

28 April 2023

## Crimea (Ukraine): Human rights defender **Abdureshit Dzhapparov** in administrative detention after a house raid

On 25 April 2023 Crimean Solidarity reported that at 7 am, human rights defender **Abdureshit Dzhapparov**'s family home in Bilohirsk, Crimea was raided by unknown individuals in Russian military uniform. After the raid, the same group of individuals forced the human rights defender with them to an unknown location. More than 12 hours later, Abdureshit Dzhapparov was transferred to Simferopol, charged with an administrative offence and detained for 12 days.

[Abdureshit Dzhapparov](#) is a human right defender and activist of the Crimean Tatar National Movement working to raise awareness about Crimean Tatars as an indigenous community and standing up for the community's right to return to their homeland after the 1944 Deportation by Joseph Stalin's regime. Since the illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation 2014, Abdureshit Dzhapparov has coordinated the Crimean Contact Group on Human Rights, dealing with enforced disappearances on the Russia-occupied peninsula. Abdureshit Dzhapparov is one of co-founders of human rights group Crimean Solidarity and several other initiatives. In 2020 he was [nominated](#) to the Nobel Peace Prize.

On 25 April 2023 Crimean Solidarity human rights initiative reported that at 7 am human rights defender Abdureshit's Dzhapparov family home in Bilohirsk was raided by unknown individuals in Russian military uniform. According to the human rights defender's wife, the groups raiding the house immediately seized their phones, and thus they weren't able to contact their lawyer or anyone else while the raid was occurring. After the raid, the same group of individuals took the human rights defender with them to an unknown location. His family members and lawyers commenced the search for Abdureshit Dzhapparov in different locations where the human rights defender could have been held. However, the Russian Federal Security Service, local department of the Ministry of Interior and the representatives of the Center for Combating Extremism denied that Abdureshit Dzhapparov was detained on their premises.

On 25 April 2023, after 9 pm, Abdureshit Dzhapparov's lawyer, [Edem Semedlyayev](#), and family managed to gain confirmation that the Russian authorities transferred him from Bilohirsk to Simferopol where he is being held in the Detention Center for Administrative Detainees located in the police precinct of Zaliznychnyi district in Simferopol. The authorities charged Abdureshit Dzhapparov with "disobedience to the lawful order of a police officer," an administrative offence stipulated by the Article 19.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation, because he allegedly obstructed the seizure of his laptop during the search. The sanction envisioned under this article pertains to [12 days](#) of administrative detention. Abdureshit Dzhapparov's lawyer was not informed of the Court hearing, and subsequently could not attend.

This is not the first time that Russian authorities in Crimea have targeted Abdureshit Dzhapparov for his human rights work. Last year, in March 2022, Abdureshit Dzhapparov's house was also raided; after the raid he was detained for 15 days for [reposting a video](#) which allegedly displayed Nazi symbols on his social media page in 2019, violating Article 20.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation. On 27 September 2014, Abdureshit Dzhapparov's son, Islyam Dzhapparov, and his nephew, Dzhevdet Islyamov were enforcibly disappeared near the Crimean Tatar village of Sary-Su in the Bilohirsk district, and have been missing ever since.

There has been a pattern of targetting human rights defenders for their legitimate and non-violent human rights work on Russian-occupied territories, including women human rights defenders Iryna Horobtsova and Iryna Danylovych.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the raid of the house of Crimean Tatar human rights defender Abdureshit Dzhapparov, followed by his disappearance and detention. Front Line Defenders condemns the Russian Authorities for depriving human rights defender Abdureshit Dzhapparov from accessing his attorney and severely limiting his right to defence.

**Front Line Defenders urges the authorities of the Russian Federation to:**

1. Immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Abdureshit Dzhapparov from administrative detention and cease the systematic targetting of him;
2. Ensure that Abdureshit Dzhapparov as well as other human rights defenders arrested or detained for any reason by the Russian Authorities in Crimea have access to proper and freely-chosen legal aid and can exercise their right to fair trial;
3. Take all necessary measures to ensure the physical and psychological security and integrity of Abdureshit Dzhapparov and his family;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in the territory under de-facto control of the Russian Federation are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisal and free from all restriction.