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GENOCIDE OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR NATION IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA SINCE 2014

On February 20, 2014, Russian perpetrator forces and so-called "little green men" invaded Crimea, initiating the renewed occupation of the peninsula. An autochthonous nation of Crimea - Crimean Tatars - proved to be the most cohesive and politically organized pro-Ukrainian force, organizing rallies and patrol units to defend the Crimean peninsula and their ancestral land, as well as offering support to the Ukrainian army. Pro-Russian collaborationist deputies in the Crimean parliament, who had betrayed the Ukrainian state and their oath, planned to hold a vote in the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea on the alleged "accession" of the Crimean peninsula to Russia. Refat Chubarov, the Chairman of the Mejlis, immediately convened the Mejlis and called for a pro-Ukrainian rally. On February 26, more than 20,000 Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians gathered for a protest near the Council of Ministers in Simferopol.¹ On that day, the protesting Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians prevented the collaborators from holding the vote on the alleged "accession" of Crimea to Russia, thereby drawing world attention to the actions of the Russian occupation forces and ensuring international non-recognition of renewed occupation. However, on the morning of February 27, armed groups without insignia infiltrated the building of the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea led by Sergei Aksyonov, the head of the non-party Russian Unity.

The government building was perpetrated by Russian occupation armed groups. Sergei Aksyonov, who was a member of Salem, a notorious Crimean organized crime group, in the 1990s, was appointed by the occupation

¹ T.Tasheva, 2024. 10 years. Resistance in Crimea is going on. UP. (Т. Ташева, 2024. 10 років. Спротив у Криму триває. Українська Правда)
<https://www.pravda.com.ua/columns/2024/02/26/7443723/>

administration to the position of so-called "Prime Minister" of Crimea. The occupation of Crimea in 2014 did not occur in a vacuum. It was preceded by decades of Russian propaganda and subversive activities within Ukraine. As researchers Guboglo and Chervonnaya documented, the support of Crimean Tatars in the referendum (1991) played a decisive and key role in Crimea's accession to Ukraine.² However, even after Ukraine proclaimed independence in 1991, Russian propaganda in Crimea and the influence of agents of Moscow embedded in Ukrainian governmental structures continued to spread the Soviet-era chauvinist narrative portraying Crimean Tatars as an allegedly "unreliable" nation. This propaganda served a clear purpose - to divide Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars and to undermine the unity between the Ukrainian state and its most consistent ally - Crimean Tatars, which had always supported Ukrainian independence and territorial integrity. By 2014, this decades-long disinformation campaign had created fertile ground for the Russian occupation.

The harmful consequences of Russian narrative within the Ukrainian government manifested at the critical moment of 2014. Refat Chubarov testifies: "I remember when GRU agents perpetrated the Council of Ministers and the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea, there were only 110 of them. They could have been quickly neutralized and the sovereignty of Ukraine and the Crimean peninsula could have been defended from the occupiers, because our military unit was nearby - twenty kilometers from Simferopol. And when I spoke with one Ukrainian major about why they were not neutralized, he said: firstly, we had no orders, and secondly, we had instructions from the Ukrainian government that so-called the "main threat" were the Crimean Tatars."³ For decades, the 'fifth column' implanted the Kremlin agents into Ukrainian governmental structures which paralyzed the defense of Crimea. This was a GRU and FSB special operation - a sabotage that enabled the occupation. In 2014, Crimean Tatars became the main and sole pro-Ukrainian political force that unequivocally declared non-recognition of the renewed occupation and affirmed that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine.

Following repeated attempts by the Russian government to "negotiate" with the Mejlis, including direct phone calls from Putin to Mustafa Dzhemilev, and

² Chervonnaia, Guboglo, "Vozvrashchenie krymskotatarskogo naroda","Statistical Yearbook of Ukraine for 1991. Kyiv: Tekhnika, 1992.; Crimean Tatars: Safeguarding Ukraine's Independence in 1991

<https://crimeantatarfoundation.org/crimean-tatars-democratic-triumph-safeguarding-ukraines-independence-in-1991/>

³ Mustafa Dzhemilev: Crimean Tatars were considered unreliable, but we became the main force against the occupation, 2025.

<https://baltimorechronicle.com/tech/2025/02/26/mustafa-dzhemilev-crimean-tatars-were-considered-unreliable-but-we-became-the-main-force-against-the-occupation/>

having received a firm refusal to recognize the occupation, Moscow proceeded to the systematic destruction of Crimean Tatars in the occupied territory of Crimea.

The first documented murdered victim of the occupying regime was Reshat Ametov - a Crimean Tatar whose body was discovered bearing signs of severe torture.⁴ This was followed by systematic enforced disappearances, with murdered victims found dead or remaining missing. Crimean Tatar civil activists and human rights defenders are subjected to unlawful criminal prosecution and sentenced to terms of 17 to 24 years of imprisonment.⁵ The premises of Crimean Tatar media outlets and charitable organizations have been confiscated. Crimean Tatar media have been forcibly closed, including the TV channel ATR, the radio station "Meydan," and the print outlets *Yanı Dünya* and *Qırım*, along with threats against the children's publication *Armançıq*. The use of the Crimean Tatar Latin alphabet has been prohibited, Crimean Tatar literature has been forcibly removed from libraries, and the use of national symbols has been banned.⁶

On April 19, 2017, the International Court of Justice issued a historic ruling, ordering the Russian Federation to "refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatars to conserve its representative institutions, including the Mejlis".⁷ The Russian Federation disregarded this ruling.⁸

The illegal prohibition of the Mejlis⁹ by the Russian occupation regime in 2016 under conditions of renewed occupation of Crimea constitutes genocide — the deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the national, ethnical, racial, and religious group, in whole or in part, under Article II(c) of the 1948 Convention. The targeted deprivation of Crimean Tatars of the supreme representative body of the autochthonous nation aims to eliminate their capacity for organized resistance to genocide under conditions of occupation, where the Russian occupation regime has deliberately created a state of complete legal defenselessness of Crimean Tatars. The constitutional entrenchment

⁴ Halya Coynash, 2024. Reshat Ametov and 10 years of Russia's systematic torture, abductions and killings of civilians for supporting Ukraine <https://khp.org/en/1608813458>

⁵ Genocide Watch, 2024.

<https://www.genocidewatch.com/single-post/crimea-report-ten-years-of-russian-persecution>

⁶ OSCE. (2015) Report of the Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea (6–18 July 2015). Available from: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/0/2/180596.pdf> [Accessed 18 December 2021].

⁷ I.C.J. Reports 2017, p. 140 <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/105444>

⁸ Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the Request for the International Court of Justice to Interpret Its Provisional Measures Order Against The Russian Federation, 2018.

<https://mfa.gov.ua/en/news/8712-zajava-ministerstva-zakordonnih-sprav-ukrajini-shhodo-zvernennya-ukrajini-do-mi-zhnarodnogo-sudu-oon-stosovno-tlumachennya-nakazu-sudu-pro-zastosuvannya-timchasovih-zahodiv-proti-rosijsyk>

⁹ Mejlis of Crimean Tatar Nation <https://qtmm.org/en/>

of the Mejlis as the supreme representative body of Crimean Tatar — the autochthonous nation of Crimea and an indigenous people of Ukraine — in Ukrainian legislation is a necessary measure to prevent the Russian Federation from exploiting legal ambiguities against Ukraine in international fora.

Historical analysis reveals a systemic pattern: the destruction of the supreme representative bodies of the autochthonous Crimean Tatar nation invariably precedes each wave of genocide aimed at the destruction of the national, ethnical, racial, and religious group as such.

Following the illegal occupation of the Crimean Tatar Nation's Republic by the Bolshevik regime in 1918, the AqlıkQırım-genocide (1921–1923) ensued; the physical elimination of the Chairmen of Crimea (Veli Ibrahimov — 1928, Memet Kubayev — 1931)¹⁰ directly preceded the genocide of Crimean Tatars of 1932–1933; the execution of the entire Crimean Tatar intelligentsia in 1937–1938 created conditions for the Sürgün-genocide of 1944. The illegal prohibition of the Mejlis in 2016 reproduces this historical sequence, making the ongoing genocide since 2014 a predictable consequence of the deliberately created legal defenselessness of the Crimean Tatars under occupation.

As of November 2025, according to the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, 487 individuals have become prisoners persecuted as members of the national, ethnical, and religious group (so-called political prisoners) or have been subjected to persecution under fabricated criminal cases, of whom 273 are representatives of the Crimean Tatars.¹¹ Despite constituting only 10.6–26.25% of the peninsula's population, Crimean Tatars represent 60% of all prisoners of conscience - a disproportion that unequivocally indicates targeted persecution on national, religious, racial and ethnic grounds. Mathematical analysis demonstrates a disproportion coefficient ranging from 2.25 to 6.5: Crimean Tatars are subjected to persecution 225–650% more frequently than would be expected under proportional distribution corresponding to the ethnic, national, racial and religious composition of the population.

The evidentiary basis for genocide requires proof of specific intent (*dolus specialis*) — the intent to destroy a national, ethnical, racial, and religious group, in whole or in part, as such. Russian state and state-affiliated sources provide direct evidence of such intent. The "Crimean SMERSH" and "SMERSH Sevastopol" channels, overseen by Alexander Talipov — a state adviser to the head of the

¹⁰ Rayfield, "A Seditious and Sinister Tribe", 290; К истории одного проекта, 2024.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180505134723/http://moscow-crimea.ru/history/20vek/republic.html#4>

¹¹ Victims of the occupation of Crimea, CTCRC, 2025 <https://ctrcenter.org/uk/projects/zhertvy-okkupacii>

illegal occupation administration of the so-called "Republic of Crimea" — systematically disseminate calls for the physical destruction of the Crimean Tatars as a national, ethnical, racial, and religious group.

The name "SMERSH" (an abbreviation for "Death to Spies") is not coincidental. SMERSH directly participated in the organization and perpetration of the Sürgün genocide of 1944.

Documented evidence from the aforementioned channels includes the following categories of statements constituting direct and public incitement to commit genocide under Article III(c) of the 1948 Convention: (a) Explicit threats to repeat the Sürgün genocide of 1944: "We must repeat it, they won't calm down" ("надо повторить, они не успокоятся"), (b) Calls for the "final solution" — terminology identical to that used by Stalin in 1944: "The final solution to the Crimean Tatar question" ("окончательное решение крымскотатарского вопроса"), (c) Systematic dehumanization of the Crimean Tatar national group through racial slurs: "Black-skinned" ("черномазые"), "these monkeys" ("этим обезьянам"), "Crimean Tatar scum" ("крымская татарва"), (d) Ethnic hatred directed simultaneously against Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians: "They long for the khokhol times" ("тоскуют за хохлятским временем"), (e) Calls for the restoration of instruments of mass terror specifically targeting Crimean Tatars: "Until the VChK, NKVD, and the notorious troikas are restored, Crimean Tatars..." ("пока не будет восстановлена ВЧК, НКВД и знаменитые тройки, крымские татары...").

These statements, documented since 2014 to 2025, constitute *prima facie* evidence of *dolus specialis* — the specific intent to destroy the Crimean Tatar national, ethnical, racial, and religious group, in whole or in part, as such. The deliberate invocation of the 1944 genocide, combined with the explicit use of Stalinist terminology ("final solution"), demonstrates the continuity of genocidal intent from the Soviet regime to the current Russian occupation regime.

Under the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (*Prosecutor v. Akayesu*, 1998), such public statements by officials affiliated with state authorities constitute not merely incitement but evidence of a systematic policy directed at the destruction of a protected group.

In August 2024, the Telegram channel of the sabotage and assault reconnaissance group "Rusich" (over 251,000 subscribers as of March 2025) published a message explicitly calling for the ritual killing of a Crimean Tatar: "A prisoner... preferably not quite a Slav, but a tanned one, a Crimean Tatar or something similar for a ritual sacrifice to the Slavic gods on the autumn equinox holiday to inspire and

strengthen the spirit of the unit's new personnel." This statement received over 8,000 approving reactions, demonstrating widespread endorsement of genocidal intent within the Russian military and paramilitary structures ([Censor.net](https://www.censor.net/en/n3505505), August 2024).¹² The "Rusich" group, designated as a neo-Nazi formation, has a documented history of extrajudicial executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war. Its founder, Alexei Milchakov, openly espouses Nazi ideology. In November 2025, the same group announced a photo contest featuring killed Ukrainian prisoners of war, with prizes paid in cryptocurrency — evidence of the systematic and incentivized nature of war crimes and crimes against humanity.¹³ The selection of victims based on phenotypic characteristics ("tanned," "not quite a Slav") and explicit national identification ("Crimean Tatar") demonstrates that the perpetrators possess the requisite specific intent to target a protected group under the 1948 Convention.

These facts qualify as direct and public incitement to genocide under Article III(b),(c),(e) of the 1948 Genocide Convention and Article 25(3)(b),(c),(e) and Article 7(1)(a), Article 7(1)(h), of the Rome Statute, as well as dissemination of ideas of racial superiority under Article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The occupying forces of the Russian Federation—including FSB special units, the National Guard (Rosgvardiya), OMON, the Investigative Committee, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and state-supported lynch groups such as the “Russian Community” - systematically conduct armed raids on the homes of Crimean Tatar families with children, in the early morning hours, using weapons and violent forced entry. Statistical data indicate that 99% of all such intrusions in Crimea are directed exclusively against Crimean Tatars—which, given their 10.6–26.25% share of the population, makes randomness mathematically impossible and irrefutably proves a *dolus specialis* — the specific intent to destroy the Crimean Tatar national, ethnical, racial, and religious group, in whole or in part, as such.

These actions constitute as genocide under Article 6 of the Rome Statute and Article II(b) and (c) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide—causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the national group and deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring

¹² Z.Z.Mustafaieva, Z.Z.Mustafaieva, 2025. No Right to Exchange: How Crimean Tatar Soldiers Became Hostages to Their Identity in Russian Captivity, <https://crimeantatarfoundation.org/no-right-to-exchange-how-crimean-tatar-soldiers-became-hostages-to-their-identity-in-russian-captivity/> ; RF army neo-Nazi group SARG "Rusich" wants to conduct ritual sacrifice of captured Ukrainian Source, 2024: <https://www.censor.net/en/n3505505>

¹³ United24 Media, November 2025 <https://united24media.com/latest-news/russian-neo-nazis-group-launch-photo-contest-with-killed-ukrainian-pows-13513>

about the physical destruction of the group, in whole or in part. The systematic use of violent armed home invasions targeting Crimean Tatar families, including the intimidation of children, constitutes persecution on national, ethnic, and racial grounds as a crime against humanity under Article 7(1)(h) of the Rome Statute, torture and inhuman treatment as war crimes under Article 8(2)(a)(ii) of the Rome Statute and outrages upon personal dignity as war crimes under Article 8(2)(b)(xxi) of the Rome Statute. All aforementioned acts were committed in occupied territory in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

One of the most significant pieces of evidence of *dolus specialis* — the specific intent to destroy the Crimean Tatar national, ethnical, racial, and religious group — is an official document of the Russian Orthodox Church: a directive from Metropolitan Tikhon on the forced conversion of Muslims to Orthodoxy. According to the document, the stated goal is "for their children to be born Orthodox Christians.

This constitutes direct evidence of the intent to destroy the religious and national identity of the group across generations, forcibly transferring children of the group to another group under Article II(e) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group under Article II(d) of the 1948 Convention through the deliberate destruction of the group's religious and cultural reproduction, causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the group under Article II(b) of the 1948 Convention, forced assimilation and destruction of culture in violation of Article 8(1) of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and violation of freedom of religion under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The involvement of the Russian Orthodox Church as an institution of the Russian state in the perpetration of genocide demonstrates that the destruction of the Crimean Tatar national, ethnical, racial, and religious group is a matter of state policy of the Russian Federation.¹⁴

Religious persecution is characterized by unlawful armed raids on mosques in occupied Crimea, systematic arrests of Crimean Tatar Muslims on fabricated charges with sentences of up to 23 years, forcible transfer of Crimean Tatar prisoners persecuted as members of the national, ethnical, and religious group to Russian maximum and special security penal institutions thousands of kilometers

¹⁴Z.Z.Mustafaieva, Z.Z.Mustafaieva, 2025. Silence is complicity. Genocide in Crimea and the World Responsibility. <https://crimeantatarfoundation.org/silence-is-complicity-genocide-in-crimea-and-the-worlds-responsibility/>

from their families, violations of the right to freedom of religion through prohibitions on conducting prayers in places of detention and denial of access to religious literature, forced feeding of pork as a form of religious humiliation and inhuman treatment, as well as systematic denial of necessary medical care resulting in the deaths of prisoners and the progression of oncological diseases to terminal (fatal) stages.¹⁵

These actions constitute deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the Crimean Tatar national, ethnical, racial, and religious group, in whole or in part, as such — genocide under Article II(c) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, killing members of the group under Article II(a) of the 1948 Convention — where denial of medical care results in death, causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the group under Article II(b) of the 1948 Convention, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, persecution on religious grounds as a crime against humanity under Article 7(1)(h) of the Rome Statute, torture and inhuman treatment as war crimes under Article 8(2)(a)(ii) of the Rome Statute committed in occupied territory, violation of freedom of religion under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and violation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

All defendants in the so-called "Hizb ut-Tahrir cases" are practicing Crimean Tatar Muslims. The organization Hizb ut-Tahrir operates legally in Ukraine, the United States, and the majority of countries worldwide. The designation of "terrorism" is a fabricated pretext employed by the Russian occupation regime to mask the targeted destruction of the Crimean Tatars on national, ethnical, and religious grounds.

The application of Russian legislation in the occupied territory of Ukraine violates the principle of *nullum crimen sine lege*, Article 64 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and Article 43 of the Hague Regulations (1907). This constitutes evidence of *dolus specialis* — the specific intent to destroy the Crimean Tatar

¹⁵ CTRC, 2025.

<https://ctrcenter.org/uk/okupanty-znovu-nezakonno-vidpravlyayut-za-graty-tyazhkohvorogo-krymskogo-politvyazny-a-lenura-halilova>;
<https://ctrcenter.org/uk/verhovnyj-sud-rf-skasuvav-vyrok-pomerlomu-v-sizo-krymskomu-tatarynu-dzhemilyu-gafarovu>

national, ethnical, racial, and religious group, in whole or in part, as such, under the 1948 Convention.

Forcible Transfer of Children: Genocide under Article II(e) of the Convention

Article II(e) of the 1948 Genocide Convention defines "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group" as genocide. In occupied Crimea, the Russian occupation regime carries out this transfer through the following methods through:

Linguistic assimilation: Destruction of Crimean Tatar education and coercion into Russian-language instruction. Before the occupation, 384 classes with instruction in the Crimean Tatar language functioned in Crimea; by 2024, only 119 remained—despite approximately one million Crimean Tatars residing in Crimea. In Aq-Yar (Sevastopol), in the 2024/2025 academic year, not a single preschool, secondary, vocational, or supplementary educational institution remained where the Crimean Tatar language was taught.¹⁶ According to an analysis of curricula in so-called "Crimean Tatar schools" for the 2025/2026 academic year, the Crimean Tatar language is taught only 1–3 hours per week out of 30–34 instructional hours - 93-97% of the curriculum is conducted in Russian.

Forced denationalization through education: Systematic destruction of Crimean Tatar history and its violent replacement with the Russian imperial narrative. According to a 2022 Council of Europe report, schools in Crimea deliberately destroy the Crimean Tatar national identity of children, replacing it with Russian identity—which constitutes genocide under Article II(e) of the 1948 U.N. Convention. The curriculum of the occupation administration denies the existence of Crimean Tatars as the autochthonous people of the peninsula, erasing their historical heritage.¹⁷

Forced religious conversion: The Russian Orthodox Church officially calls for the violent baptism of Crimean Tatar Muslim families (directive of Metropolitan Tikhon). The goal is the destruction of the religious identity of the group across generations, which constitutes genocide under Article II(e) of the 1948 U.N. Convention.

Forced militarization of children: Cadet classes, forced preparation for service in the armed forces of the occupying state, "Yunarmiya" programs.

¹⁶ E.Beketova, 2025. CEPA. <https://cepa.org/article/behind-the-lines-crimean-tatars-battle-to-save-their-language/>

¹⁷ Zmina.info / Amnesty International, November 2024.
<https://zmina.info/en/news-en/russia-militarises-education-and-erases-cultural-identity-of-ukrainian-children-in-temporarily-occupied-crimea-un-and-amnesty-international/>

According to UN and Amnesty International reports, compulsory military training and propaganda classes were introduced immediately after the renewed occupation of Crimea.¹⁸ Since 2022, students, staff, and parents are coerced into attending propaganda sessions justifying Russian aggression against Ukraine. Russia has illegally established a network of forced militarization centers for Crimean Tatar youth—the systematic transformation of children of the persecuted group into soldiers of the aggressor state constitutes genocide under Article II(e) of the 1948 U.N. Convention.

Destruction of families: over one thousand Crimean Tatar children without parents: The systematic imprisonment of Crimean Tatar men in Russian penal institutions has left over one thousand children without fathers (RISU / CTCRC, February 2025). The deliberate creation of orphans through the imprisonment of parents constitutes both Article II(e) — forcible transfer of children — and Article II(c) — deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the group.

According to CTCRC data for 2017–2024: 10,018 human rights violations were recorded in occupied Crimea, of which 6,730 were against representatives of the Crimean Tatar nation. During the period of occupation, the following has been documented: 61 deaths, of which 29 were Crimean Tatars; 25 victims of enforced disappearances, of which 18 were Crimean Tatars.¹⁹

Forced Mobilization: Genocide and War Crime

From 2015 to 2025, the Russian occupation regime conducted 22 waves of forced conscription in occupied territory, unlawfully mobilizing no fewer than 53,000 protected persons from the peninsula—a direct violation of Article 51 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits compelling the population of occupied territory to serve in the armed forces of the occupying power. In October 2025, the 22nd wave began. In 2024, approximately 5,500 residents of occupied Crimea were forcibly mobilized into the Russian army.²⁰

¹⁸ Crimean Tatar Resource Center, 2025.

<https://ctrcenter.org/uk/militaryzacziya-ditej-na-tymchasovo-okupovanyh-terytoriyah-ukraviny-posyluyetsya>;
<https://ctrcenter.org/uk/militaryzacziya-v-krymskyh-shkolah-v-okupovanomu-akmyesdzhiti-simferopoli-do-ukrayins-kyh-ditej-znovu-pryvely-vbyvcz>

¹⁹ КримРесурсний Центр, 2025. <https://ru.krymr.com/a/krym-news-bariev-60procentov-tatary/33609147.html>; Crimean Tatars Resource Center, 2024.

<https://ctrcenter.org/uk/v-okupovanomu-krymu-zafiksovano-10-018-porushen-prav-lyudyny-krcz>

²⁰ Kyiv Independent, January

2025. <https://kyivindependent.com/russia-illegally-drafted-5-500-residents-of-occupied-crimea-in-2024-kyiv-says/>

Over 30% of those convicted for evading military service in occupied Crimea are Crimean Tatars. According to CrimeaSOS, in September 2022, Crimean Tatars received approximately 90% of all summonses, despite constituting no more than 10.6–26.25% of the population—a disproportion that excludes randomness and constitutes direct evidence of targeted destruction of the national, ethnical, racial, and religious group. CrimeaSOS representative Yevhen Yaroshenko directly characterized this practice as "covert genocide of the Crimean Tatars." Tamila Tasheva, Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, confirmed that in the first days of mobilization, Crimean Tatars received approximately 1,500 summonses.²¹

Forced mobilization of protected persons constitutes a war crime under Article 8(2)(a)(v) of the Rome Statute and simultaneously genocide under Articles II(a), II(b), II(c), and II(d) of the 1948 Convention: killing members of the group through deliberate deployment to combat zones with high mortality rates; causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group through the mass removal of men of reproductive age.

Since the start of the Russian full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, several exchanges of prisoners of war have taken place. As of August 30, 2025, not a single servicemember from the national group of Crimea— Crimean Tatars—has been included in any prisoner exchange, which, under the principle of equality in the Third Geneva Convention, indicates the systematic discriminatory application of international humanitarian law on national grounds, and qualifies as a war crime under Article 8(2)(a)(vi) of the Rome Statute—deprivation of the right to a fair trial on discriminatory grounds—combined with genocide under Article 6, as it demonstrates a special intent to causing serious bodily and mental harm on members of the national group by creating an atmosphere of constant fear for the fate of loved ones; by systematic psychological torture of the families of the disappeared; and by the deliberate creation of intolerable living conditions for Crimean Tatars on their ancestral homeland with the aim of forced displacement (so-called “deportation”) and destruction of the group, in whole or in part as such under Articles II(b) and II(c) of the 1948 Genocide Convention.

²¹ Halya Coynash, 2022. Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group. Russia heavily targets Crimean Tatars in forced mobilization in occupied Crimea. <https://khpg.org/en/1608811193%20Halya%20Coynash.%202025>

As of 2025, every second Crimean Tatar family has been subjected to threats, intimidation, and psychological torture by the Russian occupation regime's security forces and propaganda media, as well as to forced so-called "filtration conversations" based on membership in the national, ethnical, racial, and religious group. These actions, directed against the Crimean Tatars as such, constitute genocide under Articles II(b) and II(c) of the 1948 Convention: causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the group, and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part.

The centuries-long struggle for independence waged by Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians against Russia demonstrates the unbending will of these two nations to preserve their identity and defend their ancestral lands. The methods of systematic destruction employed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine reproduce the patterns of genocide perpetrated against the Crimean Tatars since 1783. The genocidal practices tested on the Crimean Tatars are now being applied to the Ukrainian nation as a whole.

Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians possess a unique historical heritage and powerful legal arguments for building a shared future in Crimea—a future free from competition and conflict. Both nations have historically had and continue to have a common enemy: Russia. Both nations have suffered genocides perpetrated by Russia. Both nations are not for the first time united in the struggle for freedom on their autochthonous lands. The national-territorial autonomy of Crimean Tatars on their ancestral land is the sole legal construct that refutes any claims of Russia to Crimea. The legal positions of Ukraine and Crimean Tatars do not compete—they mutually reinforce each other. The alliance of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars creates the foundation for a future of Crimea that is simultaneously Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian, free and just.

Ukraina serbest olacaq. Qırım serbest olacaq.

Ukraine will be free. Crimea will be free.