

WHY CRIMEAN TATARS ARE BEING PERSECUTED IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA

Abstract

This poster discusses the three main reasons why Crimean Tatars are being persecuted by the Russian Federation in Occupied Crimea: for their religious beliefs, political will, and citizen journalism.

Introduction

The Crimean Peninsula, southern part of Ukraine and north of the Black Sea Region, has been under occupation since February 2014 by the Russian Federation (RF). Crimean Tatars are indigenous people of Ukraine facing continuous discrimination and being persecuted for practicing Islam, holding political beliefs and engaging in citizen journalism⁵. Situation of human rights violations in Crimea for seven years of the occupation by RF has resulted in over 84 Crimean Tatar families and children being left without their fathers.

Why are they persecuted?

1. Civic activity
2. Religion/affiliation to Hizb ut-Tahrir party
3. Citizen journalism

Reasons why it is happening:

- Crimean Tatars support Ukraine and do not recognize the occupation of Crimea. Some post information in social media to raise awareness of human rights violations⁴. The only way of showing their civic activity, as peaceful protests are prohibited in Russia.
- Crimean Tatars are Muslims. For practicing Islam, they are seen as terrorists. Possessing literature about Islam is prohibited. In their efforts to fight terrorism, Special Forces conduct unfounded searches of Crimean Tatars' homes, simply searching for any prohibited Islamic literature. The men are arrested if literature is found. Some Crimean Tatars who are affiliated with the prohibited in RF Hizb ut-Tahrir party are accused of terrorism too¹.
- Crimean Tatars record home searches and court hearings as citizen journalists and post them at social media. As a result, they tend to be persecuted too.

Conclusion

Human rights violations in occupied Crimea by the RF have led to the imprisonment of 84 Crimean Tatars because of the following reasons - religious and political beliefs and citizen journalism³. That is why the international community needs to ramp up sanctions against the RF and why the media needs to spread the word to raise awareness of these human rights violations.



Crimean Tatars in the court cell wear T-shirts with statements on: "Practicing religion is not terrorism"; "Appointed as a terrorist in 2016".
Photo by Crimean Solidarity²

References

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