



CRIMEA SITUATION REPORT

APRIL 2017

On April 19, 2017 the International Court of Justice decided on provisional measures regarding ethnic discrimination of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian communities in the occupied Crimea. Two new criminal cases were initiated in April 2017 - against Igor Movenko and Ruslan Zeytullaev. The pressure on civil activists and ethnic discrimination of the Crimean Tatars continue.

On April 1, a spring conscription campaign to the military of the Russian Federation was launched in the occupied Crimea. It is planned to recruit 2,400 people during this spring campaign. For the first time recruits will serve in the mainland of Russia (about 20 conscripts). At least one criminal case has been initiated upon refusal to serve in the Russian army. In accordance with Geneva Convention IV these actions present war crime.

The criminal prosecution on political motives remains in place in April. On April 26 the North Caucasian District Military Court has changed the sentence for Ruslan Zeytullaev – a defendant of Hizb ut-Tahrir case – and sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment. Ruslan Zeytullaev held a 22 days hunger strike in protest of unjust trial. Ruslan was not provided with qualified medical treatment that put his life and health in risk. Arsen Dzheparov – another defendant of Hizb ut-Tahrir case, needs urgent surgical intervention, however he was denied medical treatment in pre-trial detention center in Simferopol. The rights of non-political prisoners are also violated. On April 24, Andrei Lugin and Yury Mikhailov - two convicts Ukraine citizens - announced a dry hunger strike against refusal in medical assistance and against the transfer them to the Russian territory. On April 26 – on the day of transfer Lugin cut his veins. On April 7 another politically motivated criminal case against Igor Movenko under para 2 art. 280 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation - call for extremist for comments in the social network group "Crimea-Ukraine"- was initiated. Previously he was beaten by allegedly representatives of law enforcement agencies for wearing the symbols of the Azov battalion.

Mass searches, detentions, administrative prosecution and raids are used as a means for systematic ethnic discrimination of the Crimean Tatars. In April firearms and disproportionate physical force was used for the first time during such special operation. Early in the morning on April 13, searches were conducted in the houses of Seydamet Mustafayev and Midat Muzhdabaev. The searches were conducted as a special operation. De facto authorities blocked the road; a large number of special vehicles and de facto law enforcement officers were involved. Officers of Special Police Forces provoked the local residents, that resulted in use of disproportionate physical force and shooting in the air. One of the civilian was hospitalized. Seydamet Mustafayev was sentenced for 17 days of arrest, Midat Muzhdabaev - for 3 days. Four Crimean Tatars witnessing searches were arrested for the terms from 2 to 7 days, another was fined for 10 000 rubles. De facto Special Police Forces raided the central market of Simferopol, as a result about 60 Crimean Tatars were detained. The detainees were photographed, fingerprinted and saliva samples were taken for DNA. On April, 26, another raid took place in Simferopol's radio market, a Crimean Tatar - Izet - a self-employed entrepreneur was detained. On April 21, Abebe Reshatova was detained by Russian police, she was interrogated in the police car with sack on her head.

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