

JAN
01-31
2023

LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

The situation in the Ukrainian territories
temporarily controlled by the Russian army

INFORMATION BULLETIN



Activities of the resistance movement in the occupied territories | Photo: Telegram / Zhovta Strichka

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ELEMENTS OF TERROR

FROM THE SIDE OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY AND OCCUPATION ADMINISTRATIONS

- The New York Times published an investigation describing the facts of the looting of Ukraine's cultural heritage by Russian occupiers.

“

... They loaded
such masterpieces,
which are no longer
in the world, like rubbish

More than 15 thousand works of fine art and unique artefacts, including paintings, books, bronze statues, coins, ceramics, jewelry, were taken out of the Kherson Art Museum with gross violations of the rules of transportation and packaging.

“I am the daughter of an officer who raised me strong, and I cried for two weeks. No, I wasn't crying, I was sobbing. They loaded such masterpieces, which are no longer in the world, like rubbish,” says the museum director, Alina Dotsenko, who has worked there for 45 years.

Valuable items from the collection, including gold products of the Scythian Empire, made 2,300 years ago, were stolen from the Melitopol Museum of Local Lore. In the Kherson Museum of Local Lore, showcases were broken, from which centuries-old artefacts were roughly pulled out.

The shelling of museums, looting and kidnapping of their staff is a planned Russian attack on Ukrainian identity, memory, and culture.

<https://nyti.ms/3JAoMEu>



■ **Russian troops do not stop looting in the temporarily occupied territories.**

So, in the settlements of Hornostaivka, Kairy, Bratoliubivka and Nyzhni Sirohozy of Kherson oblast, the occupiers, moving in groups of 10–15 people, search the empty premises of residents and take out all household appliances and furniture.

In one of the settlements of the Kakhovka district, the occupation authorities announced an inventory of the movable and immovable property of local private entrepreneurs, followed by the so-called “nationalization.”

<https://bit.ly/3kQLZrt> <https://bit.ly/3WWSAOs>

■ **The mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, reports that the Russian occupiers have become more active in looking for representatives of the Ukrainian resistance:** they disguise themselves as civilians, walk through markets, courtyards and supermarkets, and listen to what people are talking about.

https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1146

■ **Head of the Luhansk Regional Military Administration (hereinafter – RMA) Serhii Haidai reports that residents of the Novopetrovsk community of Luhansk oblast complain of threats from Russians for refusing to let a child go to school.**

If it becomes known that a child is not participating in the Russian curriculum, representatives of the occupiers come home and threaten to take away parental rights.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8058>

■ **About 1,500 employees of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, who did not sign an employment contract with the occupiers, had their passes blocked to enter the station.**

Those employees who were forced to sign the contract were told that their wages would be reduced on the grounds that the company was not currently operating. Due to the shortage of qualified personnel, Russians are looking for new employees on the territory of the Russian Federation and are preparing housing stock for future personnel through the so-called “nationalization” of flats of local residents who have left.

<https://bit.ly/3XTfc3I> <https://bit.ly/3WS1EnX>

■ **Employees of the Security Service of Ukraine found another Russian torture chamber in the liberated village of Oleksandrivka in Mykolaiv oblast, set up on the territory of a private house.**

In its dungeons, the occupiers forcibly detained and brutally tortured residents who refused to cooperate with them.

Trying to obtain the addresses of members of the resistance movement, the Russians strangled prisoners with plastic bags, beat them, used a stun gun. Law enforcement officers found instruments of torture and identified the names of the Ukrainian victims.

<https://t.me/SBUkr/6413>



According to the information of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (hereinafter – the AFU):

- In Kakhovka, Kherson oblast, Russian occupiers are trying to ban the circulation of Ukrainian hryvnia, conducting raids on retail outlets, and threatening to confiscate not only money but also goods if they find Ukrainian currency.
- The Russians have strengthened the administrative and counter prospecting mode in Starobilsk, Luhansk oblast, due to the high efficiency of the defence forces' firepower. The occupiers are checking the mobile phones of residents. Particular attention is paid to people who have numbers of subscribers of Ukrainian telecommunications operators in their contacts.

<https://bit.ly/3HMSuUj>

- **Prosecutors, together with police investigators in Kharkiv oblast, exhumed the bodies of civilians shot dead in Borova village, Izium district, on the second day of the town's occupation.**

According to the investigation, on 14 April 2022, Russian soldiers used a large-calibre machine gun and small arms to shoot at two evacuation buses carrying civilians in Borova. At least nine people have now been confirmed dead and burnt alive on the bus. Thirteen people survived and were taken to a local hospital.

A resident of Borova village buried all the dead in May. The remains of the bodies were sent for forensic medical examinations.

https://t.me/pgov_gov_ua/8991



- **The New York Times published an article describing the stories of people who fell victim to a drunken soldier in the final days of the Russian army in Bucha.**

On the evening of 27 March, shortly before curfew began, a Russian military officer detained a 75-year-old teacher, Oleksandr Kryvenko, in the street and, at gunpoint, forced the man to look for alcohol for him in the homes of locals.

At the house of a 63-year-old Ukrainian politician and former MP, Oleksandr Rzhavskyi, who let them inside and treated them to wine, a Russian soldier opened fire, shooting Kryvenko and Rzhavskyi, and detonated a grenade, injuring his leg.

<https://nyti.ms/3wQoIbU>

- **From the local hospitals of Kakhovka and Nova Kakhovka, the Russian occupiers took out all medical equipment to Novotroitske in Kherson oblast.**

The occupation authorities are closing medical institutions in these cities, contrary to previously provided promises. The staff was confronted with the fact – transfer or dismissal.

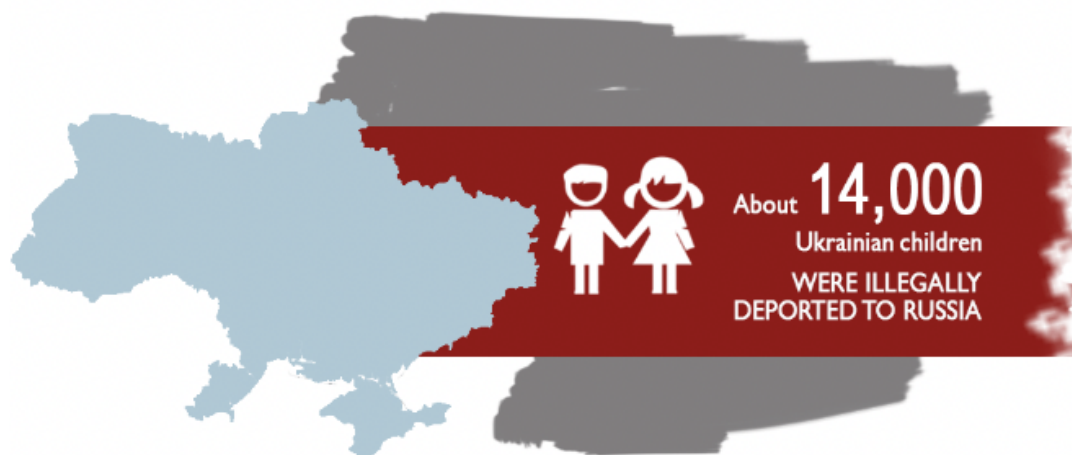
<https://bit.ly/3YIW8uZ>

- Representatives of the Kherson Regional Prosecutor's Office, together with police investigators and experts, conducted an exhumation and examination of the body of a 50-year-old man who died at the hands of the occupiers as part of criminal proceedings.

According to the investigation, on March 6, 2022, a resident of the village of Pravdyne, Kherson oblast, was riding a moped near the village. On his way, he happened to be close to a convoy of Russian equipment, for which he was shot by the Russian military with automatic weapons. The body of the murdered man was sent for forensic examination.

<https://bit.ly/3DB3R05>

DEPORTATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS



- Adviser—Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children's Rights and Rehabilitation Daria Herasymchuk said that about 14 thousand children were illegally deported to the Russian Federation from the occupied territories of Ukraine, of which only 125 were returned.

<https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2023/01/17/252392>

- Melitopol mayor Ivan Fedorov reports that Ukrainians deported by the occupiers towards Zaporizhzhia are disappearing without a trace.

They are driven out of their homes with little or no belongings, wearing only slippers, and are forced to walk to the "grey zone." The Russian propaganda media devoted separate stories to the expulsion of the "saboteurs." However, people do not reach the crossing, where the Ukrainian side is waiting for them. It remains unknown where Ukrainians are actually being sent.

https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1213

- According to the *Verstka* newspaper, Russian authorities removed at least 14 orphans from Kherson under the age of five to the *Yolochka* orphanage in Simferopol.

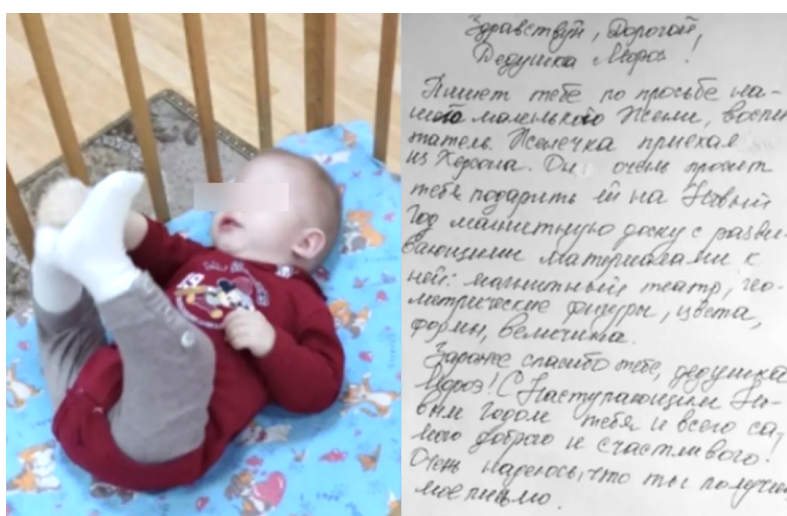
The children's exact whereabouts were discovered through photographs published on the *Adoption in Moscow region* website.

The photos were accompanied by letters to Santa Claus, in which the children briefly talked about themselves. 14 postcards were signed in the same handwriting, and each mentioned that the child came from Kherson.

All 14 children were photographed inside the same *Yolochka* orphanage, which specializes in working with children with central nervous system injuries, mental and behavioural disorders, hearing, vision and HIV.

Two years ago, a scandal erupted at the orphanage because of inadequate care of the children: several foster families said they had taken their children from the orphanage with extreme exhaustion.

<https://bit.ly/3HRuwZ4>



PROPAGANDA AND FORCED RUSSIFICATION

- In schools of the Starobilsk district of Luhansk oblast, teachers check children's gadgets to identify a pro-Ukrainian position.

Smartphones are examined once a week in all classes. In one of the schools, the principal is personally involved in the inspection. He looks at all messengers, social media, browser history, YouTube and TikTok.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8237>

- The Oplot TV propaganda channel showed a report filmed at school No 27 in Mariupol, where the troupe of the Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theatre performed a play “The Soul of a Soldier and Fhare” based on the poem “Vasiliy Terkin” by Alexander Tvardovsky. During an interview with one of the actors, he said that the explosion in the theatre on March 16 was a planned action of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It is worth recalling that the theatre building was destroyed that day as a result of an air strike by the Russian army. Around 300 people who had been using the building as a shelter were killed.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/6206>



- According to Serhii Haidai, head of the Luhansk Regional Administration, the so-called “Luhansk Ministry of Education and Science” has sent a corresponding document to the heads of “administrations” of cities and districts, as well as subordinate educational organizations, which, in particular, advises removing books from the list of 365 items from the collections of school libraries in the occupied Luhansk oblast. These include fiction, history books, biographies and essays related to Ukraine. They recommend removing literature about the Holodomor in Ukraine, textbooks and reference books on Ukrainian history, comic books, journalism published after 2014, books from the “Famous Ukrainians” series, and fiction about “recent history events” in Ukraine and Donbas.

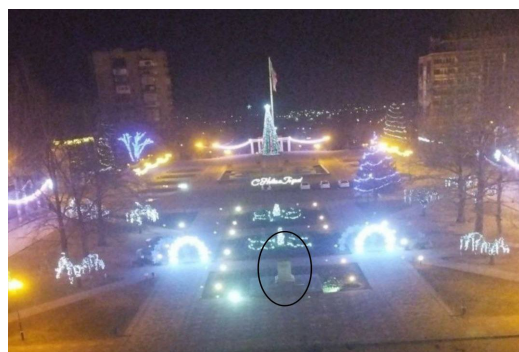
<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8137>

- Parents’ chats in Novopskov schools in the Luhansk oblast have received further reminders from head teachers of the need to make the children learn the words of the Russian national anthem to sing it at school assemblies on Mondays. According to the residents of the community, they receive such messages regularly.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8269>

- At night, during the curfew in Melitopol, a monument to the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko was dismantled.

https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1187



- A concert for the Russian military was staged in Mariupol, with children from local schools performing. Parents were warned that any dissent or resistance could end in detention and “basement.”

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5757>



- In Melitopol, local collaborators announced that they were going to rename streets named after “Ukrainian Nazi ideologists.”

From the published list of renames shows that such names as Yevreiska, Sadova, Vyshneva, Lokomotyvna, Krymska are Nazi. Streets named after Prince Yaroslav the Wise, Hetmans Orlyk, Doroshenko, Sahaidachnyi, Academician Paton, film director Dovzhenko, as well as in honor of Soviet pilot Amet-khan Sultan and General Petrov, who defended Odesa from the Nazis in 1941, will also be renamed.

<https://t.me/kazansky2017/5482>



- A bust of Lenin has been installed in the central alley of Mariupol's oldest park, called Classics Alley.¹

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5622>

- The Russian military were invited to another "Talking about important things" class hour at School 5 in Mariupol.²

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/6047>



1|



2|

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN OCCUPIED SETTLEMENTS

- In Mariupol, the occupation authorities started issuing warrants with lease agreements for so-called "ownerless" flats whose owners have not registered with the so-called DPR. Adviser to Mariupol mayor Petro Andriushchenko reminds residents that these flats belong to Mariupol residents who have been evacuated, and in case they need to move into someone else's home, asks them to take good care of their property.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5763>

- Several trucks, loaders, and a crane were brought to the cardboard and packaging factory in Rubizhne, Luhansk oblast.

Three paper machines, which are modern, compact, and easy to set up and use, are being dismantled. According to employees, the equipment will be sent to Kuban, where there is a similar plant.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8197>

Adviser to Mariupol mayor Petro Andriushchenko briefly described the conditions of children's education in Mariupol schools:

- Sixteen schools are operating; there are two shifts. The youngest secondary school children (from 4th grade) study in the second shift and finish their studies around 19.00. High school and elementary school study in the first shift.
- Education in schools (except for three renovated and demonstration schools) takes place not so much in classrooms as in corridors. There are no physical barriers, so several classes in the same corridor at arm's length study different subjects at the same time.
- The main focus of the education is on the history of the Russian Federation and the Russian language. Ukrainian is available as a "mother tongue" or "foreign language" from 2023 on the personal request of parents. Given the realities of total control and repression, there are no interested parties.
- Each week begins at school with the singing of the Russian national anthem and a class lesson entitled "Talking about important things."
- The topics for the propaganda lessons were developed by the occupier's "education department" without the right to change. All scenarios for cultural events in schools, including even New Year's celebrations, must be coordinated with the relevant unit of the so-called Ministry of State Security of the Donetsk People's Republic. The principal and head teacher are responsible for this, with dismissal and detention in case of violation.
- Meals are provided in six schools out of sixteen. Other schools do not even have it at the level of dry rations.

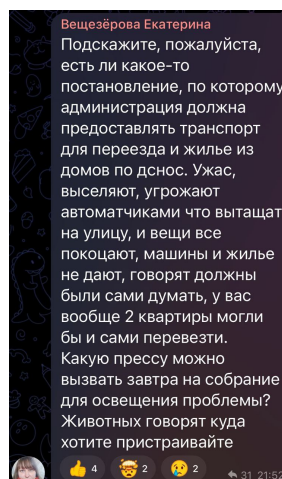
<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5840>

- With the active demolition of buildings damaged by shelling in Mariupol and the lack of organization for the removal of personal belongings, city residents put up posters opposing the dismantling of their homes.

Messages in which Mariupol residents complain about the boorish attitude of the "administration," threats if they refuse to move out of houses designated for demolition and failure to provide transport for relocation are also circulating in social networks.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5582>

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5792>



The situation with health care in Mariupol for civilians is deteriorating

- There is only one endocrinologist for the whole city, with appointments from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- There is one ENT department in the city with a limited number of beds in the intensive care hospital. At the same time, military hospitals have been deployed based on working hospitals. Consequently, plasma, and blood supplies are exhausted and there is a shortage of beds for civilians.
- Residents may be refused treatment/examination if they do not have “state” health insurance, which can only be obtained with a Russian passport.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/6272>

- The head of the Luhansk RMA, Serhii Haidai, reports that the Russians organized mass raids on retail facilities in order to detect hryvnia payments to the population.

The occupiers' demand to set price tags only in roubles led to the transition of the population to non-cash payment. The Russians are seizing terminals and threatening fines, but the circulation of the hryvnia has not stopped. Only supermarkets adhere to innovations, markets and small shops continue to accept hryvnia, in particular, to a bank card.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7896>

- In the Bilovodsk community of Luhansk oblast, the occupiers are forcing farmers to vacate hangar rooms for Russian soldiers to settle in them.

The modern Bilovodsk central district hospital now houses a military hospital with a huge number of wounded occupants.

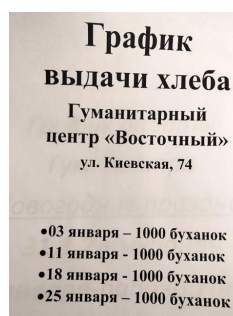
<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7839>

- Queues at hot lunch outlets in Mariupol are not shrinking.

Due to the difficult humanitarian situation, a bread distribution schedule has been approved.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5777>

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5960>



- Adviser to Mariupol mayor Petro Andriushchenko informs that from January 1, 2023, it becomes mandatory to obtain Russian passports for all teachers, medical workers, police officers, and employees of “state” structures.

Starting from 1 March, it will be impossible to run a business in Mariupol without a Russian passport. Also, legal professionals (judges, lawyers, and jurists) must be accredited in the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/5765>

- There are cases of the of expired products being distributed as part of humanitarian kits.

At the *Yablochko* humanitarian centre in Mariupol, pensioners were given stew, which expired in November 2022. The stew had a rotten smell and a rotten taste.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/6213>



SITUATION

IN CERTAIN AREAS OF DONETSK, LUHANSK OBLASTS AND CRIMEA

- The forced integration of temporarily occupied territories into the legal field of the Russian Federation continues.

In Horlivka, Donetsk oblast, the deadline for issuing Russian passports has been reduced from 30 to 10 days. In addition, number plates and driving licences of Russian sample are being issued in the region.

<https://bit.ly/3JAq42i>

- According to Serhii Haidai, the head of the Luhansk Regional Administration, the Alchevsk metallurgical plant does not allow employees who do not hold Russian passports to work.

The plant’s employees are faced with the choice of starting to apply for it or to quit.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8198>

- Activists of the Zhovta Strichka movement do not stop and continue to distribute leaflets, hang yellow ribbons in the temporarily occupied Donetsk and Lugansk, reminding Russians that they are on Ukrainian territory.

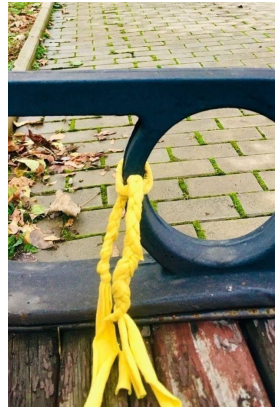
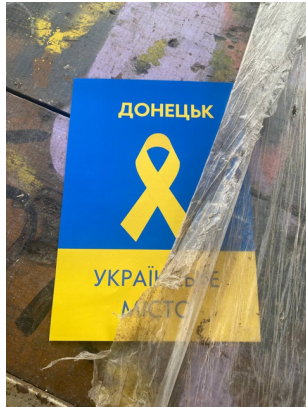
https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3258

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3101

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3084

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3212

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3032



- The so-called LPR and DPR have “adopted” laws “On the system of election commissions, referendum commissions in the LPR/DPR,” which establish the procedure for the formation, activities, and powers of the election commissions formed on the territory of the so-called LPR/DPR for the preparation and holding of elections and referenda at different levels.

<https://dnr-news.ru/politics/2023/01/18/214318.html>

<https://bit.ly/3HshjEP>

- The municipal utility company “Luhanskelektrotrans” informed about its liquidation.

<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8037>

- According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:

- In Horlivka, Donetsk oblast, the occupiers are forcing employees of local so-called “republican” enterprises to obtain Russian passports. If they fail to comply by 1 March 2023, the workers will be dismissed.
- Mobilization continues in the temporarily occupied territory of Luhansk oblast. For example, the occupation administration in Alchevsk has prepared further lists to make up for Russian military casualties, in particular at the expense of employees of the so-called Ministry of Emergency Situations.
- In Horlivka, up to 30 people were forcibly mobilized during yet another raid, 4 of them disabled. After two days of training at the training ground, they were sent to one of the military units of the Russian occupation forces.

<https://bit.ly/3l35htW>

<https://bit.ly/3DB4A1j>

<https://bit.ly/3DuX73F>

- Activists of the *Zhovta Strichka* movement in Feodosiia, Yevpatoriia, Yalta, Sevastopol, Simferopol, Kerch continue to conduct numerous raids at night, posting leaflets and drawing patriotic graffiti, despite repression by the Russian occupation authorities.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3184

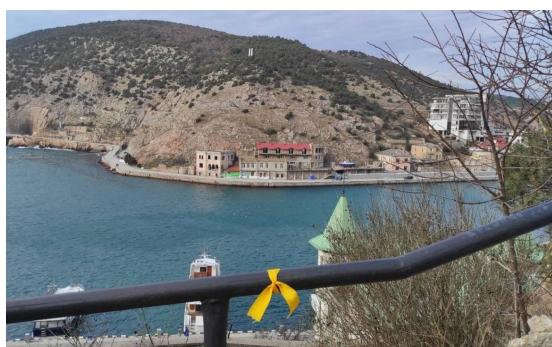
https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3120

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3063

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3052

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3263

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3131



- The occupiers continue to use the Crimean Peninsula for "integration processes" of the newly occupied territories.

The National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos has been given operational control of the Stone Tomb Reserve in Zaporizhzhia oblast.

<https://bit.ly/3WWUMpa>

- Flyers from the “*I want to live*” project are distributed in the Crimean Tatar language in the Bakhchysarai district: above the QR code that leads to the project website, it says “Help Crimea get rid of occupiers, spread the news among friends and relatives.”

<https://bit.ly/3WY6wYF>

According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:

- The occupiers searched the homes of over 20 Crimean Tatar families in Dzhankoi district of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and carried out six arrests “on suspicion of preparing sabotage and terrorist acts.”
- In Sevastopol, IT specialists, financial workers and other specialists who had reservations on the mobilization began to receive summonses to military commissariats.
- In Crimea, by the end of January, all so-called “state” and private institutions must submit lists of persons for reservation to military commissariats. The next mass wave of mobilization is scheduled for the end of February.

<https://bit.ly/3DzaCzl> | <https://bit.ly/3XUBDFG>

<https://bit.ly/3wP7z2A>

The Office of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea reports:

- In Crimean educational institutions, the occupiers continue to perpetuate the memory of the Russian military who died in the war: they want to erect a monument in the Hvardiiske; a desk and a commemorative plaque were installed at the Krasnohvardiyskiy district art school for the participant of the so-called “special military operation.”
- The occupiers attract children to write letters of “support” for Russian soldiers fighting against Ukraine.
- In Simferopol, the street was named after “paratroopers who died for the independence of Donbas;” in Dzhankoi, memorial plaques were unveiled to two more Russian soldiers; in Yevpatoriia, a square was opened “in honour of the heroes of the SMO.”

<https://bit.ly/3RoQtBO>

RESISTANCE OF UKRAINIANS TO THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION

- In Melitopol, Berdiansk and Enerhodar, the number of *Zhovta Strichka* activists who continue to fight against the occupation, despite repression, Russian patrols, and searches, is increasing.

In addition to pasting leaflets and drawing pro-Ukrainian graffiti, activists distribute flyers with a QR code that redirects to the article “How to avoid getting a Russian passport?”.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3205 | https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3229

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3069 | https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3170

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3143 | https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3107



- In Henichesk and Skadovsk, residents ignore Russian passportization and distribute materials aimed at boycotting it.

Many city streets are decorated with yellow ribbons and leaflets reminding the occupiers that Ukrainians will never give up.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3179 | https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3152

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3094 | https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3219

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3044



- In Nova Kakhovka, activists of the *Zhovta Strichka* movement continue to resist the occupation, distributing pro-Ukrainian leaflets and drawing patriotic graffiti.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3254

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3077

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3237



- The letter “I” and the yellow ribbon have become true symbols of Ukrainian defiance in the occupied territories.

A resistance group in Mariupol launched the “Chalk Resistance” challenge, calling on ordinary residents of the city to chalk up places where occupants and collaborators live.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/6207>

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3201

<https://t.me/mrplsprotyv/6456>

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3165



- In Melitopol, a nighttime light show was staged outside the occupation administration building in support of the AFU.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/3278



- Mykola Karakaptan, a resident of Liubotyn, a veteran of the Russo-Ukrainian war and former ATO participant, after he was not taken to the front because of his age, started helping the military by making stoves for the AFO in his garage.

The materials needed for work are brought to him by friends.

It takes one day for Karakaptan to make one stove. In 3.5 months, he has already made about 20 stoves. The man calls the greatest difficulty the absence of light. Ready-made stoves, nicknamed "*karakaptans*" by the defenders, are taken to the soldiers by volunteers.

<https://bit.ly/3YeZLlx>



- Volunteers of the *Dobrobat* project continue to assist in the reconstruction of buildings damaged by Russian army shelling.

https://t.me/dobrobat_in_ua/4362



The work of volunteers to clear the rubble of a house in Chernihiv, on which a downed Russian SU-34 plane fell in March 2022