

URGENT ACTION

PROTESTOR RELEASED AFTER SERVING FULL SENTENCE

Crimean Tatar protestor Server Karametov was released from police custody in Simferopol, Crimea on 19 August after serving his full 10-day sentence. He was arrested on 8 August while engaging in a peaceful protest outside Crimea's Supreme Court.

On the evening of 19 August 76-year old Crimean Tatar protestor Server Karametov was released from police custody. He was sentenced on 9 August to 10 days of administrative detention by a de facto court in Russian-occupied Crimea for allegedly resisting arrest by a police officer while participating in a one-man picket in front of the Supreme Court of Crimea on 8 August. Video footage of his arrest however clearly shows that he was not resisting arrest. Server Karametov's lawyer submitted an appeal to the Supreme Administrative Court of Crimea but it was rejected.

On the day of his release, the Russian authorities drove Server Karametov to the Central Railway Station in Simferopol, rather than release him from the detention centre where he was held, so as to avoid the dozens of Crimean Tatars who had gathered outside the detention centre to welcome Server Karametov. Once the authorities let him go at the railway station, Server Karametov called his son, who picked him up and drove him to the cheering crowd.

On 14 August, eight Crimean Tatar protestors staged single-man pickets outside de facto government buildings and central places in Simferopol in support of Server Karametov and in protest against the numerous members of the Crimean Tatar community currently facing trial. All eight protestors were arrested and released shortly afterwards. One was sentenced to a 10,000 RUB (USD \$165) fine for protesting in front of the Supreme Court of Crimea, which is prohibited under repressive Russian laws regarding the organising of public events outside court and government buildings.

The Russian Federation annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in March 2014. Since then, the de facto Crimean authorities have embarked on a zealous campaign of silencing all possible sources of dissent, including severely restricting the right to freedoms of assembly, association and expression, as well as prosecuting those who continue to try to exercise these rights, including under trumped-up charges. The Crimean Tatars have been particularly targeted by these reprisals.

No further action is required of the UA network for the time being. We will continue to monitor the situation and request further action when necessary. Many thanks to all those who have sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 193/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/6923/2017/en/>

Further information on UA: 193/17 Index: EUR 50/6972/2017 Issue Date: 22 August 2017

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