

During the 10 years of occupation of the Crimean Peninsula, Russia has built a large-scale system of repression against those who disagree with the occupation of the. Civilians and journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers, media representatives fall under the repressive mechanisms.

During the period of occupation of Crimea, **356 political prisoners** and those prosecuted for fabricated criminal cases, **222 of them are Crimean Tatars**.

As of August 2024, there are **218 Crimean political prisoners** in Russian prisons, **132** of them are Crimean Tatars. 174 prisoners are illegally serving their sentences on the territory of Russia, 44 are still in Crimean pre-trial detention centres and they are still awaiting the trial of being transferred to Russian colonies.

Enforced disappearances

During the 10 years of occupation, at least **65 people** in Crimea became victims of enforced disappearances, the fate and whereabouts of **21 of them** still remain unknown.

Among the missing: Ivan Bondarets, Valerii Vashchuk, Vasyl Chernysh, Tymur Shaimardanov, Seyran Zinedinov, Eskender Ibraimov, Islam Dzhapparov, Jevdet Islyamov, Eskender Apseliamov, Fedir Kostenko, Mukhtar Arislanov, Serlan Aniev, Arlen Shaliev, Arlen Saliev, E.Yu Abylyazov, Haydai L.S., Pavlenko T.M., Ervin Ibragimov, Arsen Aliyev.

Political prisoners with health problems

According to ZMINA Human Rights Centre, as of September 2024, **67 political prisoners** have health problems, more than half of them need immediate medical assistance.

Persecution of journalists in Crimea and pressure on mass media

After the Russian occupation of Crimea, a large-scale attack on freedom of expression and the introduction of a policy of destruction of independent mass media and informational isolation of Crimean residents began. After the deadline set by Russia in 2015 for the re-registration of Crimean mass media under Russian law, **232 mass media were registered**, of which **163** were print media and news agencies. This is almost 13 times less than what worked before the occupation, for example, according to the UN, as of the beginning of 2014, about **3,000** mass media were registered in Crimea.

ZMINA Human Rights Centre recorded **162 cases** of pressure on journalists in the temporarily occupied Crimea during 2022-2023. Criminal prosecution of journalists.

Since 2014, at least **21** Crimean journalists have been prosecuted, **15** of them are still behind the bars

1. Vladyslav Yesypenko – 5 years of imprisonment
2. Asan Akhtemov – 15 years of imprisonment
3. Oleksiy Bessarabov – 14 years of imprisonment
4. Serhii Tsygipa – 13 years of imprisonment
5. Marlen Asanov – 19 years of imprisonment
6. Tymur Ibragimov – 17 years of imprisonment
7. Seyran Saliev – 15 years of imprisonment
8. Server Mustafaev – 14 years of imprisonment
9. Ramzi Bekirov – 19 years of imprisonment
10. Ruslan Suleymanov – 14 years of imprisonment
11. Osman Aryfmemetov – 14 years of imprisonment
12. Rustem Sheikhaliyev – 14 years of imprisonment
13. Amet Suleymanov – 12 years of imprisonment, has a disability
14. Iryna Danylovych – 6 years and 11 months of imprisonment
15. Vilen Temeryanov – is at risk of imprisonment
16. Nariman Memedeminov – served 2.5 years of imprisonment
17. Mykola Semena – conditional imprisonment
18. Ayder Kadyrov – penalty

Persecution of lawyers and human rights defenders

According to the Regional Center for Human Rights **1,700** Ukrainian lawyers were registered on the territory of the Crimean Peninsula before the occupation. As of the end of 2023, there are about **800** of them left, approximately about 100 lawyers have moved from the territory of the Russian Federation. "Crimean Solidarity" has documented at least **15 cases of pressure** on Crimean lawyers working on politically motivated cases over the past few years. Among of them: Lilia Gemedzhi, Rustem Kyamilev, Nazim Sheikhmambetov, Mykola Polozov, Oleksiy Ladin, Emine Avamileva, Ayder Azamatov, Edem Semedlyayev, Emil Kurbedinov and human rights activist Lutfie Zudieva.