

**LET MY PEOPLE GO!**



ЦЕНТР  
ГОМУДІНСЬКИХ  
СВОБОД



# UKRAINIAN PRISONERS IN RUSSIA

UNDENIABLE VICTIMS OF AN UNDECLARED WAR

[#LetMyPeopleGo](https://www.instagram.com/letmypeoplego)

Detention of Ukrainian citizens started simultaneously with Russia's military aggression against Ukraine in March 2014. Ukrainians were arrested and interrogated by officers of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) and Ministry of Interior (MVD), using brutal violence, torture, medical mistreatment and psychological pressure. The FSB and/or Russian Investigative committee extracted confessions to plotting terrorist acts, creating subversive groups and committing war crimes. Later the FSB resorted to

kidnapping citizens of Ukraine in Crimea and Donbas and delivering them to detention facilities in Russia.

These people are of different ages, social backgrounds, political and cultural views but are united by the fact they are facing political prosecutions based on false evidence.

Unfortunately, today we still do not have a complete list of those who are being detained in Russian jails in contradiction with the laws and international norms.

## DEFINIED BY RUSSIA AS WAR CRIMINALS



### SERGIY LYTVINOV

(born in 1983)

Farm worker from Lugansk region; has a daughter.

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CONVICTED TO 11 years in prison

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**Accusation:** murder, using prohibited means and methods of warfare, armed robbery – withdrawn and replaced with robbery.

His lawyer Viktor Parshutkin proved the alleged victims and crime scenes did not exist. Russian Investigative committee withdrew these accusations, but simultaneously brought a new case on trumped up robbery charges.

## BRANDED AS CRIMEAN TERRORISTS

All participants of the Crimean movement in support of the unity of Ukraine, were arrested by the Russian FSB in Crimea in 2014, illegally transferred to the Russian Federation and forcibly granted Russian citizenship.

**Accusation:** «creation of a terrorist group», «terrorist act committed by an organized

group of persons by prior agreement», «preparation and attempt to commit a crime», «illegal acquisition and possession of ammunition by an organized group of persons by prior agreement».

On June 16, Afanasiev was exchanged and returned to Ukraine.



### OLEG SENTSOV

(born in 1976)

Filmmaker, Euromaidan activist; has two children.

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CONVICTED TO 20 years in prison

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Conveyed to Yakutia (Russia)



### OLEXANDR KOLCHENKO

(born in 1989)

Activist of anti-fascist movement

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CONVICTED TO 10 years in prison

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Conveyed to Chelyabinsk region (Russia)





## OLEKSIY CHYRNIY

(born in 1981)  
Historian, Ph.D.

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CONVICTED TO 7 years in prison

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Conveyed to Magadan region (Russia)

## CHECHEN CASE

Two Ukrainians were held incommunicado in Russian detention in different locations in the Caucasus region for over a year. Later they were charged with murder during the fighting in Chechnya in 90's, which they didn't take part in. The Ukrainian consul was allowed to see them for the first time only after the pre-trial

investigation was finished and more than one year had passed since their arrest. The Ukrainian consul reported that even after a year and a half, both men have numerous scars confirming their allegations of severe torture.



## MYKOLA KARPYUK

(born in 1964)  
One of the leaders of the «Right Sector»; has a son.

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CONVICTED TO 22.5 years in prison

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**Accusation:** «attempted murder of police officer», «creating a stable armed group to attack the citizens... implementation of the management of the group».



## STANISLAV KLYKH

(born in 1974)  
Historian, journalist from Kyiv, posted pictures of Euromaidan in social networks.

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CONVICTED TO 20 years in prison

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**Accusation:** «first-degree murder», «creating a stable armed group to attack the citizens and organizations and implementation of the management of the group».

## PERSECUTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN MAIDAN PROTESTS



## OLEXANDR KOSTENKO

(born in 1986)  
Euromaidan activist,  
Crimea origin.

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CONVICTED TO 3.8 years in prison

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Convicted by the court in the occupied Crimea to almost 4 years in prison «for

throwing a stone» at a riot police officer in Kyiv during Maidan events allegedly «for reasons of ideological hatred and hostility towards the law enforcement representatives».

The Kostenko case is a dangerous precedent as the judges of the Russian Federation have sentenced Ukrainian citizen for crimes allegedly conducted on Ukrainian territory.

Transferred from Crimea to penal colony in Kirovo-Chepetsk (Russia).

## ALLEGATION OF ESPIONAGE

At least 3 Ukrainians were arrested for alleged spying. These are the most mysterious cases since because of secrecy of this type of criminal case no one even had the chance to monitor the court hearings. But what we know

is that unlawful interrogation methods were used against prisoners. One of them was illegally transferred to the Russian Federation from Crimea.

### VIKTOR SHUR

(born in 1956)

Entrepreneur, art collector, formally a Russian citizen living in Ukrainian city of Chernihiv.

CONVICTED TO 12 years in prison

for «high treason» after having been detained in Bryansk (Russia)

### VALENTYN VYHIVSKY

(born in 1983)

Entrepreneur, aircraft-building amateur; arrested in Simferopol, illegally transferred to Russia.

CONVICTED TO 11 years in prison

for economic and military espionage in the aerospace industry, conveyed to Kirovo-Chepetsk (Russia)

## HOSTAGE

### HAYSER DZHEMILEV

(born in 1981)

Son of Crimean Tatars leader Mustafa Dzhemilev

CONVICTED TO 3.5 years in prison

Convicted for a criminal offense in Ukraine, illegally transmitted from Crimea to Russia and resented there, transferred to Arkhangelsk (Russia).

According to his lawyer Nikolai Potozov, the illegal transfer of Hayser Dzhemilev from Crimea to Russian Federation is a politically motivated decision by Russian officials in response to the principled stand of Crimean Tatars leader Mustafa Dzhemilev regarding the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.



# PRISONERS IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA

Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian activists were the first to fall under the scrutiny of the peninsula's occupying forces. Russian legislation on extremism, separatism and terrorism is used to pressure, intimidate and persecute this section of the population who oppose the self-proclaimed, occupying power in Crimea. All these criminal cases are united by the two facts:

1. Either they all happened before Russian annexation (before the so-called referendum of March 16, 2014);

2. They are related to events that occurred outside of Crimea. Some of those who were under the control of FSB, the Anti-extremism Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation «Center E» and the so-called Crimean self-defence were arrested. They received administrative charges or were released on bail. However, at the end of spring 2016, it turns out that at least 19 people are still imprisoned on obvious political grounds and that they are kept in the occupied peninsula's pre-trial detention centres.

## THE 26TH OF FEBRUARY CASE

On February 26, 2014, in front of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of the autonomous Republic of Crimea, a mass meeting for the unity of Ukraine was organized by pro-Ukrainian activists. Nearby a counter-demonstration was held by members of pro-Russian organizations, demonstrating for Crimea to be part of the Russian Federation. Due to the police's failure to ensure the security of this peaceful meeting a fight occurred in which 30 people were injured.

As of November, Ali Asanov, Mustafa Degermendzhi and Akhtem Chiyhoz are still kept in custody. They did not admit their guilt to alleged crimes (organization of and participation in mass disorders). At the same time, they do not deny their participation in the exclusively peaceful assembly, which the local authority has been notified in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation.

**Accusation:** article 212 §1 subparagraph 2 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation, «riot»

**Detention facility:** Simferopol pre-trial detention center



### AKHTEM CHIYHOZ

(born in 1964)

Crimean Tatar, vice-president of «Medzhlis' of Crimean Tatars».

FACING 15 years imprisonment



### ALI ASANOV

(born in 1982)

Crimean Tatar from Urozhaynoe, farmer; father of 4 children.

FACING 8 years imprisonment



### MUSTAFA DEHERMENDZHI

(born in 1989)

Crimean Tatar, entrepreneur.

FACING 8 years imprisonment

## THE CRIMEAN MUSLIM CASE

Hizb ut-Tahrir is an Islamic political movement engaged in religious, political and educational activities. It operated openly in Ukraine, as it is not an extremist organization according to the general definition by Western democracies. However, after the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in early 2014 thousands of Crimean Muslims came under attack. According to their lawyers, the FSB has no evidence proving the presence

of the constituent elements of the alleged crime or the involvement of any of the accused in the organization of and participation in Hizb ut-Tahrir.

**Accusation:** article 205.5.1 of the Criminal code of the Russian Federation, «Establishment of a terrorist organization» and article 205.5.2 «participation in its activities»

**Detention facility:** Simferopol pre-trial detention center

### CONVEYED TO ROSTOV-NA-DONU (RUSSIA) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIAL



**RUSLAN ZEYTULLAEV**

(born in 1984)

Crimean Tatar

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FACING 15 years imprisonment

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**NURI PRIMOV**

(born in 1976)

• Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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**RUSTEM VAYTOV**

(born in 1985)

Crimean Tatar

---

FACING 10 years imprisonment

---



**FERAT SAYFULLAEV**

(born in 1983)

Crimean Tatar

---

FACING 10 years imprisonment

---



**ENVER BEKIROV**

(born in 1963)

Crimean Tatar

---

FACING 10 years imprisonment

---



**MUSLIM ALIEV**

(born in 1971)

Crimean Tatar

---

FACING 10 years imprisonment

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**VADYM SIRUK**

(born in 1989)

---

FACING 10 years imprisonment

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**EMIR-USEIN KUKU**

(born in 1976)

Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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### ARSEN DZHEPPAROV

(born in 1991)  
Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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### REFAT ALIMOV

(born in 1991)  
Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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### ZEVRI ABSEITOV

(born in 1975)  
Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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### REMZI MEMETOV

(born in 1966)  
Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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### RUSTEM ABILTAROV

Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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### ENVER MAMUTOV

(born in 1975)  
Crimean Tatar

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FACING 10 years imprisonment

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## — PERSECUTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN MAIDAN PROTESTS 2.0 —

According to the so-called investigation, Andriy Kolmiets was a member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). During Euromaidan in Kyiv, he allegedly made an attempt on the life of two employees of the Ukrainian Special Forces Berkut, throwing Molotov cocktails at them. Kolomiets was arrested in a region of Russia called Kabardino-Balkaria, after that he was transferred to Crimea.

**Accusation:** Part 3 Article 30 and Paragraphs «a», «b», «e», «l» Part 2 Article 105 (attempted murder of two persons in connection with the implementation of official activity, committed in a publicly dangerous way, based on political and ideological hatred), Part 2 Article 228 of the Criminal Code (illegal purchase and storage of parts of plants containing narcotic drugs and their transportation on a large scale without a purpose of selling).



### ANDRIY KOLOMIETS

(born in 1993)  
Euromaidan activist

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FACING 20 years imprisonment

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**Detention facility:** Simferopol pre-trial detention center

# LET MY PEOPLE GO!



The LMPG campaign was launched in April 2015 by Euromaidan SOS to raise awareness of Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in the Russian Federation on political grounds. At least 14 Ukrainians are currently behind bars in Russia and 14 more in occupied Crimea facing up to life imprisonment on trumped-up charges. These people are branded «agitators and fascists» for the purposes of political propaganda and to create an image of the enemy. All of them are

deprived of the basic human rights such as the right to a fair trial and an effective remedy. The majority of them were subjected to inhumane treatment and have endured torture. By running information and advocacy campaigns, LMPG disseminates information about the cases of illegal trials in Russia, and campaigns for the observance of basic human rights during pre-trial investigation and court hearings in Russia.

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## Tell Russia to LET OUR PEOPLE GO

Use hashtags **#LetMyPeopleGo**, **#LMPG**

Demand your governments to put pressure upon Russia to release our people.

Drop a line of support to our prisoners. More information at:

- [www.facebook.com/LetMyPeopleGoUkraine.en](http://www.facebook.com/LetMyPeopleGoUkraine.en)
- [www.facebook.com/EvromaidanSOS](http://www.facebook.com/EvromaidanSOS)
- [www.letmypeoplego.org.ua](http://www.letmypeoplego.org.ua)
- [www.belarusfreetheatre.com/imwiththebanned](http://www.belarusfreetheatre.com/imwiththebanned)

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Please write to us : [lmpg.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:lmpg.ukraine@gmail.com)

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**THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**