

UKRAINIAN WOMEN IN RUSSIAN DETENTION



IRYNA DANYLOVYCH

— a citizen journalist and nurse from Crimea, tortured for writing the truth.

She advocated for the rights of health workers and reported on court hearings on politically motivated cases in the occupied Crimea. Iryna was abducted in April 2022. For 13 days, no one knew about her whereabouts; it was revealed that she was polygraph tested, strangled, threatened to be murdered and forced to sign a blank paper. She was accused of “possessing explosives” and sentenced to 6 years and 11 months in prison. Due to the inhumane conditions of detention, Iryna developed an ear infection, lost hearing in her left ear, had a stroke behind bars and suffers from constant headaches. She is held in a colony in the Stavropol region of Russia.



HALYNA DOVHOPOLA

— a pensioner from Crimea, thrown behind bars for criticizing the occupation.

A 69-year-old Halyna was detained on 1 November 2019 in occupied Crimea, charged with “high treason” and sentenced to 12 years in a maximum security penal colony. She is not provided with adequate medical care, suffers from gastritis, lost a lot of weight and experienced physical violence in the Lefortovo detention centre, where she was beaten by a cellmate. Now, she is held in the Vladimir region of Russia.



IRYNA HOROBTSOVA

— a human rights defender and a volunteer, detained on her birthday.

Since the occupation of Kherson in March 2022, she had been providing help to healthcare workers as a driver-volunteer and participated in peaceful rallies against the occupation. In May 2022, on her birthday, Russians searched the apartment where Iryna lived with her parents and took her in an unknown direction. In 2024, she was sentenced to 10 years and 6 months in prison for “espionage” and detained in occupied Crimea. Now, Iryna is being transferred from the place of detention in occupied Crimea to Russia. She has problems with her heart and does not receive medical assistance.



NATALIIA KOZHEMIATSKA

— an abducted saleswoman from Nova Kakhovka (Kherson region).

She was abducted by Russians in May 2024 and accused of “high treason”. Nataliia was transported from one police station to another within the occupied Kherson region, subjected to physical and psychological pressure and attempts to extract a confession. Nataliia’s whereabouts are currently unknown.

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MARHARYTA KHARENKO

— a pharmacist and volunteer from Melitopol, sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment.

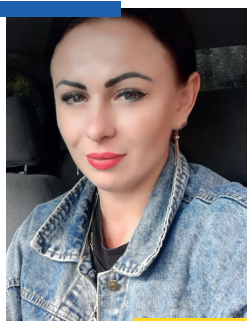
Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, she stayed in occupied Melitopol (Zaporizhzhia region) and had been working as a pharmacist and social media manager of the “Ukrainian Volunteer Service” charity organization. On 9 January 2023, Russians abducted Marharyta, searched her home and accused her of “terrorism”. Marharyta was transferred to Rostov in 2024, where she was sentenced to 20 years for “participating in a terrorist community that transmitted data on the movement of Russian military vehicles, as well as blowing up a car with Russian military personnel”.



IRYNA NAVALNA

— detained for “terrorism” while cycling to the sea.

Iryna came to visit her grandmother in occupied Mariupol (Donetsk region). She was detained by Russians while cycling to the sea in September 2022. She was placed in the Donetsk detention centre, beaten, and forced to confess to “preparing a terrorist attack.” Iryna was sentenced to 8 years for allegedly “trying to blow up one of the polling stations during a fake referendum”. Iryna’s grandmother saw during the visit that Iryna had health problems: she was pale, and her whole body was covered in ulcers.



YANINA AKULOVA

— a mother of 2 children and massage therapist, convicted for love to Ukraine.

She was abducted in occupied Melitopol (Zaporizhzhia region) in October 2022, held incommunicado for a month and tortured. Later, Yanina was sentenced to 9 in prison and detained in the Lefortovo detention centre in Russia. She said at the trial, “I am convicted for my love for Ukraine”. She has 2 minor children waiting for her at home.



IRYNA LEVCHENKO

— a journalist, held in detention without charges for almost 2 years.

She was abducted together with her husband from their house in occupied Melitopol (Zaporizhzhia region) in May 2023. They were accused of “terrorist activities”. Torture might be applied to the spouses. The place of detention of Iryna Levchenko and her husband is unknown.