

# Extrajudicial Detentions and Enforced Disappearances *in Kherson Oblast*

Factsheet | 18 November 2022

## MAIN FINDINGS

Reports of detentions and disappearances of 226 individuals in Kherson oblast; the total number is likely significantly larger.

Evidence consistent with an intentional campaign of detention and disappearance

Approximately one quarter of individuals allege torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Five people allegedly subject to torture died in custody or shortly after release.

At least 17 people were detained or disappeared for a second time.

Over half of those detained or disappeared do not appear to have been released.

Most detentions and disappearances were allegedly conducted by Russia's military and the FSB.

About half were taken from home; Crimean Tatars were disproportionately detained or disappeared at checkpoints.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERNS

Crimean Tatars: 32 individuals allegedly detained or disappeared were identified as Crimean Tatars. Of all individuals charged with a crime, 60.0% were Crimean Tatars.

Occupational patterns: The data set contains current or former government officials, including civil servants and politicians (60), civil society leaders or volunteers (33), educators (17), current or former law enforcement and security services (9), and journalists (7).

Military age men: 87.6% of individuals were men and among those with known ages, 79.1% were men of military age.

## ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE & CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

One-quarter allege torture: 55 people allege torture, including stress positions, beatings, electric shock, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), mock executions or Russian roulette, torture of relatives, sleep deprivation, sensory overload, and temperature manipulation.

Deaths in detention: Five of the individuals in this dataset are known to have died while in detention or shortly after their release. All were allegedly subjected to torture.

Electronic surveillance and monitoring: 24 (10.6%) had personal electronics taken, accessed, or monitored. The rate among Crimean Tatars was 19.0%.

Propaganda videos: 12 were forced to record propaganda videos.

Sexual and gender-based violence: 6 were subjected to or threatened with SGBV.

Due process: Fifteen people had been charged with a crime by the time of publication; at least 40.0% of those charged with a crime allegedly experienced torture while in detention.

## ALLEGED DETENTION SITES

High-confidence locations: 12 locations that serve or have served as nodes for capture, interrogation or detention within the detention system were established with high confidence.

Detention locations in Kherson oblast: Seven of these locations are detention and interrogation locations.

Checkpoints: Three of these locations are checkpoints in Kherson oblast or on the border with Crimea.

Detention locations in Crimea: Two are detention locations in Crimea to which people were brought from Kherson oblast. All individuals identified for this report who have been charged with a crime under a Russia-imposed legal system have allegedly been brought to one of these locations.