

# Iryna Danylovych

Citizen journalist who collaborated with many independent media outlets, including the Injir media project and the Crimean Process initiative, imprisoned for political reasons since April 2022.

Danylovych lived in the village of Vladyslavivka near Feodosia. She worked as a nurse in Koktebel. Iryna was engaged in citizen journalism and published anonymously. She covered the rights of healthcare workers and also collaborated with publications that covered political trials in occupied Crimea.

On April 29, 2022, she was abducted by four plainclothes

Russian security forces, as recorded on video. At the same time, her house was searched and all her equipment was seized. There was no contact with her for 13 days. It would later be known that for 8 days Danylovych was held in the FSB building, where she was subjected to a polygraph test, threatened and given only one meal a day. On the 13th day, her family was informed that Iryna was in the Simferopol detention facility. She was charged with "illegal possession of explosives". In July 2022, she reported being beaten by an FSB convoy and subjected to psychological pressure by Russian security forces.

In the Simferopol Detention Facility, Danylovych contracted ear infection, but despite her serious health condition, the court continued to consider the case. On December 28, 2022, the Feodosia City Court sentenced her to 7 years in prison and a fine of 50 thousand rubles. During the proceedings, the judge deliberately did not allow Iryna Danylovych to receive medical care, which forced her to go on a hunger strike in March 2023. After that, Danylovych was examined by doctors who stated that she had a hearing loss and needed treatment.

On June 29, 2023, the Court of Appeal "mitigated" the sentence, reducing the term of imprisonment by one month. In August 2023, Danylovych was transferred to Russia to a general regime colony in the city of Zelenokumsk, Stavropol Krai. She never received medical care.

On May 14, 2024, the Russian Court of Cassation finally upheld the sentence of Crimean activist Iryna Danylovych to almost seven years behind bars. She is currently serving her sentence in a colony in Stavropol Krai in Russia.

On August 1, Iryna's father Bronislav Danylovych died in the occupied Crimea after a long battle with cancer.

Iryna Danylovych is in a serious condition and she is not receiving proper medical care. Currently, she has no hearing in her left ear, has suffered at least one microstroke and has constant dizziness.



Truth is the most powerful, most dangerous weapon against the state machine and against lies... A totalitarian regime does not need people who speak the truth, we have seen this more than once. Nor does it need people who think. For the most part, prisons are now filled with just such people. The regime sees in them a force that it will not be able to resist" – Iryna Danylovych, December 27, 2022.

#FreeDanylovych

# **Dmytro Shtyblikov**

Analyst and military journalist, deputy editor-in-chief of the Black Sea Security magazine. In 2003, he was retired from the Armed Forces of Ukraine for health reasons. He has been imprisoned since November 2016.

Dmytro Shtyblikov lived in Sevastopol and until 2014, he worked at the Nomos Centre for the Study of Geopolitical Problems and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation of the Black Sea Region in Sevastopol. He was published in Ukrainian, Russian and Western publications. Shtyblikov worked on a scientific paper on international legal aspects of the fight against terrorism, participated in conferences in Ukraine and Russia, as well as in the countries of the South Caucasus.



Shtyblikov was detained by the Russian FSB on November 9, 2016, in Sevastopol. The FSB stated that he was allegedly a member of a "sabotage and terrorist group of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine". Shtyblikov was accused of planning sabotage attacks on military infrastructure and life support facilities in Sevastopol. In May 2017, under coercion and threats to his family members, Dmytro Shtyblikov entered into a pre-trial agreement with the investigation – he pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with the investigation. His case was considered under a special procedure without examining the evidence of guilt.

On November 16, 2017, the Sevastopol City Court under the occupation authorities sentenced Shtyblikov to five years in a maximum security penal colony and a fine of 200 thousand rubles.

On November 8, 2021, Dmytro Shtyblikov was to be released due to the completion of his sentence in the case of the "Crimean saboteurs". On the same day, he was transferred from the FSB Lefortovo Detention Facility to Rostov-on-Don, where a new case was opened against him in the Southern District Military Court, this time under Article 275 of the Russian Criminal Code, "High Treason". The court announced the new sentence for the political prisoner on November 9, 2016, and now Shtyblikov must unjustifiably spend another 14 years and 6 months in a maximum security penal colony under Article 275 in Russia, with a one-year post-sentence restriction. In November 2022, a Russian court rejected the appeal and cassation appeals filed by Dmytro Shtyblikov and his defence lawyers.

After his second sentence, Shtyblikov was transferred back to Penal Colony No. 6 in Omsk, where he had previously served a considerable amount of his prior sentence. The prisoner's health has deteriorated: he's developed hypertension, crumbling teeth, sore gums and his eyesight has severely worsened.

The conditions in which Shtyblikov is being held are still harsh: he is kept in solitary confinement in the CTP (cell-type premises) and is allowed only one short walk in a closed small yard. He is not allowed to watch videos, make simple calls or have visits.



My father is deprived of all contact and held in a complete information vacuum" – daughter of political prisoner Dmytro Shtyblikov, Tetiana, May 22, 2023.

#FreeShtyblikov

#### Oleksii Bessarabov

Journalist, deputy editor-in-chief of the Black Sea Security magazine, analyst and reserve officer of the Ukrainian Navy, imprisoned since November 2016.

He lived in Sevastopol and was engaged in publications on security issues and problems of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. In the past, he was a correspondent for the Glavred news outlet and under the pseudonym Oleksii Streletskyi, was published in the publications Shipping, Black Sea Security, and Mirror of the Week. He was an expert at the Ukrainian Centre for the Promotion of Geopolitical Studies and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation of the Black Sea Region Nomos.



In November 2016, he was detained by Russian security forces and subsequently arrested on trumped-up charges of preparing a sabotage at "military infrastructure and life support facilities on the peninsula". He was tortured to extract a confession and in April 2019, he was sentenced to 14 years in a maximum security penal colony and fined 300,000 rubles. After his appeal was rejected, he is being held in the Kochubeevskoye penal colony (Stavropol Krai, Russia).



We, the political prisoners, knowing about the upcoming meetings with the President of Ukraine, and then the President of the United States with the Russian President, believe that the main topic should be the unconditional release of persons illegally detained by Russia from colonies in the Russian Federation and Crimea. This is not a matter of politics, it is a matter of restoring the minimum level of trust, honour and morality of the leaders of the nations of the 21st century" – Oleksii Bessarabov, May 5, 2021.

#FreeBessarabov

# **Seiran Saliev**

Citizen journalist and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned since October 2017.

Saliev has an incomplete higher education as a teacher of Crimean Tatar and Turkish language and literature. He lived in Bakhchysarai and worked as a tour guide. After the occupation of Crimea, he covered the occupational authority's searches of the homes of Crimean Tatars. He publicly called on his fellow citizens to show solidarity and support for victims of Muslim persecution, for which he was fined in 2016.

The first search of his home took place in January 2017. In October of the same year, Russian security forces detained



Saliev during a search on trumped-up charges of participating in the activities of a terrorist organisation and preparing for a violent seizure of power. In September 2020, he was sentenced to 16 years in prison in a maximum security penal colony. On March 14, 2022, his appeal was partially upheld, and his sentence was reduced to 15 years. He was transferred to the maximum security penal colony in Tula, the Russian Federation. In July 2023, the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia denied a request to transfer Saliev to a prison closer to Crimea. On June 21, 2024, Saliev was recognised as a malicious violator of his sentence and received more strict conditions of detention.



For seven years, I have existed in a world of broken destinies, dead souls and watchers" – Seiran Saliev, October 11, 2024.

# Marlen (Suleiman) Asanov

Citizen journalist and streamer of Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned since October 2017.

By profession – a teacher of Turkish and Crimean Tatar language and literature. Asanov lived in Bakhchysarai and in 2002, he founded the Salachyk Caravanserai, a Crimean Tatar cultural and ethnographic centre. From the beginning of the occupation, he provided assistance to the families of Crimean political prisoners and covered the trials and problems of the families of political prisoners.

In the autumn of 2017, Russian security forces searched his home on trumped-up charges of organising a terrorist

organisation and preparing for a violent seizure of power. In September 2020, he was sentenced to 19 years in prison in a maximum security penal colony. On March 14, 2022, his appeal was rejected. On September 8, 2022, his wife, Aishe Asanova, reported that Marlen was transferred from Rostov-on-Don, where he had been held throughout the trial, to the Russian Maximum Security Penal Colony No. 7 in the Republic of Mordovia.

On August 9, 2024, the Bakhchysarai District Court in Crimea denied Asanov's appeal to transfer him from Penal Colony No. 7 in the village of Sosnovka, Republic of Mordovia, to a colony located closer to Crimea, where his family lives.



Today, many people are being persecuted in Crimea. The authorities are trying to present it as a 'fight against terrorism'. But let them know that a lie is doomed to death. Crimean Tatars and the international community will not believe these false accusations" – Marlen Asanov, August 2, 2018.

#FreeAsanov

# **Tymur Ibragimov**

Citizen journalist and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned since October 2017.

Ibragimov lived in Bakhchysarai and since 2015, he has covered searches in the homes of Crimean Tatar activists and politically motivated trials.

In October 2017, Russian security forces detained him during a search of his home on trumped-up charges of participating in a terrorist organisation and preparing for a violent seizure of power. In September 2020, he was sentenced to 17 years in prison in a maximum security penal colony. On March 14, 2022, his appeal

was rejected. On August 22, 2022, it became known that the Crimean Solidarity activist would serve his entire sentence in a maximum security penal colony in the village of Klekotki in the Ryazan region of the Russian Federation.

Since his childhood, Tymur has lived with a disability due to an injury to his eye. In August 2023 while in prison, Ibragimov was diagnosed with cholelithiasis. Ibragimov has a third-grade visual impairment, one of his eyes was replaced with an artificial one more than 15 years ago, and now the political prisoner needs to have his eye implant replaced, but this cannot be done in the prison hospital.



In 1944, we were already declared traitors and taken to Asia in wagons. Thanks to Allah, we returned. And today we are accused of "extremism" and "terrorism" under various grounds. They intimidate the local population with their "men". They openly say: "If someone doesn't like it, leave". This is very similar to 1944, only under a new, modern 'sauce'" – Tymur Ibragimov, June 7, 2019.

#FreeIbragimov

### Remzi Bekirov

Citizen journalist of the Crimean Solidarity and correspondent of the Grani.ru publication, imprisoned since March 2019.

By profession – a history teacher. Bekirov lived in the Simferopol district of Crimea. After the illegal occupation of Crimea, he became a citizen journalist for Crimean Solidarity, and later a correspondent for the online publication Grani.ru. He covered human rights violations in Crimea and streamed coverage of the criminal cases against Vedzhyie Kashka, "26 February", the case against Volodymyr Balukh and other Crimean muslims, for which he was detained twice in 2017.



In March 2019, Russian security forces detained him again in the city of Aksai (Rostov region, Russia) and searched his home. He was charged with trumped-up charges of organising the activities of a terrorist organisation. On March 10, 2022, he was sentenced to 19 years in prison.

In July 2024, Remzi Bekirov was transferred to Penal Colony No. 33 in Abakan of the Republic of Khakassia, where he was systematically pressured, placed in solitary confinement, threatened, and prohibited from communicating with his family and writing letters.



Russia is persecuting Crimean Tatars and Crimean Muslims for their dissent. For not wanting to think the way the authorities say, for not wanting to be slaves on their own land. And on top of that, according to the investigation, my crime is that I dared to cover this lawlessness, becoming first a citizen journalist and then a correspondent" – Remzi Bekirov, February 12, 2020.

#FreeBekirov

#### **Ernes Ametov**

Citizen journalist of the Crimean Solidarity, he was imprisoned from October 2017 to September 2020, when the court acquitted him due to lack of evidence. After almost four years in captivity, Ametov was released from custody and returned to his family. In March 2022, the Court of Appeal overturned this decision, and in April, Ametov was put behind bars again.

He lived in Bakhchysarai and has a wife and two children. A lawyer by profession, he became a citizen journalist for Crimean Solidarity after the occupation of Crimea, working as a photographer and videographer.



In October 2017, Russian security forces searched his home, causing psychological trauma to his children. Ametov was detained along with five other Crimean Tatars, three of whom were citizen journalists – Seiran Saliev, Marlen (Suleiman) Asanov and Tymur Ibragimov. Ametov was charged with a trumped-up charge of being a member of a terrorist organisation.

On December 29, 2022, Ernes Ametov was sentenced to 11 years in a maximum security penal colony. In May 2024, Ernes Ametov was transferred to a colony in the Vologda region of Russia.



The human brain was given to analyse information. That's what I was doing. If this is a crime, then I'm sorry, I don't know how to live if I can't even analyse information. To be ordinary, to keep your head down more than is necessary in this country" – Ernes Ametov, September 2020.

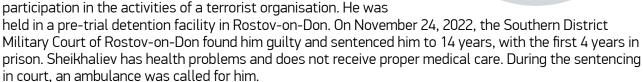
**#FreeAmetov** 

### **Rustem Sheikhaliev**

Citizen journalist and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned since March 2019.

Sheikhaliev lived in Simferopol district of Crimea and worked as an entrepreneur. Since 2015, he has been covering human rights violations in Crimea. He attended court hearings, helped families of political prisoners and organised the purchase of parcels for prisoners.

In March 2019, Russian security forces detained him during a search at his home. Sheikhaliev faced trumped-up charges of participation in the activities of a terrorist organisation. He was



Currently, Rustem Sheikhaliev is in the city of Yeniseisk, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia. His wife and children manage to communicate with him via email, but phone calls are prohibited.



Many people are surprised by the support of our people and say: "I've never seen anything like it". I answered: if you take one, ten will come, if you take ten, a hundred will come, and if you take a hundred, a thousand will come. This is the kind of people we have, as a single organism, with such traditions of support" – Rustem Sheikhaliev, May 24, 2019.

#FreeSheikhaliev



Citizen journalist and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned since March 2019.

By profession – a physics teacher. Suleimanov lived in the Simferopol district of Crimea. He covered human rights violations in Crimea, for which he was detained in 2017 and 2019. He taught physics lessons to children of political prisoners. His three-year-old son Musa tragically died in 2020.

In March 2019, Russian security forces detained Suleimanov during a search of his home. In July 2019, he underwent a forced psychiatric examination. He faced trumped-up charges of

organising the activities of a terrorist organisation. Suleimanov was held in a pre-trial detention facility in Rostov-on-Don. On November 24, 2022, the Southern District Military Court of the Russian Federation found him guilty and sentenced him to 14 years, with the first 4 years in prison and restrictions on freedom after serving the sentence for one year.

He is currently in prison in Verkhnouralsk, Chelyabinsk region of the Russian Federation, where he has been classified as "supportive of extremism" and "prone to escape and attack".



After 2014, an active layer of the people was declared terrorists and extremists, and people went missing and were tortured to death for their position. This is Reshat Ametov, this is the case of Vedzhyie Kashka – when the detention of elderly activists led to her death, numerous criminal cases and pressure on activists and Crimean Tatars" – Ruslan Suleimanov, May 20, 2020.

#FreeSuleimanov





### **Vilen Temerianov**

Citizen journalist of the Crimean Solidarity and correspondent for Grani.ru, imprisoned since August 2022.

He lived in the village of Vilne, Dzhankoi district. After the occupation of Crimea, he covered searches in the homes of Crimean Tatars and politically motivated trials. Prior to his imprisonment, the occupation authorities had detained him multiple times. In particular, in November 2021, during the mass detention of Crimean Tatars who greeted lawyer Edem Semedliaiev with flowers after serving an illegal arrest.

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He was detained again by Russian security forces on August 11,

2022, during a search of his home. The next day, he was placed in custody as a preventive measure and charged with a trumped-up charge of participation in the activities of a terrorist organisation.

Temerianov was held in a pre-trial detention facility in Simferopol and underwent a forced psychiatric examination. On April 20, 2023, he was transferred to a pre-trial detention facility in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don. The trial against him and five other Crimean Tatars is currently ongoing in the Southern District Military Court. He faces up to 20 years in prison.



Over all these years, I have realised that what is happening in Crimea is a new kind of intimidation of my people and another repression for their resilient stance and disagreement with Russia's policies. As a sane person and a citizen journalist, I am showing patience and resilience in these difficult times for my people. I will stand up to the arbitrariness of the Russian judicial system and continue to do my best to cover the reality of Crimea with confidence and resilience. Strong people always arise in difficult and challenging times, and I hope I am one of them" – Vilen Temerianov, January 17, 2023.

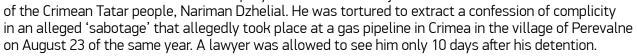
#FreeTemerianov

#### **Asan Akhtemov**

Citizen journalist of the Nefes initiative, previously worked for the Crimean Tatar newspaper Avdet. Imprisoned since September 2021.

Akhtemov lived in Simferopol and attended court cases of Crimean Tatars as well as supported relatives of those who were arrested. He organised a project about civic activists who remained in Crimea after occupation and was involved in socio-cultural projects.

He was detained by Russian security forces in September 2021 in a case that also involved the first deputy chairman of the Mejlis



Asan Akhtemov is being held in a pre-trial detention facility in Simferopol. The investigation was completed and on September 21, 2022, the court announced a sentence of 15 years, a fine of 500 thousand rubles, as well as one year of restriction of freedom after serving the main term of the sentence. The court of appeal then toughened the conditions of detention, imposing the first three years in prison. On October 2, 2023, it became known that Asan Akhtemov was transferred to the Vladimir Central Prison in Russia



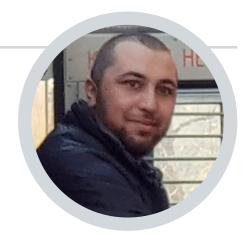
My main dream in life is to live in Crimea and see my people flourish and be happy. I believe it will happen. I am infinitely grateful to all the people who support us in these difficult times. Only thanks to you I do not give up" – Asan Akhtemov, October 5, 2021.



### **Osman Arifmemetov**

Citizen journalist and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned since March 2019.

By profession – a computer science teacher. Arifmemetov lived in Simferopol. Since 2015, he has been covering human rights violations in Crimea, helping to organise parcels for Crimean Tatar prisoners in pre-trial detention facilities. In 2019, he received a special award at the literary contest "Crimean Fig/Qırım inciri" "Words of Freedom", and his short story "My Deportation" was a finalist in the "Prose in Ukrainian language" category.



In March 2019, Russian security forces detained him in the city of Aksai (Rostov region of Russia) and searched his home. Osman Arifmemetov received trumped-up charges of participation in the activities of a terrorist organisation and preparation for a violent seizure of power. He was held in a pre-trial detention facility in Rostov-on-Don.

On November 24, 2022, the Southern District Military Court of Russia sentenced Arifmemetov to 14 years, with the first four years in prison and the remaining term in a maximum security penal colony, with restrictions on freedom after serving the sentence for a period of one year.

In early May 2024, it became known that Arifmemetov was transferred to the Minusinsk prison in the Krasnoyarsk Krai of Russia.



My struggle is publicly visible on my Facebook page. I highlighted injustice, and for that I was called a terrorist. Crimean Tatars and Muslims showed their political position. They did not support the oppressors. This regime is afraid of political unity" – Osman Arifmemetov, May 21, 2019.

**#FreeArifmemetov** 

# **Aziz Azizov**

Citizen journalist and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned in the occupied Crimea since March 2024.

Azizov lived in Bakhchysarai and was a construction worker.

He was imprisoned together with Rustem Osmanov on March 5, 2024, when the Kyiv District Court of Simferopol under occupation authorities ordered the arrest of two journalists for two months, placing them in Simferopol's Detention Facility No. 2 on charges of organising and participating in the activities of a terrorist organisation. After that, the arrest was extended several times.



On May 2, 2024, it became known that Aziz Azizov was sent to a psychiatric hospital without obvious medical reasons to undergo a psychiatric examination in an inpatient setting.



Writing about myself here is like yet another complication on top of everything else... But the Earth keeps rotating without stopping, and this is all temporary; it will pass and come to an end. I ask the Almighty to make this happen as soon as possible and for the best, so let's not despair and keep moving on" – from Aziz Azizov, July 28, 2024.

#FreeAzizov

#### **Server Mustafaiev**

Citizen journalist, coordinator and streamer of the Crimean Solidarity, human rights defender, imprisoned since May 2018.

By profession – a gas supply system engineer. Mustafaiev lived in Bakhchysarai. Co-founder of the Crimean Solidarity. He publicly defended victims of political persecution and covered human rights violations in Crimea. In 2019 and 2020, he received a special award from the literary contest "Crimean Fig/Qırım inciri" "Words of Freedom", and his poem "Alhamdulillah, we are Muslims" and the short story "Zemaney Yusuf Madrasa" were shortlisted in the nominations "Poetry in the Crimean Tatar language" and "Prose in the Crimean Tatar language".



In May 2018, Russian security forces detained him during a search of his home on trumped-up charges of participation in a terrorist organisation and preparation for a violent seizure of power. In September 2020, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison in a maximum security penal colony. On March 14, 2022, his appeal was rejected. Since September 2022, Mustafaiev has been held in Tambov Penal Colony No. 1. Despite enrolling in a university on a distance learning basis in the colony, Mustafaiev was not allowed to pass the exams after the first semester of study, and in August 2023, he was sent to solitary confinement.

Server Mustafaiev continues to lose his eyesight in a high-security barracks where he was transferred in February 2024.



Despite the sentences imposed and the ongoing injustice, we do not give up and do not lose heart. We are all witnesses to the fact that it is the duty of each of us to clear ourselves of the slander that has been slandered against our people and religion in our days and throughout our history" – Server Mustafaiev, 17 May 2021.

#FreeMustafaiev

## **Rustem Osmanov**

Citizen journalist of the Crimean Solidarity, imprisoned in the occupied Crimea since March 2024.

He lived in Bakhchysarai and was a former employee of the Crimean Tatar TV channel ATR.

On March 5, 2024, the Kyiv District Court of Simferopol under occupation authorities, at a closed session, decided to arrest the journalist for two months and place him in Simferopol's Detention Facility No. 2 on charges of organising and participating in the activities of a terrorist organisation. After that, the arrest term was extended several times.





We are in an unpleasant position. Not because we are bad and have committed any atrocities.

No! We were not raised that way!" – from a letter by Rustem Osmanov, March 24, 2024.

#FreeOsmanov

#### **Amet Suleimanov**

Citizen journalist and streamer for the Crimean Solidarity, he was initially held under house arrest in the temporarily occupied Crimea since March 2020. In April 2023, he was transferred to a pre-trial detention facility and then sent to serve his sentence to the Russian Federation.

By profession – a sales manager in a mobile phone shop. Suleimanov lived in Bakhchysarai. He covered searches and arrests of Crimean Tatars, for which he was detained twice by the occupation authorities in 2017 and 2019. In recent years, he was forced to limit his activities due to a heart condition.



In the spring of 2020, Russian security forces detained him on trumped-up charges of participating in the activities of a terrorist organisation. Due to his health condition, he was placed under house arrest during the trial in the courts of first instance and appeal. In 2021, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison. On February 9, 2023, the Court of Appeal upheld this sentence, and on April 5, he was taken into custody and sent to a pre-trial detention facility in Simferopol. There, his medication was taken away from him and he was not allowed to lie down despite his poor health. On September 27, it became known that Amet Suleimanov was transferred to Russia to the prison in Vladimir.

After the sentence and transfer to the territory of the Russian Federation to the Vladimir Central Prison, Amet Suleimanov's condition deteriorated significantly. He urgently needs surgery to replace his heart valve. On March 29, 2024, the court in Vladimir refused to release him from prison, although Suleimanov's medical records contain information about diseases that a person should not be imprisoned with.



Today, Crimea has become not a "breeding ground for terrorism", as some people want to present it. It has become a breeding ground for brave men and women who are ready to tell the truth and stand up for justice even under the threat of imprisonment, torture and abduction" – Amet Suleymanov, April 27, 2021.

#FreeSuleimanov







