

Following the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the Russian Federation, in violation of international humanitarian law, extended its own legislation to the Peninsula, causing systematic and grave violations of the rights of persons living on its territory. Since the beginning of the process of occupation, Russia has initiated politically motivated persecution of disloyal individuals and those it considered potentially disloyal, in particular on religious grounds.

The full text
of the analytical report



The persecution of Crimean Muslims is carried out through prosecution for:

 participation in or organization of activities of extremist and terrorist organizations, in particular, Hizb ut-Tahrir and Tablighi Jamaat, activities of which are banned in Russia, but not in Ukraine	 propaganda or public display of attributes or symbols of extremist organizations or other characteristics and signs, the propaganda or public display of which is prohibited by law
 public calls for terrorist activities	 carrying out missionary activities
 public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism	

Crimean Tatars are prosecuted for the most part. The majority of those persecuted by the occupation authorities, i.e., 98%, are members of the Crimean Tatar ethnic group, which indicates that they are being targeted.

Criminal prosecutions are often accompanied by violations of criminal procedure, including violations of the right to a fair trial:

 The occupation authorities conduct searches at night or early in the morning	 Persons prosecuted are to be tortured	 Convicted persons are forcibly transferred to the territory of the Russian Federation to serve their sentences
--	---	--

The primary evidence relied upon by the courts in passing sentences is the results of linguistic examinations and the testimony of anonymous («secret») witnesses, many of whom are employees of the FSS of the Russian Federation, as well as the testimony of witnesses during the pre-trial investigation, which they recant during the trial, claiming that they were previously given under pressure. Whereas evidence provided by the defense is often not considered by the court.

The persecution of Crimean Muslims is a violation of international human rights law. The Russian Federation is in violation of the following:

FREEDOM OF THOUGHTS
Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which provide for the right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

FREEDOM OF OPINIONS
Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which establish the right to express one's opinions

The persecution of Crimean Muslims is a violation of obligations assigned to Russia as an occupying power, namely the following norms of international humanitarian law:

ARTICLE 27

of the Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949 – ensuring the right of protected persons to respect for their religious convictions and prohibiting discrimination on religious grounds

ARTICLE 58

of the Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949 – allowing ministers of religion to give spiritual assistance to the members of their religious communities

ARTICLE 15, ARTICLE 53

of the Protocol (I) Additional to the Geneva Conventions, 1977 – protection of and respect for civilian personnel and protection of places of worship

The actions of the officials of the Russian Federation and the occupation authorities may be qualified as the following crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court:



Crime against humanity:

Article 7(1)(h) – discriminatory persecution, for which liability is provided



War crimes:

Article 8(2)(a)(ii) – torture or inhuman treatment
Article 8(2)(a)(iii) – wilfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health