URGENT ACTION

76-Year old crimeaN tatar protestEr 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 Zhelezhnodorozhny 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.

**1) TAKE ACTION**

**Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:**

* 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.

Contact these two officials by 21 September, 2017:

Prosecutor of Crimea

Oleg Anatolyevich Kamshylov

Fax: +7 365 255 03 10

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

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Ambassador Valeriy Chaly, Embassy of Ukraine

3350 M St NW, Washington DC 20007

Phone: 1 202 349 2963 | Fax: 1 202 333 0817

Email: [emb\_us@mfa.gov.ua](mailto:emb_us@mfa.gov.ua)

Twitter: @UKRintheUSA

Salutation: Dear Ambassador

**2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION**

[Click here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3RUspces4lA9Gt7Fp9GiAcojCs6fnfFOTCLli3Su6c3S8ew/viewform) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 193.17*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

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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/>.

Name: Server Karametov

Gender m/f: m