CRIMEA REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN CRIMEA **SOS** MAY 2025

Residents of Crimea die in the war and are persecuted. Official warnings have been served. Educational institutions promote military topics. New cases of enforced disappearances, criminal cases, and convictions have been recorded. Political prisoners continue to be subjected to cruel treatment and transferred to penitentiary institutions inside the russian federation. New damage to cultural heritage and violations of religious freedoms have been identified. Two Crimean Tatars face extradition. Environmental problems are observed. Ukrainian troops continue striking military targets on the peninsula.

Conscription and death of Crimeans in the war Crimeans continue suffering losses in the war - another local died. Schoolchildren are forced to write postcards for the "heroes of the special military operation". In Sevastopol schools, children are required to create postcards for the "defenders of the fatherland". Propaganda videos are made without parents' consent: children are dressed in Soviet uniforms. In Dzhankoi, vocational school students are recruited to work at military warehouses - an unofficial "part-time job". Vacationers are engaged in weaving camouflage nets.

New cases of enforced disappearance 24-year-old Crimean Tatar Khatizhe Buiukchan disappeared, details of the arrest and whereabouts are unknown. People in Sevastopol who introduced themselves as FSB officers detained Serhii Hrishchenkov. The whereabouts and health status of Tamara Chernukha, a resident of Chornomorske, born in 1963 still remains unknown. Relatives received replies about Chernukha's alleged "absence" in Crimean places of detention.

Persecution

russian authorities have included Crimean human rights activist Lutfiie Zudiieva on the list of so-called "foreign agents". 82-year-old Zevdzhet Kurtumerov has been detained throughout the day, and was released only in the evening. On the eve of the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Crimean Tatar Genocide, police officers served warnings to Crimean Tatar human rights defenders and activists. Ibraim Osmanov was forced to paint over patriotic symbols on the gate of his own yard and publicly apologize.

Persecution for antiwar and pro-Ukrainian

The russians have opened a criminal case against a 52-year-old resident of Sovietskui, who called on the Internet to destroy the Crimean Bridge. He faces a maximum penalty of up to seven years in prison under Part 2 of Article 205.2 statements of the criminal code (public calls for terrorist activities). Crimean Olha Drobchuk was detained. It is alleged that she "waited for the Armed Forces of Ukraine". A protocol was drawn up against her under Part 1 of Article 20.3.3 of the code of administrative offences. A 30-year-old resident of Sevastopol has been fined RUB 45,000 for discrediting the russian armed forces. The occupation Kyiv District Court of Simferopol found Simeiz resident Denus Sass guilty of Part 1 of Article 20.3 of the code of administrative offenses (propaganda or public display of Nazi paraphernalia) and sentenced him to two days of administrative arrest. It was reported that the man was spreading Ukrainian symbols on the social network Vkontakte.

Criminal cases

The prosecutor's office of Crimea approved an indictment in a criminal case under Article 280 of the criminal code (public calls to engage in extremist activities) against Yalta resident Olena Husieva. Another criminal case has been sent to the Southern District Military Court regarding the financing of terrorism by a citizen of Ukraine he is charged under Part 1.1 of Article 205.1 of the criminal code (facilitation of terrorist activities). According to the investigation, the man financed the activities of the "Azov" association. Residents of Sevastopol and former Ukrainian servicemen Serhii Likhomanov, and Ruslan Chornui-Shvets will be "tried" by the Southern District Military Court on charges of preparing a terrorist attack. The Crimean prosecutor's office is accusing a <u>Kerch resident</u> of "high treason" for allegedly providing Ukrainian intelligence with data on air defence systems. A criminal case has been opened against a 53-year-old resident of the Chornomorske area, who is accused of collaborating with the Security Service of Ukraine.

The so-called "Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea" passed a verdict against a Crimean born in 1983, finding him guiltu of "high treason" and sentencing him to 18 years in prison with subsequent restriction of liberty for 1,5 year, and a fine of RUB 400 thousand (judge - Alla Khinevych). The same judge (Alla Khinevych) found a 59-year-old resident of Dzhankoi guilty of "high treason" and sentenced him to 20 years in a strict regime colony, 1 year and 10 months of restricted liberty, and a fine of RUB 300,000. The Southern District Court in Rostov-on-Don found Dmytro Adamenko guilty and sentenced him to 12 years in prison in a case of preparation for high treason (judge Pavlo Hubariev). He was charged under articles on preparation for high treason (Part 1 of Article 30, Article 275 of the criminal code), preparation for participation in a terrorist organization (Part 1 of Article 30, Part 2 of Article 205.5 of the criminal code), and justification of terrorism on the Internet (Part 2 of Article 205.2 of the criminal code). The Nakhimovskyi District Court of Sevastopol passed a verdict under Article 280 of the criminal code (public calls to engage in extremist activities) against a 34-year-old resident of Sevastopol, sentencing her to one year in prison with a probationary period of two years (Judge Valerii Kuznietsov). Three men in Crimea have reportedly been sentenced for "treason". They allegedly transmitted data about russian military facilities. The so-called Supreme Court of Crimea sentenced men to imprisonment in a colony for a term of: Afanasiev – 15 years, Viunenko – 15 years with restriction of liberty for a term of 1,5 year; Kovirnychenko – 16 years with restriction of liberty for a term of 1,5 year, and a fine of RUB 400 thousand.

The verdict of December 26, 2024, issued by the occupation court of Sevastopol, which sentenced Oksana Senedzhuk to 15 years in prison for "high treason", was left unchanged at the appeal hearing (judge – Ihor Kozhevnikov).

Journalist Rustem Sheikhaliiev was transferred to Blagoveshchensk prison in the Amur region. Journalist Osman Arifmemetov was taken to a penal colony in the Orenburg Region. Political prisoner Ansar Osmanov was taken to prison #2 in the city of Volodymyr. Political prisoners <u>Tymur Yalkabov and Ruslan Suleimanov</u> were transferred to correctional colony #17 in the Murmansk region.

Journalist Remzi Bekirov is in harsh conditions of detention, where he was placed in November 2024. He is not allowed to perform the daily prayer, which is obligatory for Conditions of detention Muslims. At least two other political prisoners - Muslim Aliiev and Teimor Abdullaiev were also thrown into punishment cells simply for reciting prayers.

The occupiers are threatening <u>Crimean Tatars Nasrulla Seidaliiev and Lenur</u> Seidametov, who are serving illegal imprisonment in the territory of the russian federation, with deportation to Uzbekistan. Both men were born in Uzbekistan during Stalin's deportation of the Crimean Tatar people, but lived and worked in Ukraine.

Illegal archaeological excavations are underway on the territory of Khansaray, threatening the destruction of historical heritage and causing concern among scientists and the public.

320 tons of sand-fuel oil mixture were taken to the unfinished nuclear power plant in Shcholkine, where it is stored in the open air. Locals fear that this will destroy the resort potential of their city and expose people to environmental threats. Hundreds of thousands of tons of poisonous fuel oil are lying in bags in the open air on the shores of the Sea of Azov.

The Security Service of Ukraine, using surface and air drones, destroyed the Neva radar station, warehouses and a residential block on gas production platforms in the Black Sea. After the strike, the <u>warehouses of the 126th Coastal Defence Brigade</u> of the russian Black Sea Fleet in Perevalne burned and exploded. In the Black Sea, drone boats managed to shoot down two russian Su-30 fighter jets.

Decisions of the courts of appeal and cassation

Transfers to penitentiary institutions in russia

Threat of extradition

Damage to cultural heritage

Environmental challenges

Military operations