russians (details are [here](#) and [here](#)) and a [resident of Yalta](#) for allegedly transferring data on Russian military objects to Ukrainian intelligence. The Atesh partisan movement informs that [two railway workers](#) were detained and beaten on charges of alleged cooperation with Ukrainian troops.

The "court" in Sevastopol sentenced a pro-Ukrainian activist [Oksana Senedzhuk](#) and a local resident [Anton Chorny](#) to 13 to 15 years in prison and fines of RUB 200,000 and RUB 300,000 for high treason due to an alleged transfer of data on military objects to Ukrainian intelligence ("judge" [Ihor Kozhevnykov](#) – details are [here](#) and [here](#)). The "court" in Crimea sentenced a [resident of Kerch](#), a [resident of Feodosia](#) and a [resident of Simferopol district](#) to 15 years in prison on similar charges. Besides, the "courts" in Crimea sentenced a [resident of Simferopol](#) to 4 years in prison and a fine of RUB 300,000 for an alleged confidential cooperation with the Security Service of Ukraine, a [resident of Staryi Krym](#) to 2 years in prison for alleged anti-Russian calls. Meanwhile, [three alleged supporters of Ukrainian nationalism](#) were sentenced for an alleged storage of weapons. The Russian courts sentenced a [resident of Yalta](#) to 14 years in prison for allegedly transferring data on Russian aviation at Sochi airport to Ukrainian special services (judge [Olga Bumagina](#)), [Andrii Yenukov](#) to 10 years in prison for allegedly setting fire to a humanitarian aid centre, intending to set fire to an oil depot and calling for terrorist attacks against Russian military objects (judge [Kirill Krivtsov](#)), and a resident of Rostov region [Pavlo Levchenko](#) to 22 years in prison for allegedly blowing up railway tracks (judge [Maksim Nikitin](#)). The courts of cassation left unchanged verdicts against philologist [Ismet Ibrahimov](#) and three Jehovah's Witnesses – [Volodymyr Maladyka](#), [Yevhen Zhukov](#) and [Volodymyr Sakada](#) ([Olga Grigorieva](#)).



Sentences

In order to serve his illegal sentence, [Oleksandr Sizikov](#), who is blind, was transferred to Krasnoyarsk Krai – more than 4,000 km from Crimea. [Oleksii Kyseliov](#), [Appaz Kurtamet](#), [Ernest Ibrahimov](#) and [Oleh Fedorov](#) were transferred to penal colonies in Murmansk, Pskov region, Orenburg region and Udmurtia, respectively, to continue serving their illegal sentences.



Transfers to penitentiary institutions in Russia

The colony administration placed [Muslim Aliiev](#) in a punishment cell because he could not greet the head of the penal institution while praying. [Teimur Abdullaiev](#) was also placed in a punishment cell.

[Rustem Seitmemetov](#), who had previously experienced a heart attack and surgery, was assigned the third group of disability. [Osman Seitumerov](#) suffers from chronic gastritis. [Vadym Siruk](#) complains of dental problems and other diseases caused by a chill in his colony. [Teimur Abdullaiev](#) suffers from otitis, hypertension, headache, toothache, stomachache and pain in the liver. [Remzi Bekirov](#) has lost 15 kg in prison. [Ernes Ametov](#) has lost 10 kg; the colony administration did not allow him to receive vitamins and medication. [Iryna Horobtsova](#), who suffers from migraine and heart problems, does not receive any medical aid or necessary medication. [Ali Mamutov](#) suffers from deteriorating hypertension. [Oleksandr Lytvyniuk](#) has dental problems.



Health problems of political prisoners

Damages from an accident involving two tankers in the Kerch Strait could reach USD 14 billion. More than 250 km of the Crimean coast have been polluted with fuel oil which results in [dolphin deaths](#) and [bird sufferings](#). The occupation authorities claim that [60 tons of fuel oil](#) have been collected.



Environmental disaster in the Black Sea

Guests from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Türkiye attended a congress of Crimean Tatar collaborators in Simferopol (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).