

# URGENT ACTION

## 76-YEAR OLD CRIMEAN TATAR PROTESTOR IN DETENTION

**76-year old Crimean Tatar Server Karametov was arrested on 8 August by the de facto authorities in Crimea while engaging in a peaceful protest and sentenced to 10 days of administrative detention on charges of resisting police. He is a prisoner of conscience, with Parkinson's disease, who must be immediately and unconditionally released.**

On 8 August the de facto authorities in Russian-occupied Crimea arrested 76-year old Crimean Tatar **Server Karametov** while he was holding a hand-written placard addressed to the Russian President Vladimir Putin and the local de facto head of government Vladimir Aksyonov that read, "Putin (Aksyonov), our children - Akhtem Chiygoz – are not terrorists! Stop accusing Crimean Tatars". Video footage shot by an eyewitness shows four police officers surrounding and grabbing Server Karametov to take him away. Server Karametov insisted on being allowed to stay, his hands moving in a non-violent or threatening manner in a random pattern, a typical symptom of someone suffering from Parkinson's disease. The police officers then forced Server Karametov inside a police car parked nearby and drove him away.

That same evening, a judge at the Zheleznodorozhny District Court in Simferopol, the capital of Crimea, issued Server Karametov with a 10,000 ruble fine (USD \$167) for "violating the rules of conducting a single-person picket". On 9 August, the same court sentenced Server Karametov to 10 days of "administrative detention" for resisting police.

Server Karametov is one of dozens of Crimean Tatars who regularly gather outside court buildings while cases against members of their community are being heard inside, in peaceful protest against the de facto authorities' persecution of the Crimean Tatar people. Server Karametov is now one of several prisoners of conscience in Crimea being persecuted for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

### **Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:**

- Demanding the immediate and unconditional release of prisoner of conscience Server Karametov;
- Demanding an end to the persecution of members of the Crimean Tatar community in Crimea and full respect for their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 SEPTEMBER 2017 TO:**

#### Prosecutor of Crimea

Oleg Anatolyevich Kamshylov

Fax: +7 365 255 03 10

Email: [sekretar@rkproc.ru](mailto:sekretar@rkproc.ru)

Salutation: **Dear Prosecutor**

#### Head of Crimea

Sergey Aksyonov

Fax: +7 3652 24 80 20

Email: [sovmin@rk.gov.ru](mailto:sovmin@rk.gov.ru)

Salutation: **Dear Head of Crimea**

#### **And copies to:**

Human Rights Ombuds-person in  
Crimea

Lyudmila Lyubina

Email: [upchvrk@mail.ru](mailto:upchvrk@mail.ru)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** HER EXCELLENCY Ms Natalia Galibarenko, Embassy of Ukraine, 60 Holland Park W11 3SJ, 020 7727 6312, Fax 020 7792 1708, [emb\\_gb@mfa.gov.ua](mailto:emb_gb@mfa.gov.ua), [www.ukremb.org.uk](http://www.ukremb.org.uk)

**Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 1944 the entire Crimean Tatar population was deported from Crimea to remote parts of the Soviet Union. Ethnic Crimean Tatars were not allowed to return to their homeland until the late 1980s.

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 by severely restricting the right to freedoms of assembly, association and expression, as well as prosecuting those who continued to try to exercise these rights, including under trumped-up charges. The Crimean Tatar has been particularly targeted by these reprisals.

Dozens of members of the Crimean Tatar community have been arrested since the Russian occupation of Crimea, under various pretexts. Among them are individuals accused of membership of the Islamist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir, which is included in the official list of terrorist groups in Russia, but which is not banned in Ukraine. The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (a self-governing representative body) has been banned as “extremist” by the Russian authorities, while its leaders have either been forcibly exiled from their homeland or arrested under trumped-up criminal charges. Akhtem Chiygoz, deputy leader of the Mejlis, is currently in pre-trial detention on baseless charges of organising mass disturbances on 26 February 2014, the time while the peninsula was still *de facto* part of Ukraine.

For more details on these and other cases, please see Amnesty International’s 2016 Report, *Ukraine: Crimea in the dark: The silencing of dissent*: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/5330/2016/en/> and 2017 Report, *Ukraine: Rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the international blind spot in Crimea*: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/5886/2017/en/>.

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