



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

MAY 2017

The pressure on Crimean activists by the means of searches, detentions and administrative persecution increased during last month. Administrative penalties (arrests, fines) were applied against three activists, the places of five activists were searched. On May 18, on the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar People, several people were detained, mass events on that day were banned.

The de facto Crimean authorities continue to use the practice of administrative prosecution for publications in social networks.

On May 23, Rustem Mennanov, the Crimean Tatar activist, was charged with having committed an administrative offense. He wrote the post in the occasion of Mustafa Dzhemilev's birthday, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people was indirectly mentioned in the post. The illegality of this measure is not only that the message does not contain any violent appeals, but also that the very ban of the Mejlis is illegal.

In the repressive actions committed by the de-facto authorities, there is now a tendency to apply a disproportionate amount of forces and special means involved during the searches at activists' places.

On May 8, searches were conducted at Ilver Ametov's house. He is the head of the Sudak district Mejlis. Also searches were conducted at Yusuf Toroz's house, in Morskoye - the settlement of compact residence of the Crimean Tatars. The road from Sudak to Morske, including the settlement itself, was blocked by the SOBR special police officers in several buses. More than ten armed and masked security officers conducted searches in these and other cases in May. The de-facto law-enforcers beat and abducted Ametov's and Toroz's sons. Amet Ametov was released later, while Server Thoroz was taken to the Krasnodar Territory. His whereabouts and the possible charges remain unknown.

The practice of indiscriminate pressure on the Crimean Tatar community with regard to the people who are not activists but united by ethnicity causes extreme fears. On May 7, the police raided the houses of 18 families of Crimean Tatars in the villages near the Sudak region. During that raid the Crimean Tatars were interrogated under a questionnaire, which consisted of the questions of a religious nature. According to the de facto police, the event was centralized and conducted throughout the territory of the Crimea.

The occupation authorities of the Crimea banned holding of mass events at the Day of Remembrance of the victims of deportation of the Crimean Tatar people on May 18. In addition, the Russian law enforcement officers tried to prevent Crimean Tatars from honoring the memory of the victims of deportation by other ways that were not prohibited by law. The de facto prosecutor's office sent mass warnings to Crimean Tatar activists about the "inacceptability of violation of the law" and "extremist activity". On May 18, along with dozens of detentions, the de facto police blocked commemorative plaques and other places where the people planned to honor the memory of the victims of deportation. It should be noted that the people and vehicles with the Crimean Tatar national flag were subjected to detention. The national flag of Crimean Tatars is not a forbidden symbol, according to the legislation of the RF. Five drivers of the cars with the Crimean Tatar flag are facing fines for up to RUR 10 000.

In the end of May, the Investigatory Committee of the Russian Federation in the Crimea completed the preliminary investigation in Belial Adilov's criminal case, the materials will be submitted to the court soon. **Adilov faces up to 5 years of imprisonment for the verbal conflict with the police officers during the search in the house of his neighbor** Emil Dzhemadenov, who was subsequently arrested in the Hizb ut-Tahrir case.

In May, political trials against deputy head of the Mejlis Akhtem Chygoz and journalist Mykola Semena continued. Illegal arrests of the "diversionists" Oleksii Bessarabov, Dmytro Shtyblivkov and Volodymyr Dudka, as well as the Bakhchisarai "four", accused of having links with the Hizb ut-Tahrir, have been prolonged. The Russian Prosecutor's Office demanded again to harden the sentence for Ruslan Zeitullayev to 17 years in jail. Also, the de facto authorities refused to initiate a criminal investigation upon the facts of torture against the "diversionists" - Evhen Panov and Andrei Zakhtei.

On May 26 Crimean lawyer Emil Kurbedinov, who represents the defendants in the Hizb ut-Tahrir cases and a number of other political prisoners, received the prestigious human rights award Front Line Defenders for Human Rights Defenders at Risk in 2017.



1.

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2.

“ The practice of indiscriminate pressure on the Crimean Tatar community

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“ The occupation authorities of the Crimea banned holding of mass events at the Day of Remembrance of the victims of deportation of the Crimean Tatar people on May 18

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