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Key findings

- Evidence testifies about ongoing violations, including the exploitation of civilians as "human shields," the strategic deployment of military infrastructure within densely populated civilian areas, and the involvement of civilians into performing military-related work.
- The occupying administration conducted two unlawful conscription campaigns in Crimea throughout 2024, forcibly inducting approximately 5,500 Crimean residents into the Russian armed forces. Since the commencement of the occupation, the total number of Crimeans illegally conscripted is estimated at around 50,000.
- Furthermore, occupation authorities actively engaged in the promotion of voluntary enlistment in the Russian army among students and encouraged participation in Russian "military-patriotic" movements among school and vocational school students.
- Since the beginning of the Russian occupation, at least 553 criminal cases have been initiated against individuals for draft evasion. The significant number (244) of these cases occurred after the full-scale invasion in February 2022.
- At least 1,642 Russian servicemen stationed in occupied Crimea have been reported dead since the full-scale war began. An average of 35 Crimean residents fighting on the Russian side perished monthly on the frontlines.
- In a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and international legal norms, the Russian Federation unilaterally organized and conducted its presidential elections and elections to the unrecognised occupation authorities in Crimea during 2024.
- Enforced Disappearances: CrimeaSOS documented at least six new cases of enforced disappearances in 2024, involving two men and four women. Based on available information, FSB officers were involved in all six cases. In four of these instances, FSB officers detained victims following searches and transported them to unknown locations, denying their families any information regarding their legal status or whereabouts.
- Russian security forces conducted at least 45 arbitrary searches in Crimea throughout 2024. These actions disproportionately targeted specific groups, including 15 searches in houses of Jehovah's Witnesses, 10 related to individuals involved in the politically motivated "Hizb ut-Tahrir cases," 4 targeted journalists and 4 - veterans of the Crimean Tatar national movement. Such arbitrary measures appear to be a deliberate tactic to intimidate and silence independent religious communities, human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and anyone expressing dissent against the Russian occupation.
- CrimeaSOS identified at least 56 individuals in Crimea against whom illegal or questionable criminal proceedings were initiated in 2024. Some individuals are being prosecuted for actions that do not constitute crimes under the Ukrainian legislation. The most frequent charges levied include organizing or participating in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir (10 individuals), discrediting the leaders of the occupation administration and Russian military personnel (10), public calls for extremist activities (6), espionage (5), treason (5), confidential cooperation with a foreign state (4), and sabotage on railway infrastructure (4). These prosecutions often targeted individuals for their political or religious beliefs or their opposition to the occupation.
- In 2024, two political prisoners were released after completing their illegal sentences imposed by the occupation authorities, and two prisoners were released through exchanges.
- In **2024**, courts of first instance issued illegal and questionable sentences against at least 66 individuals. The consideration of criminal cases was often accompanied by systematic violations of the right to a fair

trial. The most common charges were treason, assassination attempts on representatives of the occupation administration, espionage, arson, and sabotage on various facilities. In most cases, the courts of appeal and cassation left the sentences unchanged.

- In **2024**, at least 10 Crimean political prisoners were transferred to a pre-trial detention centre in Rostov-on-Don for illegal trials.
- In **2024**, at least 34 Crimean political prisoners were transferred to colonies and prisons located in 21 federal subjects of Russia to serve their illegal sentences.
- There have been cases in **2024** where Russian state institutions have refused to transfer prisoners closer to Crimea and have not informed their families about where they were being transferred to.
- In **2024**, there have been cases of physical force used against illegally detained persons from the occupied territories of Ukraine.
- In **2024**, at least 12 Crimean political prisoners were held in penal isolators.
- Various sources indicate a critical need for immediate medical care for 41 to 67 Crimean political prisoners. Furthermore, at least four individuals with medical conditions legally precluding their detention under Russian law are unlawfully imprisoned.
- Evidence exists of Russian security forces physically assaulting Crimean civilians for expressing dissent against the occupation, including listening to Ukrainian music, and chanting Ukrainian slogans.
- Occupation authorities in Crimea persist in their persecution of residents holding anti-war and pro-Ukrainian viewpoints. This is carried out through charges such as "discrediting the Russian army," "demonstrating prohibited symbols," "disrespecting Russian state symbols," and other articles within the Russian Federation's Code of Administrative Offenses.
- Between 2022 and 2024, "courts" in Crimea delivered 1,053 rulings on administrative liability for "discrediting the Russian army," with 453 of these occurring in 2024 alone. The primary grounds for the administrative penalties were criticism of the full-scale invasion and/or expressions of support for Ukraine in public and online.
- The prevalent reasons for administrative arrests and fines related to "demonstrating prohibited symbols" included displaying the trident, uttering or writing "Glory to Ukraine!", and possessing or sharing the song "Chervona Kalyna" (Red Viburnum).
- Numerous Crimean residents have faced simultaneous prosecution and penalties under multiple articles of the Russian Federation's Code of Administrative Offenses simply for expressing their opinions.
- In 2024, two Crimeans were imprisoned under the Russian Criminal Code for repeated "discrediting of the Russian army."
- Occupation authorities in Crimea utilized the Russian Federation's Code of Administrative Offenses in 2024 to target and persecute journalists.
- The independent Crimean Tatar newspaper Qırım and its editor-in-chief, Bekir Mamutov, were collectively fined RUB 834,000 for three alleged administrative offenses.
- Human rights activist and journalist Lutfiye Zudiieva was fined within two cases for social media posts referencing "Radio Svoboda" and the "Hizb ut-Tahrir cases" without required marking.
- The systematic persecution of lawyers in occupied Crimea exacerbates the already dire situation for victims of human rights violations. Since the occupation, at least 13 independent lawyers on the peninsula have faced various forms of persecution.

- Lawyer Emil Kurbedinov was fined for a Telegram post concerning the illegal conscription of students with deferrals.
- Oleksii Ladin, a lawyer who was subjected to arbitrary search, arrest, and a fine in 2023, has been stripped of his lawyer status.
- Lawyers Rustem Kiamiliev and Lilia Hemedzhi, previously stripped of their licenses, were subjected to an arbitrary search. Following this, Rustem Kiamiliev was arrested for 10 days and fined RUB 50,000 for social media reposts made several years before.
- In 2024, occupation police issued "warnings" regarding the "inadmissibility of violating the law" to five human rights activists and lawyers.
- The independent Muslim community "Eski Qırım" faced a series of searches, culminating in a RUB 100,000 fine for alleged mass distribution of extremist materials.
- The "Supreme Court" of Crimea ordered the liquidation of the independent Muslim community "Alushta," which had been repeatedly targeted by repression in previous years.
- In 2024, Russian security forces conducted at least 15 searches targeting Jehovah's Witnesses and initiated criminal cases against two believers.
- Occupation authorities dismantled the dome of the main temple of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, demolished another temple belonging to the same denomination, and sealed a third.
- Between 2022 and 2024, the occupation administration "nationalized" approximately 3,500 property objects. This "nationalization" of Ukrainian-owned assets generated RUB 4.8 billion for the occupation administration's budget.
- As a reward for their participation in the aggressive war against Ukraine, occupation authorities in Crimea transferred at least 2,548 land plots to Russian servicemen.
- In 2024, the occupation authorities imposed restrictions on employment, prohibiting individuals without Russian citizenship from working in 35 different sectors in Crimea.
- Reports emerged in Crimea detailing shortages of essential medicines and medical personnel. Furthermore, the treatment of wounded Russian servicemen in civilian hospitals was reportedly prioritized, negatively impacting the healthcare needs of the local civilian population.
- The occupiers established a development called "New Chersonese" on the UNESCO World Heritage Site, raising concerns about the preservation of cultural heritage.
- CrimeaSOS released a study ["The Environment of Crimea: Changes and Losses during the Full-Scale War,"](#) highlighting the detrimental environmental impact of the occupation and the ongoing conflict. The study details the exploitation of protected areas, the increased vulnerability of endangered species, water supply issues, uncontrolled construction, the environmental damage caused by hostilities and fortifications, marine pollution, and other significant ecological threats.

Violations of Laws and Customs of War

Key trends and events:

- 1. Evidence from 2024 indicates the occurrence of the following violations of international humanitarian law: using civilians as "human shields," positioning military assets in densely populated civilian areas, involving civilians directly in military activities.*
- 2. On June 23, 2024, alleged Russian air defence actions in Sevastopol resulted in the deaths of 4 civilians and injuries to more than 150 others.*

In 2024, Ukrainian forces continued their strikes on [legitimate military targets](#) within occupied Crimea. These targets reportedly included warships, command posts, ammunition depots, airfields, radar stations, anti-aircraft missile systems, helicopters, ferries, and oil depots. Additionally, on November 13, 2024, a [car bomb resulted](#) in the death of Valerii Trankovskyi, a Black Sea Fleet officer with [command responsibility for missile strikes](#) against civilian areas in Ukraine.

The tactic of using the presence or movement of civilians to shield military targets from attack is a grave breach of [international humanitarian law](#) and constitutes a [war crime](#). The Atesh guerrilla movement reports that Russian forces are actively practicing this by [transporting ammunition and missiles in civilian vehicles](#). Furthermore, they allege that Russian troops are [using teenagers as a cover at the military training facility](#) in Sevastopol.

Disregarding their [duties under international humanitarian law](#), occupying forces are [establishing military sites](#) within or adjacent to densely populated civilian areas. An illustrative example of this occurred on June 23, 2024, when 4 individuals lost their lives and over 150 sustained injuries on a Sevastopol beach. An incident was likely connected with [Russian air defence activities](#). The beach is situated in close proximity to the Belbek military airfield, and eyewitness accounts indicate a complete absence of air raid warnings or available shelters in the vicinity (details are [here](#) and [here](#)).

Defying the prohibitions of [international humanitarian law](#), the Atesh guerrilla movement has reported that the Russian 810th Separate Marine Brigade was using civilians [to participate in the construction of fortifications](#) in Sevastopol.

Illegal Conscription and Military Service Propaganda

Key findings:

- *The occupying administration conducted two unlawful conscription campaigns in Crimea throughout 2024, forcibly inducting approximately 5,500 Crimean residents into the Russian armed forces. Since the commencement of the occupation, the total number of Crimeans illegally conscripts is estimated at around 50,000.*
- *Furthermore, occupation authorities actively engaged in the promotion of voluntary enlistment in the Russian army among students and encouraged participation in Russian "military-patriotic" movements among school and vocational school students.*
- *Since the beginning of the Russian occupation, at least 553 criminal cases have been initiated against individuals for draft evasion, with a significant 244 of these cases occurring after the full-scale invasion in February 2022.*

The occupying administration's execution of the 19th and 20th conscription campaigns in Crimea represents a grave breach of [international humanitarian law](#) and [constitutes a war crime](#). These illegal conscription efforts involved the establishment of illegitimate "conscription commissions" (details available [here](#) and [here](#)) tasked with forcibly drafting approximately 2,500 individuals in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and around 500 [in Sevastopol](#) during the spring. Similar unlawful "conscription commissions" (information [here](#) and [here](#)) were formed to conscript an additional 2,000 people in Crimea and 500 [in Sevastopol](#) in the fall. Cumulatively, occupying authorities conscripted approximately [50,000 Crimean residents](#) into the Russian army.

Furthermore, in the fall of 2024, the occupiers [transferred individuals illegally conscripted from the Ukrainian regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia](#) to Crimea.

[International humanitarian law](#) unequivocally prohibits any form of pressure or propaganda designed to induce Crimean residents to voluntarily serve in the Russian army. Despite this clear legal standard, information gathered throughout 2024 indicates that occupying forces persisted in actively agitating [students](#) to enlist as volunteers in the Russian army. This also included targeting [school and technical school](#) students to join the "Youth Army" and other militaristic clubs. The occupiers are also recruiting students for [FPV drone operator courses](#).

In October 2024, legislative changes were adopted in Russia (details [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), allowing certain categories of persons who are held criminally liable to serve in the military under a contract. There are reports that the occupation law enforcement agencies received [instructions indicating the number of detainees](#) who should be persuaded to serve in the Russian army in exchange for the suspension of criminal prosecution. The illegally convicted [Farkhod Bazarov](#) was offered military service against Ukraine, but he refused.

[Since the onset of the Russian occupation](#), at least 553 criminal cases have been initiated against individuals for draft evasion in Crimea. Alarming, 244 of these prosecutions have occurred since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began, indicating a significant escalation in the enforcement of illegal conscription measures by the occupying authorities.

Fatalities of Crimean Residents in Russian Military Service

Key findings:

- *At least 1,642 Russian servicemen deployed in occupied Crimea have died on the front. On average, approximately 35 Crimean residents fighting on the Russian side died monthly.*
- *At least 98 Russian servicemen deployed in occupied Crimea have been captured by Ukrainian forces.*

The conscription of Crimean residents into hostilities against Ukraine constitutes a [war crime](#).

[The Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea](#) reports that, since the start of the full-scale war, at least 1,642 Russian servicemen deployed in occupied Crimea have died on the front lines, with approximately 1,107 likely being Ukrainian citizens. Additionally, at least 98 servicemen have been captured.

The [Krym Realii](#) editorial team has compiled [a database, "Gruz-200,"](#) documenting over a thousand deceased Crimean residents who fought for the Russian armed forces.

Furthermore, the ["Tribunal. Crimean Episode"](#) initiative has tracked monthly combat casualties among Crimean residents fighting on the Russian side.

Month	Number of deaths	The number of captives
January	27	4
February	33	
March	30	
April	15	1
May	33	3
June	N/A	N/A
July	N/A	N/A
August	35	1
September	N/A	N/A
October	42	
November	54	
December	47	

Illegitimate Electoral Processes

Kye findings:

- *In 2024, the Russian Federation conducted illegitimate presidential elections and elections to its occupation authorities in Crimea.*
- *To facilitate these illegal elections within the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 28 "territorial election commissions" were established, including 4 commissions in the city of Sevastopol.*
- *Reports indicate that the occupying authorities coerced specific groups into participating in these illegal elections, including employees of state institutions and prisoners.*

The organization and conduct of illegal elections in the occupied territories of Ukraine constitute a blatant violation of the [UN Charter](#) and fundamentally undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Furthermore, [international humanitarian law](#) explicitly prohibits compelling residents of occupied territories to pledge allegiance to a hostile power.

Between March 15-17, 2024, the occupying administration unlawfully conducted the Russian presidential elections in occupied Ukrainian territories. [In the Autonomous Republic of Crimea](#), 28 "territorial election commissions" and 1,130 "departmental election commissions" were established, while [Sevastopol](#) had 4 and 186 respectively. The occupying forces coerced state employees into voting, requiring them to photograph their completed ballots and share them on social media (details [here](#) and [here](#)).

From September 6-8, 2024, Russia conducted elections for occupation authorities in Crimea. To facilitate these elections, [28 "territorial election commissions"](#) and [1,129 "precinct election commissions"](#) were set up in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and [4 "territorial election commissions"](#) and [187 "precinct election commissions"](#) were established in Sevastopol. Based on available reports, [prisoners at the Simferopol pre-trial detention centre](#) were forcibly transported to vote, without asking their will, and were threatened with punishment if they spoiled their ballots. Additionally, there were instances of Crimean residents [discarding](#) and [burning](#) campaign materials, as well as [deliberately spoiling their ballots](#).

Enforced Disappearances

Key findings:

- *Since Russia's occupation of Crimea began, 104 enforced disappearances have been documented, and 21 people remain missing.*
- *In 2024 alone, CrimeasOS recorded at least six new cases of enforced disappearances – two men and four women. Available information indicates that the FSB (Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation) was involved in all six of these cases.*
- *In four of these cases, after conducting searches, FSB officers took the individuals to unknown locations and refused to inform their relatives about their legal status or where they were being held.*

Enforced disappearances are a grave violation of [customary international humanitarian law](#), [unequivocally prohibited under all circumstances](#), including during a state of war.

Since Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014, the [UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine](#) has documented 104 cases of enforced disappearances. 21 of these individuals are still considered missing.

At least six new cases of enforced disappearances were reported in 2024.

Victim	Date	Place	Further events
Ismail Shemshedinov	January 26	İslâm Terek (Kirovske)	Detained after search, fate and whereabouts unknown
Abliazova E.Yu.	March 27	Yedi Quyu (Lenine)	Detained after search, fate and whereabouts unknown
Haidai L.S.	March 27	Yedi Quyu (Lenine)	Detained after search, fate and whereabouts unknown
Pavlenko T.N.	March 27	Yedi Quyu (Lenine)	Detained after search, fate and whereabouts unknown
Ali Emirov	April 8	20th km of the Simferopol-Kerch highway	Accused of possession of explosive device
Ediie Muslimova	November 21	Simferopol	Released

In addition to the documented cases, in June 2023, [Yevhen Shved](#), a resident of Dzhankoi, became another victim of enforced disappearance. His whereabouts were unknown for nearly a month before it was revealed that a criminal case had been initiated against him for a [Telegram post](#) criticizing "pobedobesie" (a term referring to the excessive and often aggressive celebration of Victory Day in Russia).

Furthermore, human rights activists have identified at least [1,932 civilians](#) who were abducted or illegally detained in the occupied territories during the full-scale war. Tragically, 149 of these individuals were abducted or illegally detained specifically in Crimea and are still held in Russian captivity.

Unlawful Searches

Key findings:

- Russian security forces conducted at least 45 arbitrary searches in Crimea throughout 2024. These actions disproportionately targeted specific groups, including 15 searches of Jehovah's Witnesses, 10 related to individuals involved in the politically motivated "Hizb ut-Tahrir cases," 4 targeting journalists and 4 - veterans of the Crimean Tatar national movement.
- Such arbitrary measures appear to be a deliberate tactic to intimidate and silence independent religious communities, human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and anyone expressing dissent against the Russian occupation.

Arbitrary searches and raids in Crimea constitute a violation of the right to respect for private and family life and home. These actions are frequently conducted unlawfully, involving the unjustified use of force. There is information that Russian security forces often seize or fabricate evidence such as prohibited literature, ammunition, or narcotics during these searches. These practices have a particularly severe impact on large Crimean Tatar families, who are disproportionately targeted. Moreover, the process of searching and detaining a father can be deeply traumatizing for children, potentially amounting to inhuman treatment.

During 2024, Russian security forces conducted at least 45 arbitrary and questionable searches in Crimea.

January	23.01.	at the house of Nazim Memetov , a member of the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people
February	16.02.	at Ilias Muslimov's home
	22.02.	at the house of Ilver Ametov , the head of the Sudak Regional Mejlis
	22.02.	at the house of Lutfiye Zudjieva , a human rights defender and journalist
	29.02.	at the head of the independent Muslim community "Eski Qırım" Idris Yurdamov , the community's imam Izet Saifullin , activists Lenur Yakubov and Shevket Kiiamov , and at the local mosque
March	05.03.	four searches in Bakhchysarai (at the homes of Memet Liumanov, Mustafa Abduramanov, and journalists Rustem Osmanov and Aziz Azizov) and six searches in the Dzhankoi area (at the homes of Imam Vahid Mustafaiev, former Imam Remzi Kurtnezirov, Ali Mamutov, Arsen Kashko, Enver Khalilaiev, and Nariman Ametov), they were detained on charges of alleged involvement in Hizb ut-Tahrir .
	13.03.	at the home of Edem Dudakov , a delegate of the Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar people
April	11.04.	at the house of Mykola Mazanka for anti-war statements
	29.04.	at the home of Serhii Yeremenko due to his social media posts
May	17.05.	at the homes of Bekir Mamutov, the editor-in-chief of the Qırım newspaper , Seiran Ibrahimov, its founder, and members of the editorial staff
August	07.08.	at least 5 searches of Jehovah's Witnesses
	29.08.	at the home of Zodiie Saliieva , a veteran of the Crimean Tatar movement and the mother of a political prisoner
September	25.09.	at the home of Petro Skrypnyk , after Skrypnyk spat in a box that was intended for collecting aid for the occupation troops.
October	09.10.	at least 10 searches of Jehovah's Witnesses
	30.10.	at the home of the blind man Ihor Nikitenko
November	07.11.	at the home of the married lawyers Rustem Kiamiliev and Lilia Hemedzhi
December	26.12.	at the home of Asan Buberdzhi , due to his anti-Russian statements made by Mr. Buberdzhi during a verbal altercation.

Criminal Prosecution

Key trends and facts:

- *In 2024, CrimeaSOS identified at least 56 individuals who faced criminal charges in Crimea that were illegal under Ukrainian law. Some of these prosecutions targeted actions not considered crimes in Ukraine, and some cases lacked sufficient information.*
- *The most frequent charges included: 10 individuals for organizing or participating in Hizb ut-Tahrir activities, 10 for blowing up the leaders of the occupation administration and Russian military personnel, 6 for public calls for extremist activities, 5 for espionage, 5 for treason, 4 for confidential cooperation with a foreign state, and 4 for sabotage on the railway tracks.*
- *During 2024, two political prisoners were released after completing their unlawful sentences, and another two were freed through prisoner exchanges.*

According to information provided by the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as of the end of 2024, there are 218 individuals illegally imprisoned by the occupying forces in Crimea. Of those, 132 are Crimean Tatars.

In 2024, based on the statements and actions of the occupation authorities, CrimeaSOS identified at least 56 individuals in Crimea against whom illegal or questionable criminal proceedings were initiated. Some of these individuals were persecuted due to the application of Russian criminal law in occupied Ukrainian territories, which violates international humanitarian law. The criminal prosecution of others may indicate systemic human rights violations, but further information is needed for a complete assessment.

On March 5, 2024, Russian security forces conducted another series of searches targeting Crimean Tatar homes. Following these actions, ten individuals were detained on charges of alleged involvement with Hizb ut-Tahrir: Memet Liumanov, Mustafa Abduramanov, citizen journalists Rustem Osmanov and Aziz Azizov in Bakhchysarai, and Imam Vahid Mustafaiev, former Imam Remzi Kurtnezirov, Ali Mamutov, Arsen Kashka, Enver Khalilaiev, and Nariman Ametov in the Dzhankoi area.

In August 2024, Russian security forces conducted at least 5 searches of Jehovah's Witnesses and at least 10 in October 2024. Following the searches, criminal cases were opened against two believers: Tamara Brattseva and Vitalii Buryk.

The occupying authorities have initiated criminal proceedings against Denys Yezhov, a resident of Alushta, and Oleh Shaposhnikov, a resident of eastern Crimea, under the article concerning repeated discreditation of the Russian army.

Based on available information, in 2024, Russian security forces detained at least two individuals on suspicion of alleged participation in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion (details are here and here).

The FSB detained Turan Ustiuhov, a resident of southern Crimea and a citizen of Kazakhstan, on suspicion of intending to join Ukrainian volunteer battalions.

The FSB has initiated criminal proceedings against at least six Crimean residents under the article concerning public calls for extremist activities. Specifically, criminal cases were opened against Yalta residents Tetiana Bibik and Denys Yanchus, Feodosia resident Roman Zubov, and another Crimean resident for allegedly using social media to incite violence against Russians. Additionally, criminal cases were opened against a resident of Sudak for allegedly calling for the murder of Russian soldiers, and against Feodosia resident Ruslan Rybalka for allegedly chanting anti-Russian and anti-government slogans.

The FSB has reported the detention of at least four individuals on charges of high treason (details are here, here, here and here), four on charges of espionage (details are here, here and here), and four on charges of confidential

cooperation with a foreign state. Furthermore, after a period of arbitrary detention, occupying authorities have accused Kherson activist Iryna Horobtsova of espionage and Liudmyla Kolesnikova, who travelled from Ireland for her mother's funeral, of high treason. The Atesh guerrilla movement has also reported the detention and beating of two railway employees accused of collaborating with Ukrainian forces.

The FSB announced the detention of at least four individuals allegedly preparing to detonate a railway track (details available here, here and here, three individuals allegedly planning to bomb the vehicle of a Crimean occupation leader (details are here, here and here), and five individuals allegedly plotting terrorist attacks against Black Sea Fleet personnel (details are here and here). Additionally, two individuals were reportedly detained for allegedly bombing the car of Black Sea Fleet officer Valerii Trankovskyi. Since the start of the full-scale war, at least 17 criminal cases have been initiated for arson attacks on occupation military commissariats and administrative buildings. Furthermore, the FSB announced the detention of a Moldovan citizen and two others for allegedly preparing sabotage and gathering information on the locations of air defence installations.

FSB officers detained a resident of Sevastopol for allegedly urging others to join the pro-Ukrainian underground movement.

Concurrently, Yevhen Karakashev and Refat Alimov were released upon completion of their unlawful sentences. Nariman Dzhelial, the Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, and Leniie Umerova were freed as part of a prisoner exchange.

Judgments of First Instance Courts

Key trends and facts:

- In 2024, courts of first instance issued illegal and questionable sentences against at least 66 individuals.
- The adjudication of these criminal cases frequently involved systematic violations of the right to a fair trial.
- The most common charges included treason, attempted assassinations of occupation administration representatives, espionage, arson, and sabotage of various targets.
- Most of these sentences were delivered by the Southern District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don, the "Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea," and the "Sevastopol City Court."

In 2024, courts of first instance handed down illegal and questionable sentences against at least 66 people. The consideration of criminal cases was often accompanied by systemic violations of the right to a fair trial: consideration of the case by illegally established courts in the occupied territory, limited public access to court sessions, the judge's dependence on security forces, the use of fabricated evidence and statements made as a result of torture during the trial, and inequality of the parties in the trial. In addition, cases against many residents of the occupied territories of Ukraine were considered by courts located in Russia, [contrary to the norms of international humanitarian law](#).

#	Date	Defendant	Verdict	Charge	Court	Judge
1	29.01.	Oleksandr Tiurenko	2 years of suspended imprisonment with a 2-year probationary period and a 3-year prohibition on posting materials on the Internet	vandalism motivated by political hatred and desecration of symbols of Russian military glory	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Alla Khinevych
2	27.02.	Yevhen Shved	2.5 years in prison with a 4-year ban on administering websites	the spread of "fakes" about the activities of the USSR during World War II	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Nataliia Kulinska
3	10.04.	Dliaver Salimov	One year of imprisonment	threat of murder motivated by political hatred	"Kirovske District Court"	Heorh Tsertsvadze
4	16.04.	Maksym Zinchenko	2 years of forced labour	participation in the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses	"Nakhimovskiy District Court of Sevastopol"	Valerii Kuznetsov
5	18.04.	Vitalii Rastorhuiev	12 years of imprisonment	Attempt on the head of the occupation administration of Berdiansk	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Oleksii Mahomadov (Олексій Магомадов)
6		Volodymyr Kryvtsun	11 years of imprisonment			
7	15.05.	Andrii Borzenkov	a fine of RUB 40,000	Public calls for terrorist activities and activities against national	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Oleh Terentiev (Олег Терентьев)

				security on the Internet		
8	16.05.	Mykola Onuk	5 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 50,000	Desecration of Russian state symbols, vandalism motivated by political hatred, and possession of explosives	"Zaliznychnyi District Court of Simferopol"	Yevheniia Romanenkova (Євгенія Романенкова)
9	04.06.	Dmytro Pastashchuk	6 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Confidential cooperation with Ukraine	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Viktor Skliarov (Віктор Скліаров)
10	04.06.	Konstantin Yevmenenko	10 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Attempt on the lives of the heads of occupied Crimea	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Oleh Terentiev (Олег Терентьев)
11	10.06.	Ivan Tereshchenko	17 years of imprisonment	Detention of a fishing vessel with its crew	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Serhii Pohrebniak (Сергій Погребняк)
12		Vasyl Dmytriuk	17 years of imprisonment			
13	19.06.	Oleksandr Lytvynenko	9,5 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Attempt on the lives of the heads of occupied Crimea	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Pavlo Hubariiev (Павло Губарєв)
14	25.06.	Yaroslav Zhuk	14 years of imprisonment	Attempted assassination of a member of the occupation administration of Melitopol	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Oleh Cherepov (Олег Черепов)
15	26.06.	Emine Zekeriaieva	a fine of RUB 50,000	Failure to report a crime	"Kirovske District Court"	Anastasiia Bodenko (Анастасія Боденко)
16	N/A	Resident of the Saki area	12 years of imprisonment	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	N/A
17	01.07.	Serhii Parfenovych	6 years of suspended imprisonment with a 4-year probationary period	Organizing the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses	"Krasnohvardiiske District Court"	Valentyn Shukalskyi (Валентин Шукальський)
18		Yurii Herashchenko	6 years of suspended imprisonment with a 4-year probationary period			
19	01.07.	Kostiantyn Soldatov	16 years of imprisonment	Preparation of a terrorist act, high treason	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Oleksandr Heneralov (Олександр Генералов)
20	02.07.	Resident of Sevastopol	1,5 year of imprisonment	Public incitement to extremist activity online	"Haharin District Court of Sevastopol"	Pavlo Kryllo (Павло Крилло)
21	18.07	Serhii Yerzhov	18 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Gas pipeline explosion	Southern District Military	Denys Vovchenko

					Court (Rostov-on-Don)	(Денис Вовченко)
22	N/A	Resident of Sevastopol	14 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Attempted assassination of representatives of the occupying administration of the Zaporizhzhia region	"Zaliznychnyi District Court of Simferopol"	N/A
23	15.08.	Iryna Horobtsova	10,5 years of imprisonment	Espionage	"Kherson Regional Court"	N/A
24	20.08.	Ihor Korchynskiy	18 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 350,000	Attempt on the head of the occupation administration of Crimea	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Maksym Nikitin (Максим Нікітін)
25	29.08.	Denys Yezhov	a fine of RUB 100,000	Repeated discrediting of the Russian army	"Alushta City Court"	Svitlana Vashchenko (Світлана Ващенко)
26	N/A	Name unknown	6,5 years of imprisonment	Attempting to participate in hostilities as part of the "Freedom of Russia" battalion	N/A	N/A
27	N/A	A resident of southern Crimea	13 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 200,000	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	N/A
28	03.09.	Kseniia Svitlyshyna	5 years and 3 months of imprisonment	Vandalism with political motives, confidential cooperation with Ukraine	"Sevastopol City Court"	Ihor Kozhevnikov (Ігор Кожевніков)
29	03.09.	Oleksandr Liubas	20 years of imprisonment	Landing attempt in Crimea as part of a special operation	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Serhii Obraztsov (Сергій Образцов)
30	12.09.	Volodymyr Pazin	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 300,000	Preparation of a terrorist attack against a Russian military officer, high treason	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Ihor Kostin (Ігор Костін)
31	12.09.	Resident of Sevastopol	1 year and 1 month of imprisonment with a 2.5-year ban on administering websites	Public calls for extremist activity on the Internet	"Nakhimovskyi District Court of Sevastopol"	Valerii Kuznetsov (Валерій Кузнецов)
32	16.09.	Oleh Shaposhnikov	1 year and 3 months of imprisonment	Repeated discrediting of the Russian army	"Soviet District Court"	Tymofii Dmytriiev (Тимофій Дмитрієв)
33	18.09.	Artur Ahasarian	20 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Preparation of a terrorist attack against an FSB employee, high treason	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Serhii Obraztsov (Сергій Образцов)

34		Oleksii Vasiutin	6 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 350,000	Explosives acquisition		
35	23.09.	Mamut Belialov	12 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 350,000	Attempted assassination of the former occupation minister of Crimea	"Kyiv District Court of Simferopol"	Mykhailo Bielousov (Михайло Белоусов)
36	N/A	Resident of Sevastopol	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 450,000	High treason	"Sevastopol City Court"	N/A
37	N/A	M. A. Sukhachov	14 years of imprisonment	Espionage	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	N/A
38	04.10.	Ihor Kopyl	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 400,000	High treason	"Sevastopol City Court"	Ihor Kozhevnikov (Ігор Кожевников)
39	10.10.	Andrii Yeniukov	10 years of imprisonment with a 3-year ban on administering websites	Arson of a humanitarian aid point, attempted arson of an oil depot, incitement to terrorist attacks against Russian military facilities	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Pavlo Kryvtsov (Павло Кривцов)
40	18.10.	Vladyslav Kysliakov	13 years of imprisonment	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Alla Khinevych (Алла Хіневич)
41	31.10.	Taras Kovyrnychenko	16 years of imprisonment	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Serhii Pohrebniak (Сергій Погребняк)
42	31.10.	Roman Melnychuk	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 1,000,000	Attempted attack on a Russian propagandist blogger	"Feodosia City Court"	Serhii Puchkov (Сергій Пучков)
43		Vladyslav Hromovyi	10 years of imprisonment			
44	N/A	Nariman Derman	3,5 years of imprisonment	Participation in the Noman Çelebicihan Battalion	N/A	N/A
45	N/A	Resident of Sevastopol	15 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 200,000	High treason	N/A	N/A
46	N/A	Resident of Sevastopol	21 years of imprisonment	Preparation for arson of an administrative building, high treason	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	N/A
47	N/A	Dmytro Shainoha	12 years of imprisonment	Espionage	"Zaporizhzhia Regional Court"	N/A
48	01.11.	Viacheslav Piskunov	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 600,000	Attempted assassination of Russian serviceman	"Dzhankoi District Court"	Eduard Pikula (Едуард Пікула)

49	01.11.	Mykola Lozenko	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 340,000	High treason	"Sevastopol City Court"	Ihor Kozhevnikov (Ігор Кожевников)
50	07.11.	Andrii Dovhan	13 years of imprisonment	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Viktor Skliarov (Віктор Склярів)
51	25.11.	Ihor Protokovyl o	12 years of imprisonment	Espionage	"Kherson Regional Court"	N/A
52	26.11.	Oleh Kovalenko	12 years of imprisonment	Espionage	"Kherson Regional Court"	N/A
53	27.11.	Eldar Abduraimov	16 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 100,000	Calls to join the Atesh guerrilla movement	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Maksym Nikitin (Максим Нікітін)
54	29.11.	Yevhen Melnychuk	17 years of imprisonment	Espionage	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Alla Khinevych (Алла Хіневич)
55	02.12.	Resident of Yalta	14 years of imprisonment	High treason	Krasnodar Regional Court	Olha Bumahina (Ольга Бумагіна)
56	11.12.	Anton Chornyi	15 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 300,000	High treason	"Sevastopol City Court"	Ihor Kozhevnikov (Ігор Кожевников)
57	19.12.	A resident of Staryi Krym	2 years of imprisonment with a 1.5-year ban on administering websites	Public incitement to extremist activity online	"Kirovske District Court"	Anastasiia Bodenko (Анастасія Боденко)
58	24.12.	Pavlo Levchenko	22 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 1,000,000	Explosion at the railways, high treason	Southern District Military Court (Rostov-on-Don)	Maksym Nikitin (Максим Нікітін)
59	26.12.	Oksana Senedzhuk	15 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 200,000	High treason	"Sevastopol City Court"	Ihor Kozhevnikov (Ігор Кожевников)
60	N/A	Resident of Kerch	15 years of imprisonment	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	N/A
61	N/A	A resident of Feodosia	15 years of imprisonment	High treason	N/A	N/A
62	N/A	A resident of the Simferopol area	15 years of imprisonment	High treason	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	N/A
63	N/A	A resident of Simferopol	4 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 300,000	Confidential cooperation with Ukraine	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	N/A
64	N/A	Resident of Sevastopol	12 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 300,000	Acquisition and possession of weapons and explosives	N/A	N/A
65		Resident of Sevastopol	8 years and 2 months of imprisonment and			

			a fine of RUB 300,000			
66		Resident of Sevastopol	6 years and 2 months of suspended imprisonment with a 2.5-year probationary period and a fine of RUB 13,000			

Judgments of Appellate Courts

Key trends and facts:

- In 2024, appellate courts issued rulings in the cases of at least 25 individuals who had previously been handed down sentences considered illegal and questionable.
- The appeal hearings took place within the “jurisdiction” of the Military Court of Appeal located in the Moscow Region, the entity referred to as the “Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea,” and the Third Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction situated in Sochi.
- The appeals courts upheld the original convictions in most of the cases. Only the convictions of four Jehovah’s Witnesses were overturned, and their cases were sent back for a new trial.

Appellate courts in 2024 reviewed the cases of at least 25 people who had received sentences deemed illegal or questionable. Despite the review, most sentences were upheld. In five cases, the appellate courts imposed prison sentences where the lower courts had issued less severe penalties. The negligible one-month reduction in pro-Ukrainian activist Oleh Prykhodko's sentence hints at a lack of truly independent appellate courts in occupied Crimea and Russian territory.

Simultaneously, the "Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea" issued a different ruling, overturning the convictions of four Jehovah's Witnesses and remanding their case for a new hearing.

#	Date	Defendant	Appeal ruling	Charge	Court	Judge
1	22.01.	Oleh Prykhodko / Олег Приходько	Reduction of the prison sentence: 4 years and 5 months	Public justification of terrorism, revival of Nazism	Military Court of Appeal (Moscow Region)	Oleksandr Peresada / Олександр Пересада
2	01.02.	Osman Arifmemetov / Осман Арифмететов	Verdict upheld: 14 years of imprisonment	Participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Military Court of Appeal (Moscow Region)	Serhii Butusov / Сергій Бутусов
3		Ruslan Suleimanov / Руслан Сулейманов	Verdict upheld: 14 years of imprisonment			
4		Rustem Sheikhaliiev / Рустем Шейхалієв	Verdict upheld: 14 years of imprisonment			
5		Yashar Muedinov / Яшар Муєдінов	Verdict upheld: 13 years of imprisonment			
6		Enver Ametov / Енвер Аметов	Verdict upheld: 13 years of imprisonment			
7	13.02.	Mykola Petrovskyi / Микола Петровський	Verdict upheld: 16 years of imprisonment	Espionage	Third Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction (Sochi)	Viacheslav Slepchenko / В'ячеслав Слепченко
8		Serhii Kotov / Сергій Котов	Verdict upheld: 15 years of imprisonment			

9	13.02.	Serhii Tsyhipa / Сергій Цигіпа	Verdict upheld: 13 years of imprisonment	Espionage	Third Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction (Sochi)	Olena Kaporina / Олена Капоріна
10	21.03.	Taras Kuzio / Тарас Кузьо	Verdict overturned and the case sent for a new judicial review	Organization and/or financing of the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Nataliia Hrebennikova / Наталія Гребеннікова
11		Petro Zhylytsov / Петро Жильцов				
12		Serhiy Lyulin / Сергій Люлін				
13		Daria Kuzio / Дар'я Кузьо				
14	09.04.	Oleksandr Tiurenko / Олександр Тюрєнко	Change of sentence: 2 years of imprisonment with a 3-year ban on posting materials online	Vandalism motivated by political hatred, desecration of symbols of Russian military glory	Third Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction (Sochi)	Yevhen Saltykov / Євген Салтиков
15	13.09.	Oleksandr Sizikov (blind person) / Олександр Сізіков	Verdict upheld: 17 years of imprisonment	Organizing activities/participating in activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Military Court of Appeal (Moscow Region)	Maksym Panin / Максим Панін
16		Alim Sufianov / Алім Суф'янов	Verdict upheld: 12 years of imprisonment			
17		Seiran Khairedinov / Сейран Хайредінов	Verdict upheld: 12 years of imprisonment			
18	27.09.	Raif Fevziiev / Раїф Февзієв	Verdict upheld: 17 years of imprisonment	Organization of Hizb ut-Tahrir activities	Military Court of Appeal (Moscow Region)	Anatolii Solin / Анатолій Солін
19	03.10.	Serhii Parfenovych / Сергій Парфєнович	Change of sentence: 6 years of imprisonment	Organization and/or financing of the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Nataliia Hrebennikova / Наталія Гребеннікова
20		Yurii Herashchenko / Юрій Гєращенко	Change of sentence: 6 years of imprisonment			
21	10.10.	Kostiantyn Yevmenenko / Костянтин Євменєнко	The sentence remains unchanged: 10 years in prison and a fine of RUB 500,000	Attempted attack on leaders of occupied Crimea	Military Court of Appeal (Moscow Region)	Serhii Butusov / Сергій Бутусов
22	22.10.	Denys Yezhov / Дєнис Єжов	Verdict upheld: 1 year of imprisonment	Repeated discrediting of the Russian army	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Nadiia Shkilna / Надія Шкільна
23	31.10.	Oleksandr Lytvynenko / Олександр Литвинєнко	Verdict upheld: 9.5 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Attempted attack on leaders of occupied Crimea	Military Court of Appeal (Moscow Region)	Ihor Beldzeiko / Ігор Бєльдзєйко

24	31.10.	Emine Zekeriaieva / Еміне Зекеряєва	The verdict remains unchanged: a fine of RUB 50,000	Failure to report a crime	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Oleksandr Voronyi / Олександр Вороний
25	14.11.	Oleg Shaposhnikov / Олег Шапошніков	Change of sentence: 6 months of imprisonment	Repeated discreditation of the Russian army	"Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea"	Olena Yeletskykh / Олена Єлецьких

Judgments of Cassation Courts

Key trends and facts:

- In 2024, cassation courts issued rulings against at least 33 individuals who had previously received illegal and questionable sentences.
- The cassation rulings were issued by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow) and the Fourth Court of Cassation of General Jurisdiction (Krasnodar).
- With the exception of one deceased individual, the cassation courts left the sentences unchanged.

In 2024, Russian cassation courts reviewed the cases of at least 33 individuals who had been given sentences considered illegal and questionable. These courts upheld the original sentences in all cases except for that of Dzhemil Hafarov, who had died in pre-trial detention. This pattern, consistent with the decisions of lower courts, may suggest a lack of independence within the Russian cassation court system.

#	Date	Defendant	Cassation ruling	Charge	Court	Judge
1	12.03.	Oleksandr Tarapon / Олександр Тарапон	Verdict unchanged: 2.5 years of imprisonment	Public dissemination of "fakes" about the Russian army	Fourth Cassation Court of General Jurisdiction (Krasnodar)	Nataliia Polozova / Наталія Полозова
2	14.05.	Iryna Danylovych / Ірина Данилович	Verdict unchanged: 6 years and 11 months of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 50,000	Possession of explosive devices	Fourth Cassation Court of General Jurisdiction (Krasnodar)	Ivan Hromov / Іван Громов
3	30.05.	Appaz Kurtamet / Аппаз Куртамет	Verdict unchanged: 7 years of imprisonment	Financing the "Krym" Battalion	Fourth Cassation Court of General Jurisdiction (Krasnodar)	Rustem Asanov / Рустем Асанов
4	13.06.	Vadym Bektemirov / Вадим Бектеміров	Verdict unchanged: 11 years of imprisonment	Participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Oleksandr Voronov / Олександр Воронов
5	27.08.	Tofik Abdulhaziev / Тофік Абдулгасієв	Verdict unchanged: 12 years of imprisonment	Participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Ihor Krupnov / Ігор Крупнов
6		Vladlen Abdulkadyrov / Владлен Абдулкадіров	Verdict unchanged: 12 years of imprisonment			
7		Medzhyt Abdurakhmanov / Меджит Абдурахманов	Verdict unchanged: 12 years of imprisonment			
8		Izzet Abdullaiev / Іззет Абдуллаєв	Verdict unchanged: 12			

			years of imprisonment			
9		Bilial Adilov / Білял Аділов	Verdict unchanged: 14 years of imprisonment			
10	28.08.	Lenur Khalilov / Ленур Халілов	Verdict unchanged: 18 years of imprisonment	Organization of/participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Oleh Derbilov / Олег Дербілов
11		Ruslan Mesutov / Руслан Месутов	Verdict unchanged: 18 years of imprisonment			
12		Ruslan Nahaiev / Руслан Нагаєв	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
13		Eldar Kantimirov / Ельдар Кантіміров	Verdict unchanged: 12 years of imprisonment			
14	N/A	Ernest Ibrahimov / Ернест Ібрагімов	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment	Participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Oleksandr Voronov / Олександр Воронов
15		Oleh Fedorov / Олег Федоров	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
16	N/A	Seitumer Seitumerov / Сейтумер Сейтумеров	Verdict unchanged: 17 years of imprisonment	Organization of/participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Ihor Krupnov / Ігор Крупнов
17		Osman Seitumerov / Осман Сейтумеров	Verdict unchanged: 14 years of imprisonment			
18		Rustem Seitmemetov / Рустем Сейтмеметов	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
19		Amet Suleimanov / Амет Сулейманов	Verdict unchanged: 12 years of imprisonment			
20	19.09.	Yashar Shykhmetov / Яшар Шихаметов	Verdict unchanged: 11 years of imprisonment	Participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Serhii Sokerin / Сергій Сокерін
21	07.11.	Oleksandr Dubovenko / Олександр Дубовенко	Verdict unchanged: 6 years of imprisonment	Organization of the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses	Fourth Cassation Court of General Jurisdiction (Krasnodar)	Serhii Liashev / Сергій Ляшев
22		Oleksandr Lytvyniuk /	Verdict unchanged: 6			

		Олександр Литвинюк	years of imprisonment			
23	12.11.	Dzemil Hafarov (posthumously) / Джеміль Гафаров (посмертно)	Verdict overturned	Participation in the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	Serhii Sokerin / Сергій Сокерін
24		Servet Haziiev / Сервет Газієв	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
25		Alim Karimov / Алім Карімов	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
26		Seiran Murtaza / Сейран Муртаза	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
27		Erfan Osmanov / Ерфан Османов	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment			
28	21.11.	Asan Akhtemov / Асан Ахтемов	Verdict unchanged: 15 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000	Sabotage of a gas pipeline	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow))	Oleksii Karlin / Олексій Карлін
29		Aziz Akhtemov / Азіз Ахтемов	Verdict unchanged: 13 years of imprisonment and a fine of RUB 500,000			
30	10.12.	Ismet Ibrahimov / Ісмет Ібрагімов	Verdict unchanged: 19 years of imprisonment	Organization of the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir	Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (Moscow)	N/A
31	19.12.	Volodymyr Maladyka / Володимир Маладика	Verdict unchanged: 6 years of imprisonment	Organization of the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses	Fourth Cassation Court of General Jurisdiction (Krasnodar)	Olha Hryhorieva / Ольга Григор'єва
32		Evhen Zhukov / Євген Жуков	Verdict unchanged: 6 years of imprisonment			
33		Volodymyr Sakada / Володимир Сакада	Verdict unchanged: 6 years of imprisonment			

Detention in Penitentiary Institutions in the Russian Federation

Key trends and facts:

- *In 2024, at least 10 Crimean political prisoners were moved to a pre-trial detention centre in Rostov-on-Don for participation in what is considered an illegal trial.*
- *Furthermore, at least 34 Crimean political prisoners were transferred to serve their sentences in colonies and prisons across 21 federal subjects of Russia. These locations included facilities as far away as Murmansk, beyond the Arctic Circle, and Yakutsk, over 9,000 kilometres from Crimea.*
- *There are cases when Russian state institutions denied requests to transfer prisoners to facilities closer to Crimea and failed to notify families about the prisoners' transfer destinations.*

[Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva](#) Convention stipulates that individuals accused of crimes should be detained and, if convicted, serve their sentences within the occupied territory. The forced deportation of civilians from an occupied area is considered [a war crime](#) under international law. Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has ruled that the transfer of Crimean prisoners to correctional facilities in the Russian Federation infringes upon the right to respect for family life. [The ECtHR](#) has consequently ordered the Russian Federation to ensure the safe return of these prisoners.

Despite the rules of international law, Russia transferred at least 10 Crimean political prisoners in 2024 to participate in what is considered an illegal trial on the Russian territory. Additionally, at least 34 other Crimean political prisoners were transferred to various locations within Russia to serve illegal sentences.

The defendants in the "[fifth Bakhchysarai group of Hizb ut-Tahrir](#)" case, namely Abdulmedzhyt Seitumerov, Amethkhan Umerov, Eldar Yakubov, Seidamet Mustafaiev, Remzi Nimetulaiev, and Ruslan Asanov, were transferred to Pre-trial Detention Centre (SIZO) #1 in Rostov-on-Don to participate in their trial.

Similarly, the defendants in the "[sixth Bakhchysarai group of Hizb ut-Tahrir](#)" case, consisting of Aziz Azizov, Rustem Osmanov, Memet Liumanov, and Mustafa Abduramanov, were also transferred to SIZO #1 in Rostov-on-Don for their trial proceedings.

The transfer of some Crimean political prisoners from Russian pre-trial detention to correctional facilities (or vice versa) severely complicates their families' ability to maintain contact and restricts the prisoners' access to legal assistance.

The location to which the person was moved	Name in English	Name in Ukrainian
Correctional Colony #5, Sukhinichi, Kaluga Oblast	Volodymyr Sakada	Володи мир Сакада
Correctional Colony #3, Skopin, Ryazan Oblast	Serhii Tsyhipa	Сергій Цигіпа
Prison #2, Vladimir (Vladimir Central Prison)	Rustem Murasov, Viktor Stashevskiy	Рустем Мурасов, Віктор Сташевський
Correctional Colony #5, Nizhny Novgorod	Zekiria Muratov	Зекір'я Муратов
Correctional Colony #9, Tsivilsk, Chuvash Republic	Riza Omerov, Akim Bekirov	Різа Омеров, Акім Бекіров

Correctional Colony #6, Yoshkar-Ola, Mari El Republic	Enver Omerov	Енвер Омеров
Correctional Colony #5, Sarapul, Udmurt Republic	Oleh Fedorov	Олег Федоров
Correctional Colony #5, Novotroitsk, Orenburg Oblast	Ernest Ibrahimov	Ернест Ібрагімов
Correctional Colony #6, Sosnovy Bor settlement, Pskov Oblast	Appaz Kurtamet	Аппаз Куртамет
Correctional Colony #12, Sheksna settlement, Vologda Oblast	Ernes Ametov	Ернес Аметов
Correctional Colony #9, Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia	Rustem Seitkhalilov	Рустем Сейтхалілов
Correctional Colony #5, Koryazhma, Arkhangelsk Oblast	Aider Dzhapparov, Emil Ziiadinov	Айдер Джаппаров , Еміль Зіядінов
Correctional Colony #21, Iksha settlement, Arkhangelsk Oblast	Vladlen Abdulkadyrov, Raim Aivazov	Владлен Абдулкадіров , Раїм Айвазов
Correctional Colony #17, Murmansk	Oleksii Kyseliov	Олексій Кисельов
Prison #1, Verkhneuralsk, Chelyabinsk	Ruslan Suleimanov	Руслан Сулейманов
Correctional Colony #29, Kemerovo	Eskender Abdulhaniiev	Ескендер Абдулганієв
Correctional Colony #10, Rubtsovsk, Altai Krai	Aziz Akhtemov	Азіз Ахтемов
Correctional Colony #33, Abakan, Republic of Khakassia	Remzi Bekirov	Ремзі Бекіров
Correctional Colony #1, Kyzyl, Republic of Tuva	Bilial Adilov	Білял Аділов
Correctional Colony #8, Ulan-Ude, Republic of Buryatia	Arsen Abkhairov, Eldar Kantimirov	Арсен Абхаїров , Ельдар Кантіміров
Prison #1, Minusinsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai	Osman Arifmemetov	Осман Аріфмеметов
Prison #2, Yeniseysk, Krasnoyarsk Krai	Rustem Sheikhaliiev	Рустем Шейхалієв
Correctional Colony #1, Yakutsk	Riza Izetov (more than 9,000 km from Crimea)	Різа Ізетов (понад 9 тис. км від Криму)
TBD	Oleksandr Sizikov (visually impaired), Seiran Khairedinov, Alim Sufianov, Raif Fevziiev, Serhii Parfenovych, Yurii Herashchenko	Олександр Сізіков (незрячий), Сейран Хайредінов , Алім Суф'янов , Раїф Февзієв , Сергій Парфенович , Юрій Геращенко

The administration of Yeniseysk Prison #2 (Krasnoyarsk Territory) refused to notify the wives of [Remzi Bekirov](#) and [Aziz Akhtemov](#) about their husbands' transfer location.

The Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) refused transfer requests from [Server Zekiriaiev](#) and [Remzi Bekirov](#) to colonies nearer to Crimea. Separately, a Crimean "court" under "judge" [Herman Atamaniuk](#) also denied [Marlen Asanov's](#) request for a transfer closer to the peninsula. However, another Crimean "court" ruled that the FSIN's refusal to transfer [Arsen Abkhairov](#) to a location closer to his home was illegal.

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

Key trends and facts:

- *In 2024, at least twelve Crimean political prisoners were confined in punishment cells.*
- *Four individuals who were illegally detained, along with one person under house arrest, were subjected to forced psychiatric examinations.*
- *Multiple sources suggest that between 41 and 67 Crimean political prisoners are in urgent need of medical care. Furthermore, at least four individuals are serving unlawful sentences despite having medical conditions that, according to Russian law, should prevent their detention.*
- *Russian security forces have reportedly beaten civilians for expressing criticism of the occupying authorities, listening to Ukrainian music, and chanting Ukrainian slogans.*

The use of torture, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, is unequivocally [forbidden](#) under all circumstances of international law. When such acts occur within the context of the Russian occupation of Crimea, they constitute [war crimes](#).

The systematic use of torture and ill-treatment is a pervasive issue in places where individuals are deprived of their liberty in occupied Crimea and Russia.

The Atesh guerrilla movement has brought to light several incidents of abuse: [two railway employees](#), detained for alleged collaboration with Ukrainian forces, were reportedly beaten. Specifically, colony employees are accused of severely beating, issuing death threats, denying essential medical care, and humiliating Rustem Osmanov (with further information available [here](#) and [here](#)). Additionally, prison guards allegedly beat [Asan Yanikov](#), who subsequently suffered a headache. Beyond these cases, [Yashar Muiedinov](#) reported experiencing physical force and psychological pressure while incarcerated, and [Ekrem Krosh](#) detailed the use of violence against him in a pre-trial detention centre. Further compounding these concerns, reports have emerged of [prisoners being beaten](#) during their transfer from Simferopol to Russia in late 2023.

[Liudmyla Kolesnikova](#) was detained right after her mother's funeral and held in a pre-trial detention centre for months without any charges or access to hygiene facilities.

In 2024 alone, at least twelve Crimean political prisoners were confined to penal isolators. These individuals include [Eskender Abdulhaniiev](#), [Teimur Abdullaiev](#), [Refat Alimov](#), [Ruslan Zeitullaiev](#), [Ernes Seitosmanov](#), [Oleh Prykhodko](#), [Rustem Osmanov](#), [Remzi Bekirov](#), [Rustem Huhuryk](#), [Rustem Seitkhalilov](#), [Ivan Yatskin](#), and [Muslim Aliiev](#). Furthermore, the "Supreme Court" of Crimea upheld the decision to repeatedly send [Eldar Kantimirov](#) to a penal isolator despite his appeal. Adding to these concerning practices, [Aziz Azizov](#), [Enver Khalilaiev](#), [Arsen Kashko](#), and [Vakhid Mustafaiev](#) were subjected to forced psychiatric examinations. Tragically, even [Remzi Kurtnezirov](#), a former imam with a disability who is under house arrest, was forced to undergo a psychiatric examination under humiliating circumstances.

Based on various sources, between [41](#) and [67](#) Crimean political prisoners are in urgent need of medical care. Notably, [Rustem Huhuryk](#) and [Teimur Abdullaiev](#) have reportedly lost hearing in one ear. [Rustem Seitmemetov](#), who previously suffered a heart attack and underwent heart surgery, has been classified with a third-degree disability. Despite having illnesses that legally preclude their detention under Russian law, Russian courts have denied the release of [Amet Suleimanov](#) and [Tofik Abdulhaziiiev](#). Following the upholding of his sentence by the [Appellate Military Court](#), Russian police detained the blind [Oleksandr Sizikov](#), refusing to show a court order, threatening the use of force, and [preventing him from gathering his belongings](#). Furthermore, a "court" in Crimea

sentenced [Nariman Derman](#) to 3.5 years of imprisonment despite a pre-existing medical condition that should prevent his detention.

A Russian court, presided over by Judge [Stanislav Razdelishin](#), ruled to transfer Jehovah's Witness [Viktor Stashevskyi](#) from a correctional colony to a prison. This decision [was subsequently upheld](#) by an appellate court under Judge [Oleksii Kupriianov](#).

Separately, "courts" in Crimea, with "judges" [Andrii Kulishov](#) and [Roman Tetkov](#) presiding, refused to count the time [Eldar Kantimirov](#) and [Rustem Emirusseinov](#) spent in pre-trial detention towards their prison sentences.

Conversely, the time [Rustem Seitkhalilov](#) spent in pre-trial detention was credited towards his prison sentence. In another case, [Arsen Abkhairov](#) was held for an additional 2.5 months in a stricter penitentiary due to a judicial error. However, the Rostov court ruled that [Shaban Umerov](#) should be transferred to a correctional facility with less severe conditions.

The administration of the penal colony is reportedly obstructing the parole of [Vladyslav Yesypenko](#).

Furthermore, Russian security forces have allegedly physically assaulted Serhii Yeremenko (more details available [here](#) and [here](#)) and [Ihor Nikitenko](#), who is blind, for criticizing the occupation authorities online. The [Avdieiev family](#) was also reportedly beaten for listening to Ukrainian music and chanting Ukrainian slogans.

Persecution for the Freedom of Expression

Key trends and facts:

- *The occupying authorities continue to persecute residents of Crimea for anti-war and pro-Ukrainian views, using articles such as those concerning the "discreditation" of the Russian army, the display of prohibited symbols, disrespect for Russian state symbols, and other articles of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses.*
- *Between 2022 and 2024, "courts" in Crimea issued 1013 rulings on administrative offenses related to the "discreditation" of the Russian army, with 453 of these rulings occurring in 2024 alone.*
- *The most common reasons for administrative fines under the "discreditation" article were criticism of the full-scale invasion and/or support for Ukraine expressed in public places and on social media.*
- *The most frequent triggers for administrative arrests and fines under the article concerning the display of prohibited symbols were depictions of the trident (Ukraine's national emblem), the slogans "Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine), and the song "Chervona Kalyna" (Red Viburnum).*
- *Numerous residents of Crimea have been held liable under two or more articles of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses simultaneously for expressing their opinions.*
- *In 2024, two residents of Crimea were sentenced to imprisonment under the article of the Russian Criminal Code concerning the repeated "discreditation" of the Russian army.*
- *Pro-Russian blogger Oleksandr Talipov has been noted for repeatedly inciting the commission of international crimes.*

On March 4, 2022, amendments were introduced to Russian legislation establishing administrative (Article 20.3.3 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses) and criminal liability (Article 280.3 of the Russian Criminal Code) for public actions aimed at "discrediting" the Russian army.

Between 2022 and 2024, "courts" in occupied Crimea handed down a total of 1,053 administrative rulings under the article concerning the "discreditation" of the Russian army, with 453 of these decisions occurring in 2024. Notably, the "Armiansk City Court" issued the highest number of these rulings. This significant increase is reportedly linked to the practice of Russian border guards thoroughly inspecting the mobile phones of residents from the Kherson region upon their entry into Crimea.

	“Court”	Number of court decisions on bringing to administrative liability under the article on discrediting the Russian army			
		2022	2023	2024	In total
1	“Alushta City Court”	2	6	3	11
2	“Armiansk City Court”	5	30	191	226
3	“Bakhchysarai District Court”	2	7	8	17
4	“Bilohirsk District Court”		7	4	11
5	“Dzhankoi District Court”		15	43	58
6	“Yevpatoria City Court”	14	38	11	63
7	“Kerch City Court”	9	9	16	34
8	“Kirovske District Court”	12	4	5	21
9	“Krasnohvardiiske District Court”	6	5	2	13

10	"Krasnoperekopsk District Court"		5	4	9
11	"Lenine District Court"	6	16	6	28
12	"Nyzhnohirskyi District Court"	1	5	1	7
13	"Pervomaiske District Court"		2	4	6
14	"Rozdolne District Court"		4	4	8
15	"Saky District Court"	8	23	12	43
16	"Simferopol District Court"	8	9	1	18
17	"Sovietskyi District Court"	2	1	1	4
18	"Sudak City Court"	5	9	8	22
19	"Feodosia City Court"	19	24	13	56
20	"Chornomorske District Court"	1	9	2	12
21	"Yalta City Court"	21	22	18	61
22	"Zaliznychnyi District Court of Simferopol"	14	3	3	20
23	"Kyiv District Court of Simferopol"	20	71	63	154
24	"Central District Court of Simferopol"	14	7	3	24
25	"Balaklava District Court of Sevastopol"		2	3	5
26	"Haharinskyi District Court of Sevastopol"	10	14	7	31
27	"Leninskyi District Court of Sevastopol"	11	14	8	33
28	"Nakhimovskiy District Court of Sevastopol"	3	6	9	18
In total		193	367	453	1013

According to media monitoring and information from "courts" in Crimea, the reasons cited for administrative fines under the article concerning the "discreditation" of the Russian army (Article 20.3.3 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses) included:

- Anti-war stances expressed during [discussions with neighbours](#) in a courtyard or [with colleagues at work](#) ("judges" [Oksana Karchevska](#), [Yevhen Pronin](#));
- A newspaper column [advocating for the refusal of mobilization](#) into the Russian army ("judges" [Anton Tsykurenko](#), [Yanina Okhota](#));
- [Conversations at a public transport stop](#) asserting that Russians were occupiers who initiated the war ("judge" [Halyna Lobanova](#));
- [Shouting "Slava Ukraini"](#) (Glory to Ukraine) in a restaurant ("judge" [Oleksii Nanarov](#));
- [Reposting anti-war publications](#) on social media ("judge" [Olena Bohdanovych](#));
- Displaying an image of the Ukrainian flag on social media (details [here](#) and [here](#), "judges" [Denys Kirieiev](#), [Liubov Korpachova](#));
- [An image of a tram with the inscription](#) "русские идите ..." (Russians go ...) ("judge" [Venera Isroilova](#));
- [An image on social media](#) comparing Nazi and Russian military symbols ("judge" [Tamara Lobunska](#));
- Reposting video materials about the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Mustafa Dzhemiliev on social media ("judge" [Mykhailo Ivanov](#));
- [Expressing on social media](#) that Russia was a Nazi state and that one should love Ukrainian soldiers and Ukraine ("judge" [Ivan Udut](#));
- [Calls on social media](#) not to participate in the "referendum" and accusations of war crimes against Russia;
- [Shouting insults directed at Vladimir Putin](#) ("judge" [Oleksii Nanarov](#)).

In addition, the occupying administration continues to actively apply the article concerning the public display of Nazi, extremist, and other prohibited symbols (Article 20.3 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses) to persecute individuals who demonstrate pro-Ukrainian views. According to media monitoring and information from "courts" in Crimea, the reasons cited for administrative fines and arrests under this article included:

- Displaying the trident (Ukraine's national emblem) on social media (details [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#), "judges" [Denys Didenko](#), [Heorhii Tsertsvadze](#), [Nataliia Kalinichenko](#), Mykhailo Ivanov – [here](#) and [here](#), [Tetiana Fedeneva](#), [Yanina Okhota](#));
- Shouting "Slava Ukraini!" (Glory to Ukraine!) on a beach ("judge" [Serhii Korotun](#));
- [Attempting to sell collectible coins](#) with the inscription "Slava Ukraini" ("judge" [Valentyna Kamynina](#));
- Listening to the song "Chervona Kalyna" (Red Viburnum) [and shouting](#) "Slava Ukraini!" from a balcony ("judge" [Denys Nasyrov](#));
- Posting the song "Chervona Kalyna" (Red Viburnum) on social media (details [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#), "judges" [Kateryna Chumachenko](#), Denys Didenko – [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#), [Halyna Khulapova](#), Anton Tsykurenko – [here](#) and [here](#), [Liudmyla Solohub](#)).

A common practice remains the simultaneous prosecution under the article concerning the "discreditation" of the Russian army (Article 20.3.3 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses), which carries an administrative fine, and the article concerning the display of prohibited symbols (Article 20.3 of the Russian Code of Administrative Offenses), which typically results in administrative arrest:

- A "court" arrested lawyer [Rustem Kiamiliev](#) for 10 days [for reposting a photograph](#) of a red and black flag and fined him RUB 50,000 [for reposting a video](#) about the war in Syria ("judge" Liudmyla Solohub – [here](#) and [here](#));
- A "court" arrested Yalta resident [Viacheslav Bondarenko](#) for 8 days and fined him RUB 35,000 for comments on a Telegram channel containing the phrase "Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine) and stating that residents of Crimea were awaiting Ukraine's arrival ("judge" Iryna Tymoshenko – [here](#) and [here](#));
- The "court" arrested [Oleh Lukashevych](#) for 14 days and fined him RUB 40,000 for the slogan "Glory to the Nation" and pro-Ukrainian statements and the Ukrainian flag in the [messenger](#) ("judge" Yevhen Pronin – [here](#) and [here](#));
- The "courts" arrested and fined pensioner [Mariia Zamyrailo](#) and Kerch resident [Oleksandr Kharchenko](#) for pro-Ukrainian pictures on social media that contained a trident, the slogan "Glory to Ukraine" or expressed support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine ("judge" Heorhii Tsertsvadze) – [here](#) and [here](#), [Serhii Lapin](#) and [Liubov Korotkova](#));
- The "court" arrested [Serhii Fedorets](#) for 5 days and fined him RUB 40,000 for reposting a picture with the words "Glory to Ukraine" and information about helping war victims ("judge" Oksana Karchevska – [here](#) and [here](#));
- The "court" fined Armiansk resident [Ivan Kovach](#) under both articles for online posts containing the words "Glory to Ukraine" and "Russian soldier ... home" ("judge" Tetiana Fedenieva – [here](#) and [here](#));
- The "court" fined [Nataliia Beltiukova](#) under both articles for online publications containing the slogan "Glory to Ukraine" and expressing support for the "blockade" of Crimea ("judge" Venera Isroilova – [here](#) and [here](#)).

Furthermore, numerous Crimean residents face prosecution under three articles of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation simultaneously for expressing their opinions. Monitoring of media and "courts" in Crimea reveals that individuals in such cases can be held liable under articles addressing the "discreditation" of the Russian army (Article 20.3.3), the display of prohibited symbols (Article 20.3), petty hooliganism/insulting Russian state symbols (Article 20.1), and disobedience to a lawful order of a police officer (Article 19.3). In some cases, individuals are also prosecuted under articles concerning public calls to violate the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation (Article 20.3.2), incitement to hatred (Article 20.3.1), illegal dissemination of personal data of law enforcement officers (Article 17.13), and violation of the procedure for holding an assembly (Article 20.2):

- A "court" issued two fines to [Ihor Brahuta](#) for posting a video with the symbols of the "Azov" battalion and "materials aimed at discrediting" the Russian army on social media, and also arrested him for three days for images that insulted Vladimir Putin ("judge" Ihor Sokolovskiy – [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#));

- A "court" arrested [Valerii Shevchuk](#) for 13 days for images containing the words "Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine) and issued fines totalling RUB 90,000 for anti-war and anti-Putin images ("judge" Anastasiia Bodenko – [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#));
- A "court" issued fines totalling RUB 170,000 to [Oleh Hubsnyi](#) under three articles for social media comments regarding Donbas belonging to Ukraine, condemning strikes on civilian targets, and criticizing Putin ("judges" Liubov Korotkova – [here](#) and [here](#), [Serhii Lapin](#)). The "court" also arrested him for 10 days for allegedly refusing to present documents to police officers ("judge" [Alkhaz Tudparov](#));
- A "court" arrested [Andrii Perehyhin](#), a deputy chief physician of a hospital, for 15 days due to his ringtone being "Chervona Kalyna" (Red Viburnum) and fined him RUB 50,000 for expressing support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine in a conversation with colleagues ("judges" Oleksii Mykytiuk – [here](#) and [here](#)). Subsequently, the "court" fined him an additional RUB 25,000 for attempting to gather hospital employees as defence witnesses during a court hearing ("judge" [Valentyna Kamynina](#));
- A "court" fined the blind [Ihor Nikitenko](#), who had been severely beaten by Russian security forces, RUB 10,000 for a [video](#) containing the phrase "vatna publika" (cotton public, a derogatory term for those with pro-Russian views) and RUB 2,000 for alleged disobedience to a lawful order from a police officer ("judge" Olena Nikolaieva – [here](#) and [here](#)). Subsequently, the occupying authorities [disconnected his residence from electricity](#), and a "court" [further fined him](#) RUB 40,000 for collecting and disseminating the personal data of occupying police officers.

In 2024, the occupying authorities initiated two new criminal cases under the article concerning the repeated "discreditation" of the Russian army (Article 280.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation): against [Denys Yezhov](#), a resident of Alushta, and [Oleh Shaposhnikov](#), a resident of eastern Crimea. "Courts" issued guilty verdicts to both Crimean residents ("judges" [Svitlana Vashchenko](#), [Tymofii Dmitriiev](#)). Ultimately, the "Supreme Court" of Crimea sentenced Yezhov to one year of imprisonment and Shaposhnikov to six months ("judges" [Nadiia Shkilna](#), [Olena Yeletskykh](#)).

A significant number of Crimean residents are facing persecution for their pro-Ukrainian and anti-war views following denunciations made by the pro-Russian Telegram channel "[Krymsky SMERSh](#)." This channel extensively publishes videos featuring apologies from the victims of such persecution.

Concurrently, the pro-Russian blogger Oleksandr Talipov, who owns the Telegram channel "Krymsky SMERSh," has called for a missile strike against [foreign leaders during the Crimea Platform summit](#) in Kyiv and against [Ursula von der Leyen](#) during her visit to Ukraine. He also expressed joy over a strike [on a vessel transporting wheat](#) and generally [denied the existence of Ukrainians](#).

ТалипоV Online

Ursula von der Leyen attendue en Ukraine vendredi

Par Le Figaro avec AFP
Publié il y a 9 minutes

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Ursula von der Leyen à Bruxelles le 16 septembre. JOHNNY HAYS / REUTERS

Урсула фон дер Ляйен сообщила, что завтра приедет в Киев, передает Le Monde.

Глава Еврокомиссии встретится с Зеленским и обсудит подготовку Украины к зиме.

Какая жирная цель завтра будет в Киеве?

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ТалипоV Online

Хохлы - это те украинцы, которые забыли, что они русские

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ТалипоV Online




Хохлы, вам же говорили, зерновой коридор не работает, совсем не работает, а вы не верили!

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ТалипоV Online

В Киеве сегодня будет проходить самит фэйковой "Крымской платформы", ожидается визит не только Блинкена

На Украину уже приехали президент Литвы Гитанас Науседа, премьер Латвии Эвика Силиня и глава Сената Чехии Милош Вистрчил.

Сколько проблем можно решить одной ракетой!

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Persecution of Journalists

Key trends and facts:

- In 2024, the occupying authorities also employed the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation for persecution of journalists.
- The independent Crimean Tatar newspaper *Qırım* and its editor-in-chief, Bekir Mamutov, were collectively fined RUB 834,000 for allegedly committing three administrative offenses.
- Human rights activist and journalist Lutfie Zudiieva received two fines for social media posts that mentioned “Radio Svoboda” and the “Hizb ut-Tahrir case” without the required marking.
- Anastasia Zhvik, a journalist from Sevastopol, was fined for a publication in an online media outlet that has been designated as an “undesirable” organization in Russia.

The persecution of journalists constitutes a violation of the right to freedom of expression, which encompasses the liberty to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas without hindrance. [Freedom House](#) consistently ranks Crimea among the territories globally with the lowest levels of civil and political freedoms, highlighting the absence of free and independent media within the region.

In 2024, occupying authorities in Ukraine used Russia's Code of Administrative Offenses to persecute journalists. This tactic strongly indicates an intention to suppress any perspectives that diverge from their own narrative, obstruct impartial reporting on the actual circumstances, coerce journalists into self-censorship, and ultimately establish comprehensive control over the information landscape within the occupied territories.

Throughout 2024, Russian security forces initiated three administrative offense cases against the independent Crimean Tatar newspaper *Qırım*. On May 17, 2024, police and the Centre for Countering Extremism conducted searches at the residences of *Qırım*'s editor-in-chief, [Bekir Mamutov](#), its founder, [Seiran Ibrahimov](#), and at the newspaper's editorial office. Subsequently, two administrative protocols were drawn up [against Mamutov](#) and [Qırım newspaper](#) under the articles on discrediting the Russian army and disseminating false information. Several months later, [an additional administrative offense case was opened](#) against them.

Charge	The <i>Qırım</i> newspaper's editorial team		Editor-in-chief Bekir Mamutov	
	Fine	"Judge"	Fine	"Judge"
Discrediting the Russian army (Part 1 of Article 20.3.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation) due to a column by a member of the Qurultay advocating for refusal of mobilization into the Russian army.	RUB 300,000	Anton Tsykurenko , Nataliia Kucherenko (upheld the decision)	RUB 110,000	Yanina Okhota
Dissemination in the media of deliberately unreliable information presented as credible reports (Part 9 of Article 13.15 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation) due to the publication of the UN Secretary-General's report on torture, abductions, and inhumane detention conditions in Crimea.	RUB 250,000	Serhii Moskalenko , Vira Serikova (upheld the decision)	RUB 130,000	Serhii Moskalenko , Oleksii Mykytiuk (upheld the decision)

Abuse of the freedom of mass information (Part 2.1 of Article 13.15 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation) due to a publication mentioning " Voice of America " and " Radio Liberty " without marking these media outlets as "foreign agents."	RUB 40,000	Dliaver Berberov, Lubov Diachenko (upheld the decision)	RUB 4,000	Mariia Domnikova
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On February 22, 2024, Russian authorities searched the home of Crimean Tatar human rights defender and journalist [Lutfiie Zudiieva](#), subsequently filing two administrative protocols against her for abuse of freedom of mass information based on three social media posts. Two posts mentioned "Radio Liberty" without the required "foreign agent" marking, while another referenced the "Hizb ut-Tahrir case" without designating the organization as "terrorist" (details [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Initial "court" decisions by "judges" [Kateryna Chumachenko](#) and [Serhii Moskalenko](#) resulted in fines of RUB [2,500](#) and [2,000](#), respectively, which were upheld by "appeal courts" under "judges" [Kateryna Tymoshenko](#) and [Valentyna Kamynina](#) (details [here](#) and [here](#)). However, the Russian cassation court later [overturned](#) the RUB 2,500 fine related to the "Radio Svoboda" mentions, in a ruling by "judge" [Naima Karasova](#).

Sevastopol journalist [Anastasia Zhvik](#) faced persecution for her publications in the online media Meduza. A "court" [fined](#) her RUB 10,000 under the article concerning participation in the activities of an "undesirable" organization ("judge" [Yuliia Stepanova](#)).

Persecution of Lawyers

Key trends and facts:

- *The persecution of lawyers in occupied Crimea is systematic and exacerbates the already dire situation of human rights violation victims. Since the occupation of Crimea, at least 13 independent lawyers on the peninsula have faced various forms of persecution.*
- *In 2024, the occupying police in Crimea issued "warnings" about the inadmissibility of violating the law to five human rights defenders and lawyers.*
- *Lawyer Emil Kurbedinov was fined for a Telegram post concerning the illegal conscription of students with deferrals.*
- *Oleksii Ladin, a lawyer who was subjected to arbitrary search, arrest, and a fine in 2023, has been stripped of his lawyer status.*
- *Lawyers Rustem Kiamiliev and Lilia Hemedzhi, previously stripped of their licenses, were subjected to an arbitrary search. Following this, Rustem Kiamiliev was arrested for 10 days and fined RUB 50,000 for social media reposts from several years prior.*

Persecution of lawyers directly undermines the right of everyone whose rights and freedoms have been violated to an effective remedy, as well as the right of an accused person in a criminal offense to the legal assistance of a defender chosen at their own discretion. Furthermore, paragraph [16 of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers](#) stipulates that “governments shall ensure that lawyers:

(a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference;

(b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and

(c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.”

The systematic persecution of lawyers in occupied Crimea is a deliberate tactic aimed at concealing gross human rights violations and coercing legal professionals into abandoning the defence of their clients in politically motivated criminal cases. [At least 13 independent lawyers](#) on the peninsula have faced various forms of harassment. This pressure on lawyers further compounds the already dire situation faced by victims of human rights abuses in occupied Crimea, severely hindering their access to justice and effective legal remedies.

In February 2024, lawyer [Emil Kurbedinov](#) was detained by the Centre for Countering Extremism following a report from the administrator of a pro-Russian Telegram channel. He was charged with abuse of freedom of mass information due to a Telegram [post](#) concerning the illegal conscription of students with deferments. Subsequently, a "court" [fined](#) Kurbedinov RUB 30,000 based on this accusation ("judge" [Serhii Moskalenko](#)), a decision that [was upheld](#) by the "appeal court" ("judge" [Yulia Ishchenko](#)).

In July 2024, the Tyumen Region Chamber of Advocates revoked the lawyer status of [Oleksii Ladin](#), who had previously [faced repression](#) in October 2023, following a demand from the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

In November 2024, authorities from the Centre for Countering Extremism searched the home of [Rustem Kiamiliev](#) and [Lilia Hemedzhi](#), a married couple who are also lawyers and had previously [lost their licenses to practice law](#). During this search, security forces confiscated their work-related documents, physically assaulted Kiamiliev, and reportedly threatened his son with academic repercussions. Following the search, a "court" sentenced [Rustem Kiamiliev](#) to 10 days of administrative arrest for allegedly displaying extremist symbols by reposting [a photo of a red-and-black flag](#). The same "court," under "judge" Liudmila Solohub, fined him RUB

50,000 for supposedly discrediting the Russian army by reposting a [video](#) concerning the [war in Syria](#) (details [here](#) and [here](#)). The "Supreme Court" of Crimea, with "judges" [Volodymyr Ahin](#) and [Liubov Diachenko](#) presiding, upheld this sentence.

Furthermore, in May 2024, the occupation police issued "warnings" regarding the inadmissibility of legal violations to human rights defenders [Lutfiye Zudiieva](#) and [Seit-Osman Karaliiev](#), as well as to lawyers [Lilia Hemedzhi](#), [Rustem Kiamiliev](#), and [Nazim Sheikhmambetov](#).

Persecution of Religious Groups

Key trends and facts:

- *In occupied Crimea, the systemic persecution of independent Muslim communities, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine persists. These groups face ongoing repression through means such as surveillance, intimidation, arbitrary detentions, and the fabrication of criminal charges by the occupation authorities.*
- *The independent Muslim community "Eski Qırım" faced a series of searches, culminating in a RUB 100,000 fine for alleged mass distribution of extremist materials.*
- *The "Supreme Court" of Crimea ordered the liquidation of the independent Muslim community "Alushta," which had been repeatedly targeted by repression in previous years.*
- *In 2024, the occupying authorities in Crimea closed three Muslim schools belonging to the "Tavria Muftiate."*
- *In 2024, Russian security forces conducted at least 15 searches targeting Jehovah's Witnesses and initiated criminal cases against two believers.*
- *The occupying authorities dismantled the dome of the main temple belonging to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.*

Independent Muslim communities, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine are persistently subjected to systematic persecution. This repression violates the fundamental human right to freedom of religion, a breach of [Article 58 of the IV Geneva Convention](#). These actions suggest that the occupying authorities aim at establishing complete control over religious life on the peninsula, suppressing any religious expression or affiliation outside their direct oversight.

The independent Muslim community "Eski Qırım" has been subjected to repression. On February 29, 2024, Russian security forces conducted searches of the homes of [Idris Yurdamov](#), the head of the community, the imam [Izet Saifulin](#), and activists [Lenur Yakubov](#) and [Shevket Kiiamov](#), as well as the local mosque. Following the searches, Russian security forces filed an administrative report against [Lenur Yakubov](#) under the article on the demonstration of prohibited symbols, after which a "court" sentenced him to [14 days of administrative arrest](#) ("judge" [Anastasiia Bodenko](#)). An administrative report was also filed against [Izet Saifulin](#) under the article on illegal missionary activity; however, the "court" returned it to the occupation [Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) due to improper registration/processing. Simultaneously, the Centre for Countering Extremism filed [an administrative report](#) against the independent Muslim community "Eski Qırım" under the article on the mass distribution of extremist materials, after which a "court" in Crimea [fined](#) the community RUB 100,000 ("judge" [Heorhii Tsertsvadze](#)). Later, the "Supreme Court" of Crimea [upheld](#) the fine ("judge" [Maryna Kolotsei](#)).

In October 2024, the "Supreme Court" of Crimea issued a ruling to liquidate [the independent Muslim community "Alushta."](#) This decision, presided over by "judge" [Oksana Khozhainova](#), was based on alleged repeated and gross violations of Russian laws concerning religion and countering extremism.

Concurrently, the "court" ("judge" [Heorhii Tsertsvadze](#)) rescinded an administrative penalty previously levied in January 2024 by the "court of peace" ("judge" [Ivan Kuvshinov](#)) against imam [Ismail Yurdamov](#). The initial penalty was imposed pursuant to the article addressing illicit missionary activity.

In Simferopol during 2024, the occupying authorities shut down three Muslim schools that belonged to the "Tavria Muftiate." The stated reason for these closures was an alleged connection between the schools and the Habashite movement, as well as with mainland Ukraine (details [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

The occupying authorities in Crimea continue their persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses by improperly using Russian anti-extremist laws. It's important to recall that in 2017, Russia's Supreme Court (with Judges [Yurii Ivanenko](#) and [Halyna Manokhina](#)) labelled this religious group as extremist. In August 2024, Russian security forces carried out at least [five searches](#) of Jehovah's Witnesses' properties, and this escalated to [at least ten searches](#) in October 2024. Following these raids, criminal charges were brought against two believers, [Tamara Brattseva](#) and [Vitalii Buryk](#).

The Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) continues to face significant oppression in Crimea under the occupying authorities. Specifically, in Simferopol, [the dome of the Cathedral of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Volodymyr and Princess Olha](#), was dismantled by order of the occupation administration. Furthermore, the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Yevpatoria was destroyed (details [here](#) and [here](#)), and the [Church of the Resurrection of Christ](#) in northern Crimea was sealed, effectively preventing its use by the congregation.

Violations of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Key trends and facts:

- *Between 2022 and 2024, the occupation administration "nationalized" approximately 3,500 property objects. This "nationalization" of Ukrainian-owned assets generated RUB 4.8 billion for the occupation administration's budget.*
- *As a reward for their participation in the aggressive war against Ukraine, occupation authorities in Crimea transferred at least 2,548 land plots to Russian servicemen.*
- *During the ten years of occupation in Crimea, the occupying authorities have reportedly issued over 1,100 licenses for the extraction of minerals.*
- *In 2024, the occupation authorities imposed restrictions on employment, prohibiting individuals without Russian citizenship from working in 35 different sectors within Crimea.*
- *Reports emerged in Crimea detailing shortages of essential medicines and medical personnel. Furthermore, the treatment of wounded Russian servicemen in civilian hospitals was reportedly prioritized, negatively impacting the healthcare needs of the local civilian population.*
- *The occupiers established a development called "New Chersonese" on the UNESCO World Heritage Site, raising concerns about the preservation of cultural heritage.*

The occupying administration in Crimea persists in its systemic violation of the right to peaceful possession of property. Under the conditions of Russian occupation, the destruction or confiscation of property belonging to Ukrainian citizens, except in instances where such actions are rendered absolutely necessary by military exigencies, constitutes [a war crime](#).

Between 2022 and 2024, the occupying administration in Crimea reportedly "nationalized" [approximately 3,500 property objects](#), with 1,200 of these seizures occurring in 2024 alone. This "nationalization" of property belonging to Ukrainian owners has generated RUB [4.8 billion](#) for the budget of the occupation administration.

The occupying authorities have transferred [at least 2,548 land plots](#) in Crimea to servicemen who participated in the war against Ukraine. In August 2024, the occupiers broadened this practice, allowing participants in the war to receive land plots in Crimea [irrespective of their place of residence or registration](#).

According to ecological data, over the past decade of occupation, the authorities have issued [more than 1,100 licenses for mining activities in Crimea](#).

In violation of the right to work, the occupying authorities in April 2024 imposed a ban on individuals without Russian citizenship working in 35 different sectors. These prohibited areas include crop production, livestock farming, and wholesale and retail trade (further details available [here](#) and [here](#)).

There have been reports of [shortages of certain medicines](#) and medical personnel (details [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) in Crimea, indicating the Russian Federation's failure to comply with Articles [55](#) and [56](#) of the IV Geneva Convention and to guarantee the right of Crimean residents to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

In violation of [Article 57 of the IV Geneva Convention](#), the occupying authorities are reportedly treating wounded military personnel in a civilian hospital, negatively impacting the medical needs of the civilian population. [Available information](#) suggests that both military and civilian patients are being accommodated in shared wards at the 9th City Hospital of Sevastopol. Consequently, the number of scheduled operations for civilians has been reduced by over 50%, and there are reports of military personnel coercing civilians into bringing alcohol to the hospital.

Russia has continued its actions that damage the Tavrian Chersonese and its associated choir, a site recognized as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). In July 2024, the occupying authorities inaugurated the "New Chersonese" within the boundaries of this historical monument. This development involved the destruction of parts of the

original site, the construction of modern buildings, and the removal of some exhibits to the territory of the Russian Federation (further details available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). These actions constitute violations of at least [Article 6](#) of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, [Article 4](#) of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, [Article 1](#) of the First Protocol to the Hague Convention, and [Article 9](#) of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention.

Environmental Degradation

Key trends and facts:

- *During the years of occupation, the area of the nature reserve fund on the Crimean Peninsula has decreased by 17,000 hectares and is often used for purposes other than intended.*
- *The Russian occupation of Crimea has reduced the prospects for the conservation of many rare and endemic species of plants and animals.*
- *The destruction of the Kakhovka HPP dam makes it impossible to restore the peninsula's water supply via the North Crimean Canal, while 50-70% of already purified water is lost in the dilapidated communal infrastructure.*
- *As a result of the mass illegal resettlement of Russian citizens in Crimea, over 1.22 million square meters of housing were commissioned in 2023. The surge in construction is taking place through the destruction of natural territories.*
- *The detrimental impact on Crimea's environment is caused by both missile launches towards mainland Ukraine and the operation of Russian air defence systems. Simultaneously, centres of military activity are located in a number of protected areas, including within Europe's Emerald Network.*
- *Many engineering and fortification structures have been built on natural territories. The area of damaged territory exceeds the area occupied by these engineering and fortification structures.*
- *Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the ecological state of the Black and Azov Seas has significantly deteriorated due to missile launches, oil spills, the sinking of ships, drifting mines, underwater explosions, etc.*

Exploitation of Protected Territories

Under Ukrainian law, the Crimean Peninsula and its adjacent waters contain 196 [Nature Reserve Fund](#) sites, covering 220,000 ha (8.41% of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea). In Sevastopol, 12 Nature Reserve Fund sites cover 26,241 ha, representing 30.27% of the city's area. Under the conditions of occupation and the full-scale war, the occupation authorities have reduced the total area of the Nature Reserve Fund by 16,925.78 ha. This includes 22 natural sites that were completely eliminated and 44 whose boundaries were reduced. Meanwhile, 15 new protected areas, covering a total of 3,005.9 ha, have been created by the occupation authorities. Despite these additions, there is a net loss of 17,000 ha of protected land — areas now subject to construction or Russian military activities (details [available](#) here).

Loss of Special Status for Red Data Book Species

For nearly half of the species listed in the Book, Crimea represents the only region in Ukraine where they are found. Additionally, 44 plant species, one lichen species, and 19 animal species are endemic to Crimea, meaning they exist nowhere else in the world. The occupation of Crimea has led to the breakdown of protection measures previously afforded under Ukrainian environmental legislation, leaving many species once safeguarded without any legal protection. This loss is particularly significant for species that were exclusively protected under Ukrainian law. The chances for continued protection now exist only for species that are [simultaneously listed](#) in both Ukraine's Red Data Book and the Russian Federation's Red Data Book. Thirdly, the preservation of these species faces further complications due to environmentally damaging measures undertaken by the occupying authorities. These include the plowing of steppes for afforestation projects, various construction activities, the redirection of rivers for water supply purposes, increased recreational pressure on natural areas, the introduction of paid hunting, and the felling of trees. For instance, the reduction of water flow in Crimean rivers can lead to a decline in the living conditions of not only common species but also endemic ones that are already facing the threat of extinction, such as 3 species of freshwater fish, 3 species of insects, and one species of amphibian.

Water Supply

Many international experts have identified Russia's ambition to restore water supply via the North Crimean Canal as a significant underlying motive for the full-scale invasion of Ukraine (details [here](#) and [here](#)). Demonstrating this strategic importance, Russian forces [destroyed the dam](#) obstructing the Canal in the Kherson region on February 26, 2022, just three days into the invasion. The initiation of the full-scale invasion even reversed [long-standing efforts](#) by the Russian government to establish an independent water supply for Crimea. For instance, following the re-establishment of water flow through the Canal, the occupying authorities abandoned plans to construct desalination plants, and projects focused on wastewater treatment and utilization [were also halted](#). A major setback occurred on June 6, 2023, when Russian troops blew up the dam of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station. This act severed the water intake for the North Crimean Canal from the Kakhovka reservoir, rendering it unusable. Water losses have consistently plagued Crimea's water infrastructure. These losses are attributed not only to the significant evaporation of approximately half the water during its transit through the Canal but also to the dilapidated state of communal facilities, where an estimated [50-70%](#) of already purified water is lost before reaching consumers.

Consequences of uncontrolled construction

According to some estimates, [up to 800,000 Russian citizens](#) have illegally moved to occupied Crimea since the beginning of 2014. The mass migration of citizens of the aggressor state to Crimea has led to the need for large-scale construction. The occupation administration stated that [over 1.22 million square meters of housing](#) were commissioned in 2023, of which about 800,000 square meters were individual housing, and the rest were apartment buildings. By the end of 2024, the occupiers planned to commission another 1.33 million square meters of housing. The surge in construction is taking place through the destruction of natural territories, the reduction of wild animal and plant populations, and the destruction of their habitats. This also exacerbates chronic problems associated with the treatment of municipal wastewater and solid waste landfills.

Impact of hostilities in Crimea

Despite the practical absence of ground combat operations in occupied Crimea as of June 2024, the peninsula's territory has been very actively involved in military actions since February 2022. In particular, Russian forces from the territory of Crimea and adjacent waters launch missile strikes on mainland Ukraine. In turn, the Armed Forces of Ukraine strike Russian military targets in Crimea using missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, and surface vessels. Areas of military activity are located in a number of protected areas, most of which belong to Europe's Emerald Network. These natural ecosystems have been subjected to noise and light pollution, as well as explosions of ammunition due to the chaotic scattering of Russian air defence shells. The most detrimental impact has been on wintering and migratory bird concentrations, especially around the Syvash lake complex. In addition, a certain correlation can be traced when comparing fire areas and centres of military activity.

Construction of fortifications

The occupiers have built a wide network of engineering and fortification structures (EFS) [on the isthmuses connecting to mainland Ukraine](#), [along the western coast of Crimea](#), on the Arabat Spit, [the isthmus of the Kerch Peninsula](#), and [along the North Crimean Canal](#). In many cases, the EFS are located in important natural territories,

including the "Charming Harbor" National Nature Park and within Europe's Emerald Network. The construction of EFS is one of the most significant factors of negative impact on landscapes. It also poses a serious threat to many biological species due to the destruction of vegetation, disruption of soil cover and geochemical processes, the hydrological balance of groundwater, a deficit of natural moisture, and even possible desertification. Therefore, the actual area of territory damaged as a result of trench construction is significantly larger than the area occupied by the fortification itself.

Pollution of the marine environment

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the negative impact of militarization on the Black and Azov Seas has significantly intensified. Russian warships create environmental threats not only during missile launches and the use of radar but also due to oil spills, which form an oxygen-impermeable film on the sea surface. Military ships also pose a threat when they end up at the bottom of the sea after sinking. For example, the Russian cruiser "Moskva," which sank in the northwestern part of the Black Sea, could have had up to 1,740 tons of fuel oil on board. Drifting mines, which now move uncontrollably through the waters of the Black Sea, can lead to the death of animals within a large radius of the detonation site. In the period from January to October 2022, about a thousand cases of cetacean deaths were recorded in the Black Sea, which is 2-3 times more than in 2019-2021. The causes of their death may be acoustic and blast trauma from underwater explosions, as well as the radars of warships and submarines operating at the same frequencies at which cetaceans perceive sounds.

As a result of the accident involving the tankers "Volgoneft-212" and "Volgoneft-239," which occurred on December 15, 2024, in the Kerch Strait, the damage may reach USD 14 billion. Over 250 km of the Crimean coast has been polluted by fuel oil, resulting in the death of dolphins and birds. The occupying authorities stated that 60 tons of fuel oil had been collected.