

#LetMyPeopleGo - free the Kremlin's Ukrainian hostages

Currently, the Kremlin is jailing at least 56 Ukrainians on political motives.

#LetMyPeopleGo is a campaign advocating for their release.

Since the occupation of Crimea, which was condemned by UNGA resolution, and start of aggression in East Ukraine, Moscow unraveled a powerful propaganda campaign against pro-Ukrainian activists and ordinary citizens. To justify her actions, no less than **56 Ukrainian citizens** have been imprisoned on trumped-up charges.



Among these fabricated incriminations are espionage, terrorism, extremism, sabotage, imaginary participation in the Chechen War 20 years ago or even taking part in Ukraine's Euromaidan revolution. A number of them have already been sentenced to long terms in prison - **up to 22.5 years**.

They are...

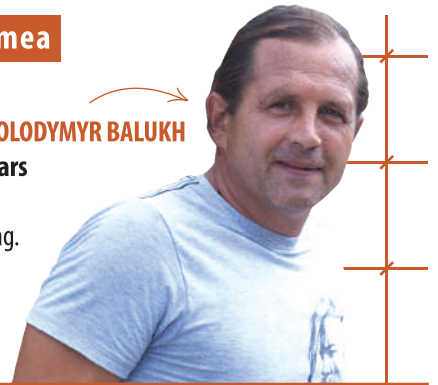
Persecuted for opposing the annexation of Crimea



Like film director **OLEG SENTSOV**, who was sentenced to **20 years** along with **OLEKSANDR KOLCHENKO** and **OLEKSIY CHYRNIY**.



And Crimean farmer **VOLODYMYR BALUKH** was sentenced to **3 years** for, essentially, flying the Ukrainian flag.



UNGA (Res. 71/205), International Court of Justice, European Parliament (Res. 0190/2017), and PACE have demanded Russia reinstate the Mejlis

Imprisoned for being Crimean Tatar & Muslim

Crimean Tatars, Crimea's indigenous people, were among the most vocal opposers of the Russian takeover of the Ukrainian peninsula in March 2014. In response, Russia banned their representative organ, the Mejlis. **29 Crimeans**, mostly **Crimean Tatars**, have been imprisoned for alleged "terrorism," i.e. involvement in **Hizb ut-Tahrir** and **Tablighi Jamaat**, non-violent Muslim movements, legal in most countries, including Ukraine, but considered terrorist and extremist by Russia.



For instance, **RUSLAN ZEYTULLAEV** has been sentenced to **15 years** on the basis of a "secret witness" testimony. The lawyers helping the victims of this lawlessness, like **EMIL KURBEDINOV**, have also been persecuted.

Jailed on trumped-up charges and judged in kangaroo courts



Ukrainian citizens have been arrested based on the testimonies of "anonymous witnesses" and planted evidence such as airsoft weapons being passed as real weapons for "sabotage attacks." Most often, their access to lawyers is restricted. Many were hidden in prisons for a year before being discovered by human rights activists. The cases of those accused of "spying" like **VALENTYN VYHIVSKYI** are classified so it's impossible to even know what they are accused of.

This airsoft gun for games was broadcast on Russian TV as "proof" that Ukrainians were planning "sabotage" in Crimea



Abused and tortured

Ukrainian prisoners are held in terrible conditions and sent to Russia's northern regions, denied medical care and communication with their relatives. At least 12 have been severely tortured to extort "confessions" of committing grave crimes.



This abuse has gravely endangered **STANISLAV KLYKH**'s physical and mental health. Apart from torture by electricity, he was "treated" with psychotropic substances to extort "confessions."



19-year-old **PAVLO HRYB** was abducted by the FSB on a visit to **Belarus** to a location thousands of kilometers away in **Russia** and accused of a school bomb plot based on an intercepted Skype joke. Pavlo has a serious health condition, but is being denied treatment and access of doctors.

Accused of "sabotage" and atrocities to create a picture for Russian TV

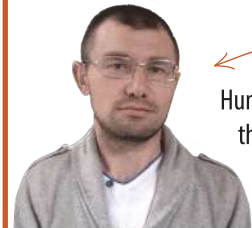


YEVHEN PANOV was tortured, and his confession of plotting "sabotage attacks" in occupied Crimea was broadcast on TV.

Similarly, **SERHIY LYTVYNOV** was falsely accused of killing dozens of Donbas civilians. These stories are circulated by Russian propaganda to reinforce negative myths about Ukrainians and generate support for the Kremlin's undeclared war.



Punished for defending others' rights



Human rights activist **EMIR USEIN KUKU** searched for the abducted and helped the arrested after the annexation of Crimea. To stop him, the Russian authorities detained him on groundless charges of "terrorism." Moreover, they intimidate his little kids while cynically blaming... the prisoner himself for not looking after them since the arrest.



Jailed for being a journalist

ROMAN SUSHCHENKO served as the Ukrainian correspondent to Paris, covering the secret networks of Russian influence in France and Europe. He was decoyed to Moscow, seized and accused of "spying" on fictitious charges.

And these are only a few examples.

They are hostages of Russia's hybrid war against Ukraine

The Ukrainian political prisoners serve as living proof for the alternative "reality" Russian government media show their population. In this alternative reality, Russia isn't waging an undeclared war against Ukraine, it is itself being attacked by Ukraine.



The fake "crimes" allegedly perpetrated by Ukrainians are reported as fake "news" justifying the Kremlin's picture of the world.

In October 2017, 2 of the Kremlin's hostages **ILMI UMEROV** and **AKHTEM CHIYGOZ**, both Crimean Tatar leaders, were released due to political negotiations. Altogether, **8 have been freed**.



As demanded by the UNGA (Res. 71/205), European Parliament (Res. 2017/2596 and 2017/2869), PACE (Res. 2112 and 2141), state leaders and politicians worldwide."

The #LetMyPeopleGo campaign calls to free all the Kremlin's hostages.

More information at: LetMyPeopleGo.org.ua

 fb.com/LetMyPeopleGoUkraine.en
 twitter.com/LetMyPplGoUA_en

Support the Kremlin's hostages, write them a letter: letmypeoplego.org.ua/letter
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LET MY PEOPLE GO!

