



**Submission to the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the  
Russian Federation about the  
violation of Article 12 “Right to physical and mental health” and Article 2.2  
“Non-discrimination” of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

**Prepared by the Human Rights Centre ZMINA, Civic Initiative “Irade” and Human  
Rights House Crimea**

**Brief description:**

Part 1 focuses on the denial of adequate medical care to prisoners held in penitentiary institutions in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol or originally coming from there. Since the start of the occupation, authorities have failed to provide acceptable conditions in pre-trial detention centres and prisons. Prisoners are subjected to overcrowding, torture, poor nutrition, and severe restrictions on access to healthcare. The situation is particularly grave for individuals with chronic illnesses or disabilities, many of whom have not received even basic medical treatment. Numerous documented cases show that political prisoners have been denied hospitalization, life-saving medications, and diagnostic tests, with some dying in custody as a result.

The submission details cases of individuals who died due to untreated medical conditions, whose deaths were the direct result of prolonged neglect, abuse, and poor detention conditions. Others continue to suffer severe health deterioration in prison, with international appeals for their release ignored by the occupying authorities. The lack of access to healthcare, especially for political prisoners and marginalized groups such as Crimean Tatars, amounts to cruel, inhuman treatment and clear discrimination, in breach of Russia’s obligations under international law.

Part 2 addresses the militarization of the civilian healthcare system in Crimea. The submission highlights how, despite a chronic shortage of medical personnel civilian hospitals and clinics have been repurposed to serve Russian military needs since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Entire hospital departments have been converted to military wards, medical staff have been transferred or conscripted into military service, and critical care services for civilians have been reduced or eliminated. In many cases, patients are forced to travel long distances to access treatment, and emergency medical services have been diverted to serve Russian troops, leaving civilians without reliable care.

This militarization of the healthcare system further compounds the discrimination and denial of medical services for the local population, undermining the right to health for civilians in occupied Crimea and placing vulnerable groups at particular risk.

## Part 1

### **Lack of medical assistance in the penitentiary institutions of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, and in the Russian Federation**

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol have been under occupation by the Russian Federation for over 11 years. The civilian population of the temporarily occupied territory of the Crimean Peninsula is under constant repression by the Russian occupation authorities. People are kept in fear, persecuted, abducted; they face illegal searches of their homes, trumped-up criminal cases against them, and illegal court trials with violation of international standards. As of January 1, 2025, at least 220 political prisoners from the temporarily occupied Crimea are being held in detention, including those who were illegally transferred from the newly occupied territories of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions to the territory of the Crimean Peninsula after 2022. The most vulnerable groups of the Crimean population are those with an active pro-Ukrainian position, journalists, human rights activists, religious figures, as well as indigenous people of Ukraine, Crimean Tatars, whom are persecuted on religious and national grounds and illegally convicted on fabricated cases for terms of 7 to 20 years of imprisonment. The majority of political prisoners have been illegally transferred from Crimean pre-trial detention centres to penitentiary institutions on the territory of the Russian Federation.

The conditions of detention in pre-trial detention centres, prisons and penal colonies, both in the temporarily occupied Crimea and on the territory of the Russian Federation, are most often completely unacceptable and inhumane. Prisoners are kept in overcrowded cells, subjected to torture, and are not provided with proper sanitary conditions, normal nutrition and deprived of other human rights. One of the main problems of penitentiary institutions of the Russian Federation and institutions under its effective control in the occupied territories is the problem of non-provision of medical assistance to political prisoners, which is expressed in such aspects as refusal of urgent hospitalization despite the need, denial of access to medicines, lack of adequate examination of sick political prisoners, lack of adequate response of the administration and employees of penitentiary institutions to requests for medical examinations and, in some cases, complete ignoring of prisoners' complaints about non-provision of medical assistance.

This problem is also manifested in the complete degradation of conditions in penitentiary institutions since the very beginning of the occupation of the Crimean Peninsula, as noted in the reports by the so-called “Human Rights Commissioner in the Republic of Crimea”, whose duties include supervising the observance and provision of proper conditions in the penitentiary system. The critical issue is the absence of a separate authority responsible for the medical and sanitary provision of penitentiary institutions on the peninsula during the first two years of the occupation. As noted in the report of the “Crimean Ombudsman” as of 2015,

such a “body” was created only in 2016<sup>1</sup>. Until then, the organization of medical care was handled by the medical and sanitary unit №23 of the Federal Service for the Prevention and Punishment of Crime and Punishment (FSIN) of the Krasnodar Territory, which caused irreversible negative consequences for the issue of proper provision of medical assistance to prisoners, including political prisoners.

Based on the assessment of the so-called “Crimean Ombudsman” in the reports for the period from 2015 to 2021, the specified unit did not cope well with these duties, an extremely low level of provision of medical units with medicines was revealed, and the most necessary medicines were absent. Additional efforts had to be made to ensure that representatives of the Krasnodar Territory provided the pre-trial detention centres in Simferopol with necessary medicines. In addition, the reports indicate that numerous appeals from applicants were registered about the failure to provide necessary medical care, particularly the provision of anti-tuberculosis and antiretroviral drugs. The creation in 2016 of a separate unit, Medical and Sanitary Unit No. 91, in the penitentiary system in occupied Crimea did not solve the problem. It is not fully staffed, which, combined with the critical overcrowding of prisoners in the pre-trial detention centres, creates huge problems in diagnosing diseases and providing medical care to prisoners. The unresolved problem with the medical staff of prisons in occupied Crimea remains relevant till now.

Information on the number of deaths in Crimean penitentiary institutions was mentioned in the “Crimea Ombudsman’s” [report](#) in 2017<sup>2</sup>. Thus, 14 people died in Crimean prisons in 2017, of which only one was not due to health reasons. The causes of death include hemorrhagic shock, HIV, and heart failure. Another important indicator for assessing the state of provision of medical assistance to prisoners, which was published in the report, was the number of people who were hospitalized. During the year, despite the lack of full-time employees, only 20 people were sent to specialized medical institutions, 16 of whom were sick with tuberculosis.

In 2018, information on hospitalizations was not disclosed, but the so-called “Crimean Ombudsman” indicated<sup>3</sup> that during this time, 3,005 prisoners sought medical assistance, of which 2,610 were provided with medical care without removal outside the penitentiary institutions, 71 people received medical assistance outside the penitentiary institutions. This means that 324 people did not receive any medical assistance at all. Among the 13 people

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the “Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Crimea” on the observance of human and citizen rights and freedoms in the Republic of Crimea in 2015:

[https://map.ombudsmanrf.org/Karta\\_Yadro/prav\\_z\\_karta/sub\\_fed/ugniy\\_fed/respublika\\_krim/dokument\\_krim/dokument\\_1/dokument\\_1web.pdf](https://map.ombudsmanrf.org/Karta_Yadro/prav_z_karta/sub_fed/ugniy_fed/respublika_krim/dokument_krim/dokument_1/dokument_1web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the “Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Crimea” on the observance of human and citizen rights and freedoms in the Republic of Crimea in 2017:

<http://crimea.gov.ru/textdoc/ru/7/project/1547pr.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Report of the “Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Crimea” on the observance of human and citizen rights and freedoms in the Republic of Crimea in 2018:

<http://www.crimea.gov.ru/textdoc/ru/7/act/2309pr.pdf>

who died in detention during 2018, 8 were due to problems directly related to health (oncology – 1, heart disease – 3, cirrhosis – 1, HIV – 2, cerebral edema – 1). Thus, on September 20, 2018, it became known about Person 1's hunger strike in protest against the lack of medical care. As his lawyer noted, his health condition deteriorated significantly in the detention centre: his leg and arm were paralyzed, his tongue was twisted, and his headaches intensified. He himself noted that during the 10 months of imprisonment, he had been turned into a “vegetable”.

Because of this and other reasons, 2019 became a record year for the number of deaths of prisoners. Among the 27 deaths, 25 were due to health-related problems. The most common cause of death among remanded and convicted persons was cardiovascular diseases, 10 people, which is 40% of the total number of deaths this year. In 5 cases, death was caused by HIV, in 3 cases – by pneumonia, in 4 cases – by tuberculosis, in 2 cases – due to oncological diseases, and in 1 case – due to asthma.

**The penitentiary system in temporarily occupied Crimea is generally unable to provide an adequate level of medical care, which is also accompanied by discrimination by prison staff against political prisoners (violation of Article 2.2 of the Covenant), whose requests for assistance are rejected, or the medications prescribed by a doctor are not provided.**

Human rights activists have documented numerous cases in which political prisoners with complex illnesses – both in Crimean prisons and those transferred to facilities in the Russian Federation – are held in appalling conditions. These prisoners are frequently placed in penal cells where the water and food are of poor quality, the humidity and cold are severe, and sanitation is lacking. Such conditions lead to the rapid spread of disease, especially in overcrowded cells, where most inmates suffer from illnesses that are difficult to treat even under normal circumstances with proper medical care, and virtually impossible to cure within the penitentiary system.

As a result, Crimean political prisoners Person 2 and Person 3 died in Russian detention facilities in February 2023. More recently, in March 2025, political prisoner Person 4 also died in a Russian prison. His death, like the others, was caused by multiple factors, including his deteriorating health and the inadequate conditions of his detention.

On February 7, 2023, it became known about the death of Person 2, who was detained in the occupied Crimea and illegally deprived of his freedom by the Russian Federation in 2020 due to accusations of participation in the activities of the “Ukrainian intelligence and sabotage group”. In 2021, the “court” of the occupation administration of the Russian Federation in Crimea sentenced him to 12 years in prison for alleged “espionage”. He was transferred to serve his sentence in the colony №5 in the city of Novotroitsk in the Orenburg region of the Russian Federation. Person 2 had cardiovascular diseases and had to take prescribed medication, which was known to the colony’s administration. After arriving at the colony in

Novotroitsk, the administration took away all the medicines and the tonometer from him. Surgeries on the heart and joints were not performed, despite the vital necessity.

On February 10, 2023, it became known about the death of an elderly Person 3 in Novocherkassk pre-trial detention centre №3 in the Rostov region of the Russian Federation. Person 3 was illegally detained during the wave of searches in Crimea, and accused of allegedly “participating in the activities of a terrorist organization”. At the time of imprisonment, he had the 3rd group of disabilities due to heart and kidney diseases. He had chronic kidney failure and needed dialysis. Despite this, he was refused an exemption from the preventive measure. Due to the neglect of his health condition and non-provision of medical care, he suffered a heart attack in the pre-trial detention centre, as a result of which he received the 2nd group of disability. Despite this, the judge of the Southern District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don (Russian Federation) sentenced Person 3 to 13 years in prison.

Crimean Tatar political prisoner Person 4 died in a Russian colony in the city of Dimitrovgrad, Ulyanovsk region, due to his deteriorating health caused by torture, inadequate conditions of detention, and the negligent attitude of prison staff. In 2023, Russian security forces came to search his house. He was detained, then severely beaten and left on the road. The next day, he was detained again. For four months, his family did not know his whereabouts. It later turned out that all this time Person 4 was held in pre-trial detention centre №2 in Chonhar, Kherson region, and later the occupation court in the city of Genichesk sentenced him to eight years in a maximum-security colony on a fabricated criminal case, after which he was transported to a colony in Ufa, and then to Dimitrovgrad. While in the pre-trial detention centre and colony, his health deteriorated sharply. Due to the beatings, his kidneys failed, his blood sugar level rose, his limbs swelled, and fluid accumulated in his lungs. He could not walk, suffered from severe pain, and did not receive medical care, and his relatives were not allowed to send him medicine. In February 2025, it became known that he had died in the Dimitrovgrad colony. The occupation authorities did not give the exact date of death, and the colony workers did not want to give his body to his relatives for burial.

In 2023, the Human Rights Centre ZMINA confirmed the information about at least 28 elderly Crimean political prisoners and 45 political prisoners with chronic diseases, disabilities, and serious illnesses, in some cases acquired during their stay in detention due to torture and lack of treatment. It was confirmed that [21 political prisoners](#)<sup>4</sup> who had health problems did not receive medical care at all. As of July 2025, this number had increased significantly, and among 94 political prisoners who have chronic diseases, disabilities, and serious illnesses, 48 did not receive any medical care, due to which their condition is constantly deteriorating, and they are at risk of death in Russian prisons.

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<sup>4</sup> Report of Human Rights Centre ZMINA “The Hafarov-Shyring list: rescue of Crimean political prisoners at risk”: [https://zmina.ua/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/zmina2023-listofgafarov-shiringen\\_v03-1-1.pdf](https://zmina.ua/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/zmina2023-listofgafarov-shiringen_v03-1-1.pdf)

The most common diseases among Crimean political prisoners are circulatory system diseases, cardiovascular diseases, musculoskeletal disorders, kidney diseases, and others. Some of these conditions are typical “age-related” illnesses. At the same time, it is clear that many of these common health problems can lead to much more severe, often critical consequences in pre-trial detention centres.

For example, some older political prisoners who already had hypertensive conditions suffered strokes or hypertensive crises while in detention. Information about such cases usually comes only from the statements of the victims or their lawyers, as proper medical examinations are not conducted, even when there are clear complaints. A telling example is the case of Person 5, who displayed visually obvious signs of a stroke suffered in a pre-trial detention centre, yet doctors failed to diagnose the condition.

A significant number of detainees suffer from venous stasis. The strict prison regime contributes to its development or significantly worsens existing symptoms – prisoners are forbidden to sit or lie down in their cells during the day (for up to 16 hours daily).

Musculoskeletal diseases (such as back problems and joint arthrosis) are among those that may be chronic or acquired during detention. There are also cases where musculoskeletal or other health issues directly result from violence during arrest or while in detention – for example, the beating of Person 6 or the case of Person 7, who suffered frostbite on his feet after being taken out into the cold wearing only slippers.

Many prisoners suffer from dental diseases. Given the specifics of the development of such diseases, failure to provide timely dental treatment in the future means the threat of losing teeth or is associated with the risks of developing concomitant diseases of the gastrointestinal tract or others.

Also, some prisoners suffer from kidney diseases, digestive system diseases, diseases of the genitourinary system, etc. The course of such diseases, without adequate treatment, literally means constant physical suffering of the detainees, for example, due to urolithiasis, ulcers, etc.

There are also cases of significant deterioration of vision or hearing, as in the case of Person 8, when otitis media without treatment led to partial deafness. Inadequate conditions of detention, lack of medical care, and cases of torture in pre-trial detention centres (beatings, electric shocks, torture due to conditions of detention) result in the exacerbation of chronic diseases of political prisoners, the development of “ordinary” diseases into chronic diseases.

There are known cases of prolonged detention in the pre-trial detention centres of Crimean political prisoners, which had a critical impact on their health condition.

The mutual overlapping of negative consequences of various diseases is critical. There are no prisoners on the list who have only one diagnosed, albeit threatening, disease. Instead, we are





talking about multiple chronic diseases that are exacerbated and combined with the consequences of injuries received in pre-trial detention centres, for example, as a result of beatings, or with the consequences of improper treatment of infectious diseases. Usually, medical diagnostics of the condition of prisoners are not carried out, neither they nor the administration of places of detention are aware of the severity of the diseases and the risks to health and life associated with this. This is directly related to the risk of disability or death. The way to protect sick political prisoners from the risk of disability and death in Russian prisons is to make efforts to secure their immediate release from Russian captivity.

Deterioration of detention conditions can be used by the prison administration as an element of punishment and be equated with cruel treatment or torture according to the international humanitarian law.

Here are a few concrete cases of political prisoners suffering from the non-provision of medical assistance:

In 2022, a human rights defender and citizen journalist Person 8 was abducted from a bus stop in the occupied Crimea. Person's family did not know about her whereabouts for 13 long days. The Person was sentenced to 6,11 years in prison on trumped-up charges and was forcibly transported to the city of Zelenokumsk, Russian Federation.

Since the beginning of the detention, she had been complaining of excruciating earache – otitis is an infection of the ear that causes painful inflammation. The Person 8 was not given proper medical treatment. Instead, she was advised that once the nerve in her ear atrophied, she would become deaf – and that would be when the pain would end. As a result, she lost hearing in her left ear, constantly experiences headaches, has problems with coordination of movements, and suspects having suffered at least one microstroke in prison.

This issue about non-provision of medical assistance to Person 8 has already been raised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, UN SR on Human Rights Defenders Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, PACE Rapporteur on Political Prisoners, EU Delegation to Ukraine, Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as well as many influential organizations, including Committee to Protect Journalists, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, OMCT, and others.

A Crimean Tatar citizen journalist Person 9 is neither provided with vital medical aid. Illegally sentenced to 12 years of house arrest, he was arbitrarily detained by the special services and placed in prison. He has serious heart disease due to which he has 2nd group disability. In addition, he has 2nd degree arthrosis of the legs. Person 9 was examined at the Amosov Cardiovascular Surgery Institute, where he was being prepared for heart valve replacement surgery. His disease is included in the Russian government's list of diseases, the presence of which prevents detention, but it was not taken into consideration by Russians when imprisoning him and, even more, forcibly transferring him to Prison №2 in the city of

Vladimir of the Russian Federation in October 2023. Such transportation constitutes a grave risk for a sick person and could contribute to the deterioration of his health. Medicines, a tonometer, and a pulse oximeter were taken from him. The food does not meet his health condition requirements. In July 2025, he suffered a second hypertensive crisis in a Russian prison. The Person 9 continues to complain of chest pain, rapid fatigue, and general weakness, and has suspicious spots on his face, the cause of which is unknown.

Numerous statements about the state of health of Person 9 have also been made, in particular, by PACE rapporteurs on Human Rights Defenders and Political Prisoners, as well as by Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

In 2019, the Crimea activist Person 10 was arrested on false accusations and sentenced to 12 years in a maximum security prison. He was transferred to a prison in Chelyabinsk region of the Russian Federation, 2,700 km from his home. In 2024, his health worsened dramatically, and he was diagnosed with 8 diseases, which he acquired while in prison, in particular tuberculosis. Some of these diseases are included in the list of diseases that prevent detention by the legislation of the Russian Federation, but Russian authorities refuse to release him. He has been in a special tuberculosis hospital for over a year, several court hearings were held, where the defense's request to release Person 10 from custody on health grounds, but the court did not take into account the conclusions of independent doctors on his health and did not uphold the complaint.

There is also an activist Person 11 who is illegally sentenced to 17 years and detained in the pre-trial detention centre in the city of Rostov-on-Don of the Russian Federation. He suffered an ischemic stroke 4 times. At the request of his lawyer, he was sent for a full independent examination to a hospital at the expense of the family. There, he underwent brain, cervical spine, chest MRI and echo cardiological examination of the heart. The doctor indicated the patient's critical health status and concluded that he needs immediate hospitalization because his life is in danger. His health deteriorated further, Person 11 has difficulty moving around.

A human rights defender and political prisoner Person 6 was tortured in detention. In 2015, during the first detention, FSB representatives beat off the political prisoner's kidneys and broke his lumbar spine. These injuries, which are not treated in the colony conditions, have become chronic. After the beating, doctors warned that a spinal injury would lead to problems with the entire skeletal system. In 2019, a lump in his kneecap and a swollen leg appeared. In 2023, he was taken to the hospital with an attack of kidney pain, and he underwent emergency surgery. After a few days, he was returned to the colony without being provided with information about what kind of surgery he had undergone or any recommendations. Now, he is being held in the penal colony of Salavat, Russian Federation.

An elderly Crimean Tatar political prisoner Person 12 was illegally sentenced to 11 years and 6 months in prison for "participating in the activities of a terrorist organization" and "preparing for actions aimed at the forcible seizure of power". He is held in the prison of



Balashov town, Saratov region of the Russian Federation. He has the 3rd group of disability and several diseases – high blood pressure, heart failure, heart disease, numbness in the left leg, frequent falls, muscle atrophy, and weight loss in the left leg. The man has one kidney that is prolapsed, causing him to experience constant bouts of severe pain. He has undergone several surgeries: inguinal hernia, umbilical hernia, gallbladder removal, cholelithiasis, and chronic hypertension. Detention is not only a threat to his health but also to his life.

Person 13 is a Crimean human rights activist, sentenced to 14 years in prison in 2020. He has repeatedly reported that he is being held in solitary confinement, which has led to his health deteriorating. Person 13 was sent to the penal detention centre of the Tambov colony in 2023. Soon, he began to complain of worsening vision, the appearance of psoriasis, as well as problems with his knee joints and back pain. In 2025, after seeing a neurologist, he was prescribed injections and an X-ray. The prison hospital doctor recommended that he be seen again immediately after the X-ray, but neither the X-ray nor the injections were given.

A Crimean Tatar and a citizen journalist, Person 14, is sentenced to 14 years in prison for “participating in the activities of a terrorist organization” and “preparing for actions aimed at the forcible seizure of power”. He is held in the pre-trial detention centre in Novocherkassk of the Rostov region of the Russian Federation, where a political prisoner Person 3 died in 2023, as mentioned above. Person 14 suffers from chronic pyelonephritis, prolapse of the right kidney, varicose veins on his legs, and he is also concerned about the condition of his teeth. In January 2024, he experienced heart issues and the prison administration did not respond to his requests for an electrocardiogram.

Crimean Tatar political prisoner Person 15, who was sentenced to 8,5 years in prison, is not receiving the necessary medical care in a penal colony in Buryatia. He complains of severe shortness of breath, heartburn, and serious dental problems. Recently, he completely lost hearing in one ear. Despite his deteriorating condition, he is not being provided with medical treatment and is forced to refuse unnamed medications due to the potential risk to his life. He is denied the opportunity to file a complaint about these violations.

An activist and a political prisoner Person 5 was sentenced to 13 years. He is held in the pre-trial detention centre in Rostov-on-Don, Russian Federation. His health has deteriorated greatly while in prison and has been denied proper medical care. In May 2021, his trial was delayed due to his health – he was reportedly unable to stand in court due to pain. He reportedly suffers from chronic cholecystitis, causing him to experience abdominal pain, vomiting and fever. In June 2021, he suffered a minor stroke. In September 2021, he was beaten by prison staff and had his beard forcibly shaved after he was transferred to a psychiatric ward of the prison’s hospital. According to relatives, his diction is severely impaired, part of his face is distorted, problems with blood pressure, and gout in his legs. In addition, pain in the arms, legs and back. The man has lost a lot of weight, suffers from chronic hypertension and headaches.

These actions openly violate Article 12 “Right to physical and mental health” of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, leading to the death of the detainees in some cases, as well as Article 2.2 “Non-discrimination” of the Covenant, while disproportionately affecting political prisoners as an instrument of coercion.

## Part 2

### **Violation of the right to health in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, due to the militarization of civilian medical infrastructure**

In the territory of temporarily occupied Crimea, the civilian population is experiencing significant problems with medical care due to a severe shortage of senior and mid-level medical personnel. As of November 2024, the occupying authorities officially [acknowledged](#)<sup>5</sup> a shortage of 2,300 medical workers. At the same time, the most critical situation [remains](#)<sup>6</sup> in the emergency medical service, where at the beginning of this year the shortage amounted to 23% of the staffing needs. Meanwhile, in Sevastopol, the shortage of medical personnel, according to the occupying authorities as of October 31, 2024, [was around 30%](#)<sup>7</sup>.

Despite this, after the start of the full-scale invasion, the occupying authorities have been using Crimea's civilian healthcare infrastructure to treat wounded Russian soldiers, and civilian medical personnel to organize the operation of the healthcare system in the newly occupied territories.

In particular, the human rights initiative Irade has documented the following facts:

- 1) Since the first days of the full-scale invasion, several medical departments of the [Armyansk City Hospital](#)<sup>8</sup>, as well as Krasnoperekopsk, Pervomaisk, and [Dzhankoy district hospitals](#)<sup>9</sup> in the temporarily occupied Crimea, were repurposed for military hospital needs without considering the medical needs of the civilian population. The reduction in civilian health services has resulted in patients with a range of illnesses having to go to other hospitals for inpatient hospital care, often located at considerable distances (up to 100 km)

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<sup>5</sup> In 2025, Crimea will attract ambulance crews from other regions by TASS:  
<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/22380243>

<sup>6</sup> In Crimea, the shortage of emergency doctors and paramedics amounted to 23% by Kommersant:  
<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/7443340>

<sup>7</sup> Sevastopol lacks almost every third medic by ForPost:  
<https://sevastopol.su/news/v-sevastopole-ne-khvataet-pochti-kazhdogo-tretego-medika>

<sup>8</sup> In occupied Crimea, hospitals are overflowing with wounded Russian soldiers by NV:  
<https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/v-krymu-v-bolnice-peropolneny-ot-voennyh-rf-poslednie-novosti-50222629.html>

<sup>9</sup> In Dzhankoy, the occupiers have transferred a civilian hospital to a military hospital: it houses up to 800 wounded by NV:  
<https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/u-rossii-opyat-mnogo-poter-v-odnom-gospitale-lezhit-do-800-ranenyh-okkupantov-novosti-ukrainy-50282956.html>

from their place of permanent residence. As of 14 July 2025, there is [photographic evidence](#)<sup>10</sup> of Russian military use of the Krasnoperekopsk District Hospital.

- 2) Since the first days of the full-scale invasion, the heads of medical institutions in Crimea received orders to transfer two surgeons and two surgical nurses from each medical facility under the jurisdiction of the Russian Ministry of Defense. Due to these actions, the number of scheduled surgical interventions and other types of surgical care in Crimea has sharply decreased. Moreover, in several regions, residents have been left without any opportunity to see a surgeon at their place of residence.
- 3) In May 2022, the so-called “Ministry of Health of Crimea”, despite a severe staffing shortage, [formed a group](#)<sup>11</sup> of 32 volunteer doctors to work in the newly occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. During this period, they were officially placed on leave from their primary places of employment.
- 4) In September 2022, during the “partial” mobilization in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea, some medical workers were also conscripted into the Russian army. In particular, it is known that on September 21, 2022, five medical workers from the district hospital in Bakhchisarai were mobilized at once. Mobilization was also recorded in hospitals in the Bilohirsk and Kirov districts. In addition, the selective mobilization of Crimean Tatars led to a mass exodus of Crimean Tatar families and individual male members of the indigenous population outside Crimea. This also affected workers in the medical sector. In particular, one of the leading specialists in the field of urology left Crimea after mobilization began.
- 5) In the period of February-May 2023, it became known about the placement of Russian wounded military personnel in the wards of the Semashko Republican Clinical Hospital (the only highly specialized care hospital in Crimea) together with civilian patients. A particularly notable number of military personnel are recorded in the ENT department, where they are admitted with acubarotraumas. There is also information about the placement of Russian military personnel undergoing rehabilitation in several civilian sanatorium and resort facilities in Crimea, particularly in the “Saky” sanatorium complex. This is relevant to the [statements](#)<sup>12</sup> made by the occupying authorities that they intend to include the rehabilitation of Russian military personnel in the plan for filling local health resorts in 2023.

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<sup>10</sup> Telegram post by Crimean wind: <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/82845>

<sup>11</sup> Crimean doctors to volunteer for Donbass, RIA News Crimea: <https://crimea.ria.ru/20220505/krymskie-mediki-poedut-dobrovolttsami-na-donbass-1123142613.html>

<sup>12</sup> In Crimea, the 2023 sanatorium occupancy plan will be drawn up taking into account the rehabilitation of SVO participants by TASS: <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/16232947>

- 6) The city hospital in Sevastopol, which was closed in 2020 for renovation, was [repurposed](#)<sup>13</sup> to treat the Russian military after the reconstruction was completed in January 2023.
- 7) On 8 February, the occupation authorities in Crimea [announced](#)<sup>14</sup> plans to repurpose the Saky physiotherapy hospital to accommodate wounded Russian military personnel. At the end of February, they announced their intention to transfer one of the departments of the Saky Central District Hospital for these purposes.
- 8) In March 2023, [information](#)<sup>15</sup> emerged about the use of the premises and departments of the 7th City Inpatient Hospital in Simferopol for treating servicemen of the occupying forces. At the same time, the treatment of military personnel is taking place alongside civilians receiving inpatient care at this facility.
- 9) In July 2023, it became known that facilities and departments of the 9th City Hospital in Sevastopol, including the surgical and orthopaedic departments as well as a new modular unit, were being used to treat servicemen of the Russian army. According [to other reports](#)<sup>16</sup>, the entire 9th Hospital was repurposed to accommodate wounded military personnel, along with partial departments of the 1st City Hospital.
- 10) In February 2024, it became known that the premises and departments of the Centre for Disaster Medicine, which houses unique high-tech equipment for intensive care and specialized surgical interventions, are being used for the delivery and distribution of Russian wounded.
- 11) In April 2024, [it became known](#)<sup>17</sup> that one of the wards of the Yevpatoria City Hospital was being used to house wounded Russian military personnel.
- 12) In February 2025, [it became known](#)<sup>18</sup> that ambulances serving the civilian infrastructure of the temporarily occupied peninsula were used to transport wounded Russian soldiers. This was revealed following a scandal over the funding of medical workers, including the lack of payments for transporting military personnel. Meanwhile, civilians regularly face the

<sup>13</sup> Future hospital for SVO veterans opened in Sevastopol by RIA News Crimea:

<https://crimea.ria.ru/20230119/v-sevastopole-otkryli-buduschiy-gospital-dlya-veteranov-svo-1126462786.html>

<sup>14</sup> Rehabilitation departments for SVO participants will be opened in Crimea by 24 Crimea:

<https://crimea24tv.ru/content/reabilitacionnie-otdeleniya-dlya-uchas/>

<sup>15</sup> Telegram post by Crimean wind: <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/26941>

<sup>16</sup> “Sevastopol is left without medicine” by Radio Liberty:

<https://www.svoboda.org/a/boljitsy-zakryvayut-zanyato-ranenymi-sevastopolj-ostalsya-bez-medsiny/32526438.html>

<sup>17</sup> “How Crimeans are being punished for their “wrong” opinion about the war and support for Ukraine” by Crimea.Realities:

<https://ru.krymr.com/a/krym-diskreditaciya-rossiyskoy-armii-dva-goda-sudy-nakazaniye/32917577.html>

<sup>18</sup> “Are mass layoffs of medical workers in Crimea real?” by Crimea.Realities:

<https://ru.krymr.com/a/krym-simpferopol-yvolnenie/33324012.html>



problem of a lack of emergency vehicles for emergencies, and people are [forced to transport](#)<sup>19</sup> seriously ill patients to medical facilities on their own.

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<sup>19</sup> Director Yuri Karu was taken to the hospital by a friend instead of an ambulance by RBC:  
<https://www.rbc.ru/rbcfreenews/687946249a794770ab6a1e09>