

«MY FATHER IS A HERO»

Essays written by children of political prisoners, the missing and the killed in Crimea

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Foreword

After the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia, searches, detentions, arrests, violent abductions of representatives of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people and pro-Ukrainian activists became everyday practice on the peninsula.

Today, more than 70 political prisoners of Crimea are being held behind bars in Russian prisons and in FSB facilities. Since 2014, 17 people have been missing on the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimea and their fate remains unknown. 17 people became the victims of the Russian regime on the peninsula.

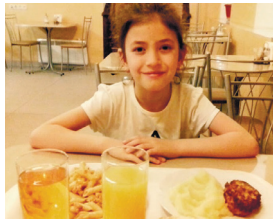
These illegal actions by the occupation authorities turned into real tragedies, first of all, for the families of repressed people. More than 100 children in Crimea were left without their fathers and breadwinners. Most of them survived stress. They saw how the armed law enforcers in masks used physical force, insulted and took their fathers from their homes.

This all remained a trace in their hearts and souls. Being minors, they felt the pain and bitterness of the loss of their close person. All of them in one day were deprived of paternal care and affection. Today every child needs psychological and material assistance.

In this booklet you will find essays of children dedicated to their fathers. These essays were written by children of different age groups in their native language. In the booklet you can see copies of the original children's essays, their photos and portraits of their fathers, read their essays translated into English.

You will be able to understand the tragedy of the occupation of Crimea through childish perception, childish psychology, childish spontaneity and pain. For each of them their dad is a hero.







Gulnara Asanova, 8 years old

and sleeps with us, he's with us all days long, I'm very happy about my father. But when I go to school and do not see my dad upon my return, it's very hard for me. I have not seen my dad for 2 years. In April 2015, he was locked up in prison. I was 5 years old then. I will never forget that time, when my mother took us to the courts, I did not understand anything. Daddy has always been with us, but now he is not! Why is my dad behind the bars? Why is he handcuffed? Why? I know my dad is a hero, my dad is a very kind and good man. I know

Hello!

My name is Asanova Gulnara. I turned 8, I am a second grade pupil. This year on January 28 I will turn 8. I am a Crimean Tartar and live in Crimea. I have got two brothers and a sister: Muhammed, Mustafa and Mumine. My mother's name is Elnara and my father's name is Ali. Now my dad is at home under home arrest, he can not go out anywhere. There were courts, the police came and took dad away. When my father is at home, When my father is at home we feel good. It's warm at home, my dad eats with us

Handwritten text in Cyrillic script, likely a transcription of the girl's story, partially overlapping the printed text.

my dad will never do anything wrong.

We stayed with my mother. Dad is already in prison for two years. My brother Mustafa was born but my dad hasn't even seen him. Then I went to the first class, I saw that both parents held their children by the hand, but my dad was in prison, and now my mother has a lot of work to do.

When my mother was preparing a bag for my dad, we always helped her, we packed coffee, candies. Despite being little my brothers and a sister did not ask for a candy as they knew that that parcel was for our father.

Now dad is at home with us, but the court hearings are not over. When he is taken to the court and I come back home from school I sit at home and wait, hoping they will remove the bracelets and that my dad will be able to take me to school on September 1. May Allah let our daddy and all the innocent people who are in prison live in our homeland, in Crimea.

And I really want to say that when our dad was put in jail a lot of people came to our house. Old people read prayers, so that our dad and all the illegally imprisoned people quickly returned home. They helped us, brought sweets, clothes and toys. I wish them all to be healthy. They provided me with everything that I needed for school: notebooks, pens, books.

Every time on holidays they brought a gift.

I really want to live in my homeland, speak my own language, sing in Crimean Tatar language.



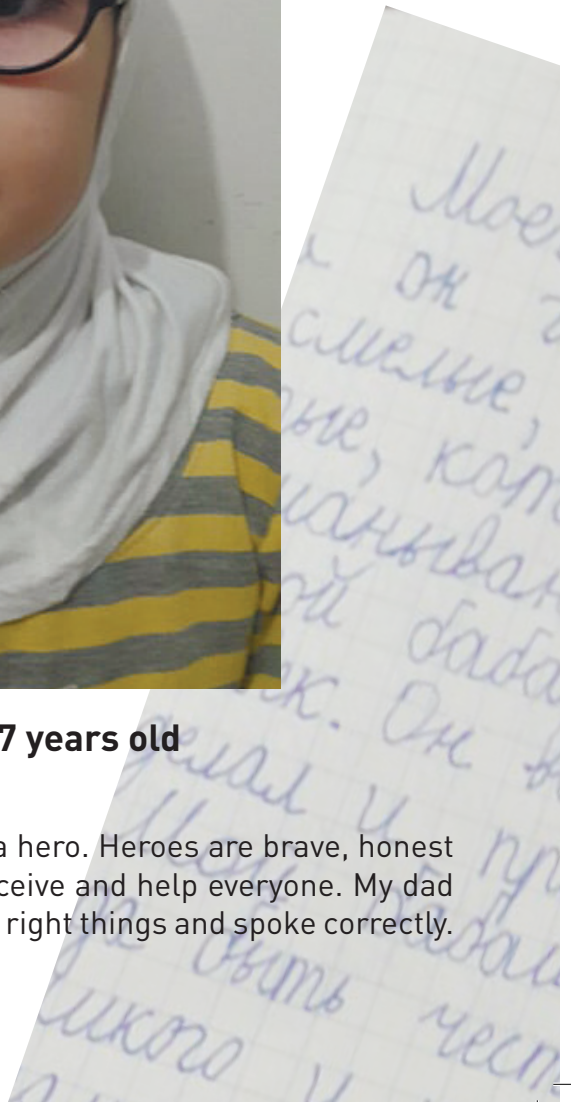
**ALI
ASANOV**



Ayshe Ibrahimova, 7 years old

My dad is my Hero.

My dad's name is Timur and he's a hero. Heroes are brave, honest and very kind people who never deceive and help everyone. My dad is also such a person. He always did right things and spoke correctly.



My father taught us to be always brave, kind and not to be afraid of anything. My dad said that the most important is that all our deeds must please Allah.

My dad worked hard, but he always found time to drive us to the river, to the sea, cafes and holidays. He treated us himself and was our personal doctor, and when we went to bed he read us a lot of prayers and said that the angels guarded us.

My dad loves us very much - he always used to say it, but now he is absent, and we miss him very much. He is the best of all fathers - my hero. We want him to come back home as soon as possible, because we all love him and wait ...

Ibragimova Aisha Timurovna, a pupil of the 2 class.

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**TIMUR
IBRAHIMOV**

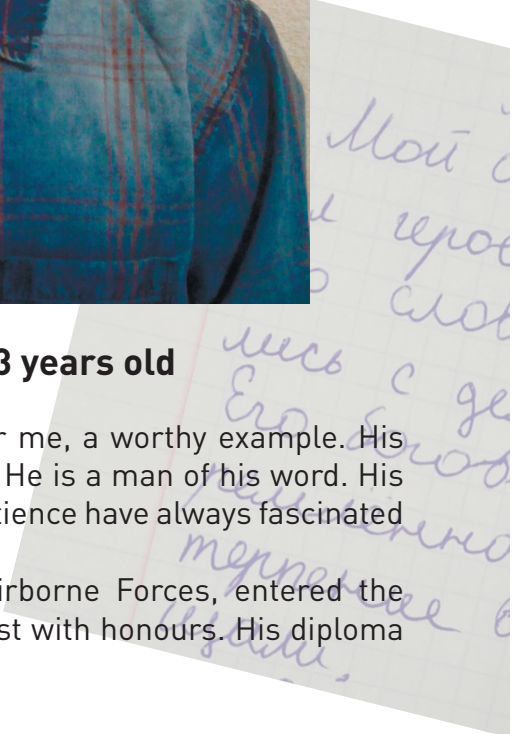


Akim Abseitov, 13 years old

My hero.

My father has always been a hero for me, a worthy example. His words never disagreed with his deeds. He is a man of his word. His piety, purposefulness, diligence and patience have always fascinated me.

He finished school, served in the Airborne Forces, entered the Medical University. He finished it almost with honours. His diploma



paper won the contest in Poland, but he refused to go there because he is very responsible and did not want to leave his parents and his motherland. While studying, he had a part-time job to help his old parents. He got married, then I was born and later my sisters and brothers appeared. He always worked a lot. All his leisure time he devoted to his family and those who needed his help. He respected the culture and traditions of our people. He is a dignified son of his nation, always respected the elders, and was very cheerful with

kids. He always tried to develop us, teach, play with us like a child. He loves nature and animals. He always tries to learn something new and then teaches us. Allah told us to strive for knowledge. He easily overcame all adversities.

On that terrible day, when my father was taken, I once again saw how fearless he was. He behaved calmly and steadily. He looked bravely into their eyes, asked them questions posing them in a dead end. They knew that their accusations were false and groundless. I hope that justice will prevail. They want my dad to forget that he is a Crimean Tatar, Muslim loving his people and faith. They are trying to break him.

My hero knows that the truth is on his side. And Allah's Inshallah will help him.

Abseitov Akim, a pupil of the 7th class.



**ZEVRI
ABSEITOV**



Serdar Abseitov, 8 years old

My name is Serdar. Today I want to tell you about my father. He is my hero. You will ask why? Because he's my dad, daddy. He is not afraid of anyone except Allah. He is a very brave, glorious, strong and kind person.

One day in the morning armed people came to us. They were shouting and walking in shoes inside the house. I was frightened. Dad

looked at them like a lion. He saved me, my brothers, my mother, my grandmother. Being frightened of dad they demanded that we were sent to another room. My dad is very strong and brave. After this day, my father has never returned home.

I really miss conversations, games with him and his jokes. Dad drove us to the mountains and to the sea. He is a dentist. He helped all the patients who asked for his help.

My dad is very smart, I'm very proud of him.

With the help of Allah, he will defeat the lies of enemies and will return home.

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**ZEVRI
ABSEITOV**

Меним адым Сердар. Булунъ
мен сизге бабам аркъында айтып
ва истейим О меним къарынам
Сиз сорарсыз: Не ичюн? Чонок
о меним Бабам, бабамны



Yusuf Dzhemadenov, 6 years old

My dad is a hero!

I'm Dzhemadenov Yusuf, I am 6 years old.

I was born in Crimea in Simferopol city! I really love my dad, because he is the best for me! He brought me up to be a real man!

For more than a year now we have been living without our father.

I remember how we learned the world map with him. Once our neighbor's house burned down, and my dad gave him food. I remember the morning when he was taken away, and when he hugged me and told to be the head of the house and help mum.

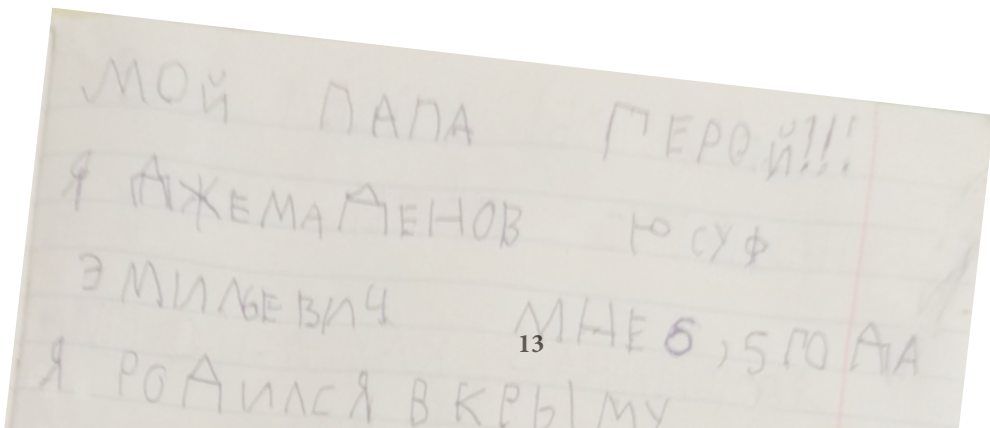
I am waiting for him and believe that he will return soon, and we will go to the sea and picnics all together.

I have got a younger brother, he is 4,5 years old and a 6 months old younger sister Assiya, who hasn't seen her dad yet. She was born 9 days after the detention. But Assiya already knows how to pronounce a word "daddy". I've always asked before, why these men took away my dad? And my mother answered me - because your dad is an honest man, fair, did not kill anyone, did not steal and I know it.

I really want my dad to come back home and to live all in Crimea!



EMIL DZHEMADENOV



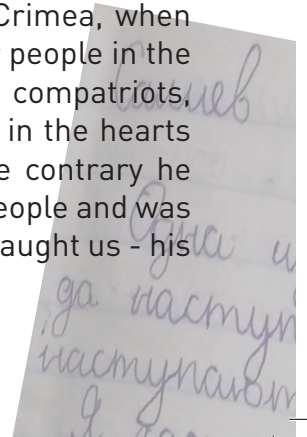


Salikh Saliiev, 10 years old

My dad is a Hero!

One of my mother's favorite quotes: "When night falls, stars appear, and when difficulties arise, men appear."

I often think about these words. I constantly think about my dear father. Four years ago, when everything changed in Crimea, when the persecution began, and even the demolition of our people in the form of searches and arrests, the disappearance of compatriots, and even murders, the fear of the oppressors settled in the hearts of many people. But my dad was not scared! On the contrary he always helped those who suffered. He supported his people and was ready to help everyone who was in difficulties. And he taught us - his



children, not be careless about our compatriots and their problems. He is a real man.

He is the Hero of our time. Do you know why? Because the heroes do not want anything for themselves. And they try to help all those whom they know and not. They can not drive expensive cars and live in beautiful palaces, wear brand and expensive clothes, although they can afford it, but depriving themselves, they will give everything to those who are in great need of it. They can warm and feed an orphan. They will collect money for the operation of a sick child. They will bring firewood to the old

people, being happy for them. They bring mercy and peace to the lives of others.

And my dad is one of these heroes. He is an example of sincerity, decency and spiritual beauty.

In October 2017 our family, like many other compatriots suffered a tragedy. Faceless human beings attacked our house, took our father away from us and threw him behind prison bars!

We were left alone. These cruel creatures destroyed our family fortress, where all of us and our beloved mother found a shelter, protection and support. There is now no shelter, no protection, no support. But there is our strong mother. She keeps fighting for the freedom of our father and all the other unjustly condemned compatriots. She says that our dad is there, in a damp cell, like a ray of light in a dark kingdom. Even though we do not see him, but

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**SEYRAN
SALIIEV**

he sends us strength from there. Staying in prison, he is still an example for everybody. People are proud of him.

I used to think that only criminals sit in prisons. But I was wrong. Today I know that ill-wishers want to chain the truth, justice, internal freedom. But they only make worse to themselves. Tyranny breeds heroes. And being in prison, these heroes only get stronger and help all of us even staying there with their steadfastness and courage.

I am proud to be the son of a hero. And I believe that soon my Hero will return to us and no one will separate us.

Saliiev Salih, 10 years old, 4th class.

Салиев Салиев 10 лет 4 класс
Мой папа - Герой!
Одна из любимых цитат моей мамы: «Когда наступит ночь, появляются звезды, а когда наступит трудность, появляются мужчины». Я часто думаю над этими словами. Четыре года назад, когда все изменилось в Крыму, когда наша родина в виде обстрелов и арестов, пропажи родственников, даже убийств, в сердцах многих людей поселился страх и безысходность перед лицом несправедливости. Но мой папа не сдался. Он поставил

I am 11 years old. My father, my role model was detained and taken away from us. Since childhood he has always been with me. We were fooling around like children, playing, fighting, walking since childhood. He always supported me. I remember when I was 3 years old, I went to the hospital. My mother could not stay with me as I had a little sister, so my granny stayed with me in the hospital. They were supposed to put me a dropper which I was afraid of as it was an injection. Then my father morally supported me. I still remember his words: "Be strong, courageous because you are a man. Do not be afraid of pain, it is passing. It will hurt a little and that's all". Then I calmed down a little bit. And in the end he said: "If you can bravely overcome your fear, Allah will reward you. A week later I was discharged from the hospital. And this day coincided with my birthday. On this day, my father brought me a large building kit and said: "This is for your stamina".



Suleyman Mamutov, 11 years old

But three birthdays since that I was celebrating with sadness, since I do not have my close friend with me who would have supported me like a

man, who would have told me the words that I heard 3 years ago . There is no one next to me whom I can hug, fight with, fool around, there is no my dad. My dad was forcibly detained, being accused of inconceivable for our people things. We are Crimean Tatars - Muslims who have experienced many troubles, returned to our historical homeland - to Crimea, in order to live here, grow, develop our language and culture, to keep our traditions, our religion. The most important in our life is to live according to the canons of our religion. My father is a person who worries about his nation and its future. He tries to live in a right way, not to drink alcohol, not to swear , to read five-fold prayers, keep fasting during Ramadan. He says and does the most important thing in life: "Honors the words of Allah." Seeing in what abyss our people roll in, he tries to make sure that we avoid it and remembers about our culture, our traditions, about our

Э. Мамутов Сулейман, сейчас мне 11,5 лет.
12.05.152 у меня и у моих родных забрали
моего отца, мой пример для подражания.
С самого детства он всегда был рядом
самой. С малых лет мы по-детски ду-
рачились: игрались, боролись, гуляли. Он
всегда поддерживал меня. Помню когда
мне было згода, я попал в больницу. Мама
омной лезь не смогла, у меня было
еще маленькая сестричка, со мной пошла
бабушка. Мне должны были поставить кале-
ницу, и я очень боялся; ведь это был укол.

language, about our religion. Look how today our people are striving to celebrate two great holidays as Oraza and Kurban bayram with honor and dignity. Unfortunately, I do not remember this, but my first salute, I saw being three months or four, at the first celebration of one of these holidays. My father was one of those who together with the efforts of the residents of the district organized celebration of these holidays. They made happy 100 - 150 children by giving them holiday gifts. I am proud that my father's efforts have left such a mark in the

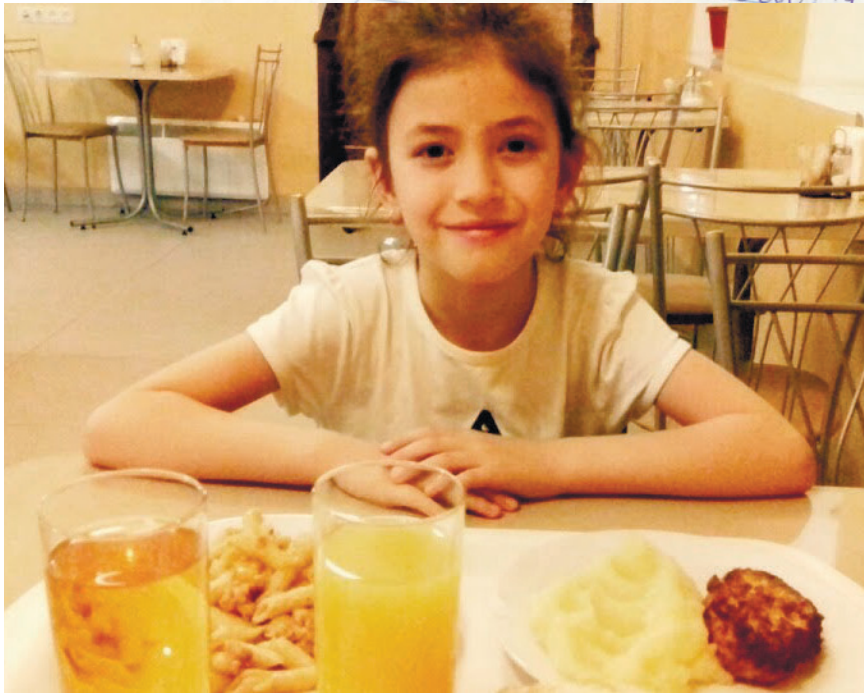
history of our people. For 10-11 years, the scale of celebrating these holidays embraced the whole Crimea, our whole motherland. I am sure that the efforts of such people as my my father will not be left without attention. And we, as the next generation, will be courageous, strong, honest, brave people with golden hands and pure hearts. My father is my hero, my role model and he is always in my life, even though he is not near me, but I believe that we will definitely be together inshallah. Amen.

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**ENVER
MAMUTOV**

всегда поддерживал меня. Помню когда
мне было зелоа, я попал в больницу. Мама
сомной петь не смогла, у меня было
еще маленькая сестричка, со мной пош
бабушка. Мне должны были поставить кол
льницу, и я оген



Samiya Saliieva, 7 years old

My dad is a hero!

I used to believe before that heroes exist only in fairy tales, cartoons and in the movies. But when my dad was taken by the terrible people, and he was smiling and even wasn't afraid of their machine guns and dogs, I saw a hero. Now all people know him. A lot of guests visit our house. I do not know them. But they say only good things about dad. They say that he is very fond of his religion. He loves Crimea, so he could not live anywhere else. He loves his nation. And that he is one of the best sons of the Crimean Tatar people. He is a hero for me, that's why I do not cry either.

If someone takes an expensive toy of mine or insults me, I always cry. And now they took away the dearest and closest person to me, my beloved father, but I do not cry. Only heroes can behave like this,



SEYRAN SALIIEV

they help, do good things and do their best so that people would not cry. I do not know when he returns. But I believe that he will definitely return.

Saliieva Samiya, 7 years old.

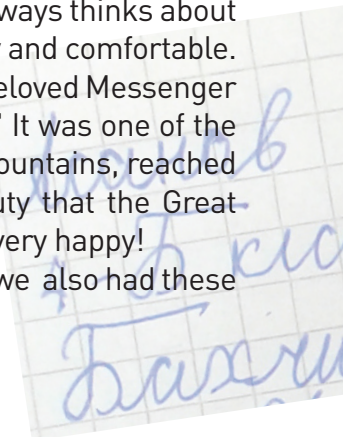
боялся их автоматов и собак я увидела
чужая. Теперь его знает все люди. Я нам
настоячно приходится гости я их не знаю.
Но они говорят только
Говорят



Makhmut Asanov, 10 years old

My dad is a hero!
I love him, he did not spare his property, he always helped everyone who asked him to help.
"The giving hand will never become poor," - he said. He had a lot of work, but despite this, he paid us a lot of time. I remember that one day during the holy month of Ramadan, when we were all fasting, our tired father returned home from work, we greeted him as always happily, and he as usual wanted to please us and asked: "If there is time before the iftar, what do you want to do?" He suggested to ride bicycles. We all supported this good idea. Everyone sat on his bicycle and dad suggested to pick up our aunt's son Osman. My dad is such a person: he always thinks about everyone, he wants everyone to feel good, warm, cozy and comfortable. He always tried to be similar in all his actions to our beloved Messenger of Allah "may Allah bless him and grant him peace." It was one of the unforgettable days of my life. We rode through the mountains, reached the reservoir, made a small stop, admired the beauty that the Great Allah created. We arrived home being very tired, but very happy!

When there were changes in everyone's life in 2014, we also had these



changes in our lives. My aunt and my beloved brother Osman fled Crimea. I was sad, because Osman was also my best friend. I really missed him.

One day, a year later, I asked dad to visit them. My beloved father told me such words: "I can not go now and rest, when our brothers and compatriots are in trouble!". I will never forget these words. He taught us not to think only about ourselves, but to think about all our uncles, about all our people. Yeah, my beloved dad is such a person, who always thought about everybody, tried to help everyone as much as

he could. All his deeds were from the bottom of his heart, with all his heart and with love for Allah, because dad always used to say that Allah will reward for every good deed in the future life. I really love my dad and do not believe that bad people say about him. They jailed him just for nothing. He is the best daddy in the world. He is a hero for me like Ertugrul. I will try to be the same as my hero-father. My dad is very kind, he is like the sun for me! Although he was our sun, they took him away and put him in a prison, but I know that each night is substituted by the day. It a very difficult, dark period for me, my mother and my younger brothers and sisters, but my dad will be back soon and the day will come, and we will live again in peace as before, inSha Allah!

Asanov Makhmut, 4th class.



**MARLEN (SULEYMAN)
ASANOV**



Said Asanov, 12 years old

Д е
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My dad is a hero!
I love him so much. He is the best in the world. His name is Suleyman. He is cheerful, kind, and he always used to drive us to the shop to buy some toys and different sweets. I always waited for my dad to come back home from work, I hugged him, and we started combating. On vacation, we went to the seaside with all our friendly family to swim in the sea. We swam with my dad. My dad is a very kind man. He has never scolded me. Now I really miss him. He is a hero to me like Ertugrul!

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**MARLEN (SULEYMAN)
ASANOV**

Мой дядюшка герой!
его очень люблю. Он самый
лучший на свете. Его зовут
Сейман. Он веселый, добрый
и всегда нас возит в магазин
купить игрушки и разные
доставки. Я люблю его.



Eskender Asanov, 7 years old

My dad is a hero!

I really love my father. He is smart, strong, purposeful. His name is Suleyman, which means "peaceful". It is really so and it corresponds to his name. He is very kind to all people, always smiles, always tried to help everybody, and never refuses anybody. I remember one day when I woke up and heard that my father was going to leave. It was about two o'clock in the morning. Mom said that friends called and said that their son was sick, and it's necessary to give them a lift to the hospital. He was glad to help them, despite that it was too late. My dad always taught me to think not only about myself, but about my loved ones, and about all the nation. "We must be united! In unity is our strength!" - he said. I am grateful to my dad for my

development and upbringing. He taught me to love and respect my mother, brothers, grandmother and grandfather and all our people.

Dad taught me to enjoy the rising sun, night stars, first leaf fall and first snow as it was all created by Allah. He smiled looking at this and praised the Creator, and I understood and copied this smile. Daddy taught me to appreciate every moment spent with loved ones and relatives. "Usefully spend every minute," - he said. Being in the circle of our friendly family, he always tried to pay us all his attention and love, which is not so easy, because he has four children. He told us interesting life stories from his experience and historical events from the history of our people. Listening to him, I imperceptibly felt myself not only as a part of my family, but also as a part of my nation.

All the most interesting events in my life are connected with my dad. For example, one day I with my brothers wanted to keep rabbits, and my father brought us beautiful and fluffy rabbits the very next day. We are still looking after them. Approaching them, I remember my dad! He never refused us anything, he always tried to make our dreams come true, he always arranged an interesting and exciting vacation for all our holidays. We went fishing with him, where he taught us to fish. We went with him to the sea, where he taught us to swim. In winter we sledged and played snowballs, skating. Every day, every minute he did everything to bring me up as an honest and prudent person. He was, is and will be a true example for me! He is the only person I wanted to be like!

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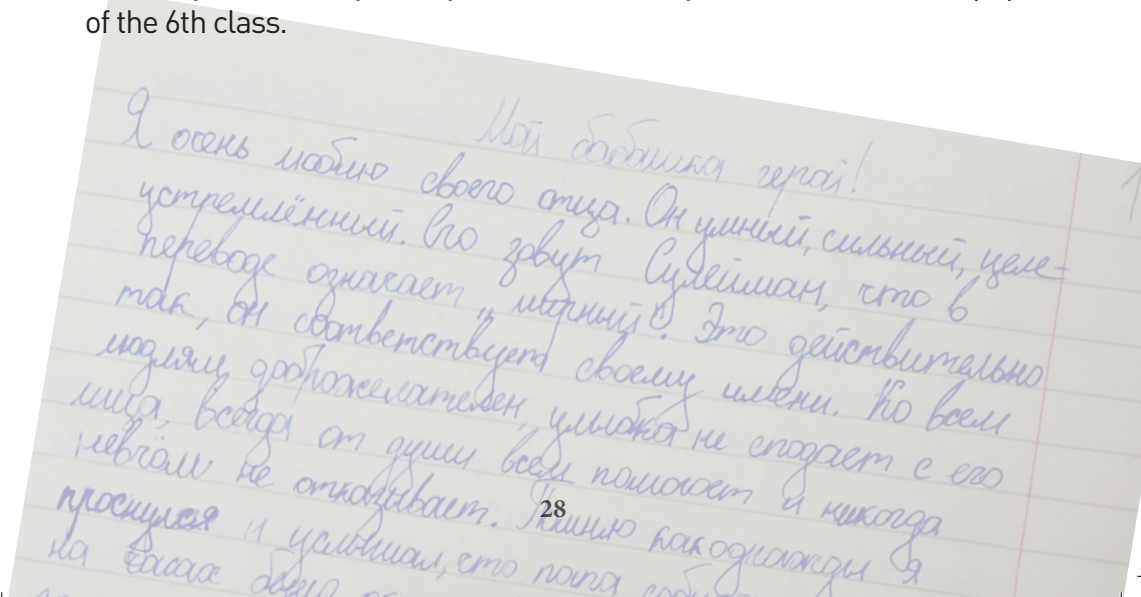
**MARLEN (SULEYMAN)
ASANOV**

Dad is my best friend, he comforted me in a difficult moment and gave various pieces of advice. Now, when he is not near, I really miss him. Looking through our family albums with photos, where we are all happy and cheerful together, tears roll involuntarily down my cheeks. However, I will be as courageous and strong as my father. Now, when they ask me who your father is and what he is like, I proudly say: "He is my hero and the best father in the world!" I'm proud of him! "I thank the Almighty that I have such a father. It is a pity that I cannot say these words looking into his eyes. But I know and I hope that the day will come when I can hug him tightly and tell him these kind words!

My father lived a very difficult life during his forty years. He told me that when his family returned to Crimea, he was only seven years old. It was very difficult, there was not enough food, there was no clothes, the whole big family slept in one room, and he helped his father to build a house where grandma and grandfather live now. Despite the fact that it was very difficult, they were very happy, because they lived in their native Crimea. When father was offered to leave Crimea, he refused, I saw he was confident in this decision. Now that he was taken away from us, I ask only Allah to help us, I constantly pray so that we will again become a happy and full-fledged family, as before.

I'm very, very proud of my father! Probably I will not be able to describe my feelings to him on the pages of one book.

Dad, my dear, I love you very much! You are my hero! Asanov Said, a pupil of the 6th class.





Ali Abdullaev, 9 years old

My dad is a hero.

A hero is a strong, brave man who keeps his word. My dad is also a brave, persistent, kind and generous man.

We love him very much. He loves us, too. Dad drove us to a children's park, rolled us on a swing, on ponies, on toy cars, on a toy train. He also drove us to the entertainments, where we went into the room of laughter, rolled on cars and on planes and jumped on trampolines.

Even at home we were not bored, because he entertained us with different games, for example, hide-and-seek, catch-up, football.

In summer he drove us to the sea, taught us to swim. At sea, he

was worried so that that we would not draw.

My dad is a sportsman. He is a taekwondo coach. He is a champion of Europe in Taekwondo. He trained adults and children. I often remember how he used to train me.

Dad often presented us gifts, bought different toys and sweets. He drove us to the nature sites: we went to the forest, to the river, climbed the mountain.

My dad is a very sympathetic person. He helped all people despite faith, nation and age. Once my father and uncle took me to the playground. While he was rolling me on a swing, we saw how a girl fell down from a horizontal bar, my dad and uncle immediately gave her first aid. There were many such cases. He helped a lot to push cars, shared gasoline, gave a lift to somebody, defended the weak. Even when he came back home from work being tired, he told us stories and we were falling asleep under his stories.

I really want my dad to come back home alive, healthy, safe and sound. I want to hug him. And I hope that I will be able to see him the way he used to be before.

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**TEYMUR
ABDULLAEV**

Мой папа герой.
Герой это сильный смелый
человек, который держит
свое слово. Мой папа тоже
смелый стойкий, и ещё добры
й щедрый человек.

Мы его очень любим. Он
нас тоже очень любит.

Папа возил нас в детский
парк, катал нас на качелях, на
пони, на машинках, на паравозе
ке.

Знать возил нас на отрядиком,
там мы заходили в комнату
меха, катались на з.в. машинке
и на самолетах на ботутах.
Все дома мы не скудали,



**Mark Shaimardanov,
11 years old**

My name is Mark. Now, my mother and our friends live in Lviv. We moved to Lviv from Crimea, because we did not want to live near the invaders and follow their rules. And my father is not near us; he disappeared in Simferopol in May 2014, like his friend Seyran-aga and many other Crimean Tatars.

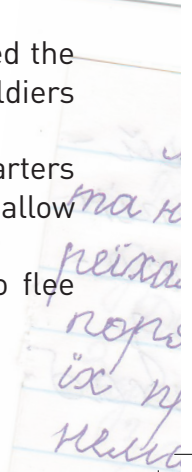
When Putin's «green men» and self-defense occupied our Crimea, there were many people who were dissatisfied, both Ukrainians and the Crimean Tatars. For outright hostilities, the enemies threatened to destroy the ATR TV channel. Then my dad together with his friends guarded the studio around the clock, the local people supported them, brought hot tea and warm clothes, because it was very cold at night.

My dad and his friends were actively involved in rallies and pickets against the occupation; they defended women with peaceful placards from arrogant self-defense.

Putin's soldiers, along with the Crimean collaborators, blocked the military units of Ukraine, and the patriots supported their soldiers morally and with food.

The "Green Men" also wanted to seize the Coast Guard headquarters that was located near my school. My dad and his friends did not allow them to do it; they stood there as a living shield day and night.

Then my dad also helped the marines and their families, to flee



Crimea and move to the mainland Ukraine. Together with my dad there were his loyal friends: Seyran-aga, uncle Pasha Dovbish and Ruslan Petrovich Zuiev from the Army of Salvation. For the patriots of Ukraine, the father created the "Ukrainian People's House". I remember that on Easter, the parents were dressed in Ukrainian national clothes, and we painted the eggs.

My father was repeatedly threatened for peaceful protests.

At the end of May he had to pick me up from school but did not come and he hasn't returned yet.

My father, Timur Shaimardanov, has disappeared, and we still do not know anything about his whereabouts.

In autumn last year in Odessa, Admiral Voronchenko awarded volunteers for help.

I received my father's award, everybody called my dad a hero. I also consider my dad to be a true hero and I am very proud of him.

I try to study hard, I am engaged in sports and music, and I do not want my father to be ashamed of me.

And I have a big dream. I want to have Peace in our country, Crimea has returned back to Ukraine, and my dad returned to me!

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**TIMUR
SHAIMARDANOV**

Мене звуть Марк. Зараз ми з мамою
наші друзі живемо у Львові. Сюди ми пе-
хам з Криму, бо не хотіли жити
ряд з окупантами і виконувати
правила. А мого тата
нає...



Yasin Sayfullaev, 7 years old

My dad is a hero.

My dad's name is Sayfullaev Ferat. He is the best in the world! Daddy is a merry, kind, strong, honest man and loves Allah. When he was at home, we always played different games with us, bought sweets, drove to the mountains and to the sea. Now he is not at home ... He was taken away ... But nevertheless he is the best for

us! He is a hero! My father is passing through the test that Allah sent him and he never complains. He suffers it all for the sake of Allah. Dad taught us all this. He always taught us to be kind, honest, strong. We love him very much. Inshallah, all this will end, and the family will be together again.

Yasin

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**FERAT
SAYFULLAEV**

Мой папа герой.
Моя бабушка зовут Сайфуллаев
Ферат. Он самый лучший на све-
те! Бабушка веселый, добрый, смелый,
честный, любит Аллаха. Когда
он был дома мы всегда играли в раз-
ные игры, он покупал нам сладости,
возил в горы и на море. Сейчас его
нет дома... Его забрали... И всё ро-
вно он самый лучший для нас! Он
герой! Мой бабушка терпит испыт-



Ku-Ku Bekir, 9 years old

My father is a hero!

My father is Emir-Husein Kuku Kemalovich. I consider my father to be a hero! A hero is the person who you want to take an example from. Perhaps you will think that it is natural, because it's about my father. But I would like to tell you about my father, what a good man he is.

Now my father is 41 years old. Unfortunately, now he is away from

us, from his house, in a terrible place - in prison. And the worse thing about it is that it is unfair.

He worked as an economic inspector in the city council of Yalta. Every day, taking his folder with documents, he went to work. Returning back home in the evening, he always brought us something delicious. My sister and I always greeted him happily from the doorway! My dad is a hardworking person. Besides work, he was engaged in beekeeping. Once, extracting honey, he was strongly bitten

by bees. But he did not complain, but said that nothing gets easily. And also, told me about the benefits of bee therapy, about its use in medicine. My dad finds good sides in everything! He also says that rest is a change of activity. He always invited me to help him at work in the yard or with bees. My father built our house himself. We have got a photo, made at the very beginning of the house construction when I was a little boy, in the dad's arms. I went to the first class to school from our new house. Entering our children's room, you will immediately see many interesting books. Most of them my dad chose himself. He is a very smart and intelligent person who is able to answer any of my questions. I also like to read, expand my horizons. I want to be like my dad! My dad has also got many books, the main part of which is occupied by historical books, especially on

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EMIR-HUSEYN KUKU

the history of Crimea - our homeland, the land of our ancestors. Also dad has got a small collection of antiques of the Crimean Tatars: postcards depicting the history of Crimea and the life of the Crimean Tatars in Crimea until the deportation, coins from the the Crimean Khanate's period, and coins from around the world. We have got a lot of books about Islam. But the most important thing is that I learned a lot about our culture and religion not only from the books, but from my father.

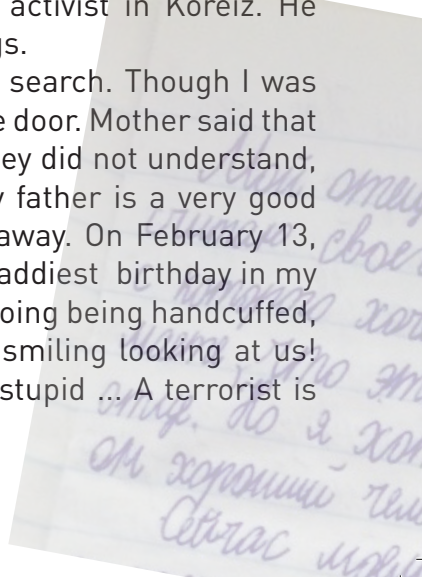
He showed by his personal example, what should a Muslim look like in his life. By his own example he showed how a Muslim should behave himself in his life. Even when I deserved punishment, my father did not raise his voice, patiently explained me my mistake.

In the evenings, my father visited his parents, to ask them about their health and how they spent their day.

My father is the vice-chairman of the Muslim community in the village Koreiz "Eren Evlia". He always participated in the organization of the holidays, so that they were fun for all children and guests. They usually prepared delicious treats, beautifully decorated mosques with balloons, held contests with us.

In April 2015 our house was searched for the first time. I saw my father in handcuffs, and he limped. I realized that he was beaten. After this incident, many guests came to our house to ask dad how he was doing and ask him about his health. He is a sociable and sympathetic person. I know that dad is an activist in Koreiz. He attended all meetings and Saturday gatherings.

On February 11, 2016, there was a second search. Though I was sleeping I heard how strongly they beat at the door. Mother said that we were should not be afraid of, because they did not understand, probably, and came by mistake, because my father is a very good person. But daddy was arrested and taken away. On February 13, 2016 I turned 9 years old. It was one of the saddest birthday in my life. In the court, we saw how the father was going being handcuffed, but we were happy to see him, and he was smiling looking at us! My dad is accused of terrorism, but it's so stupid ... A terrorist is

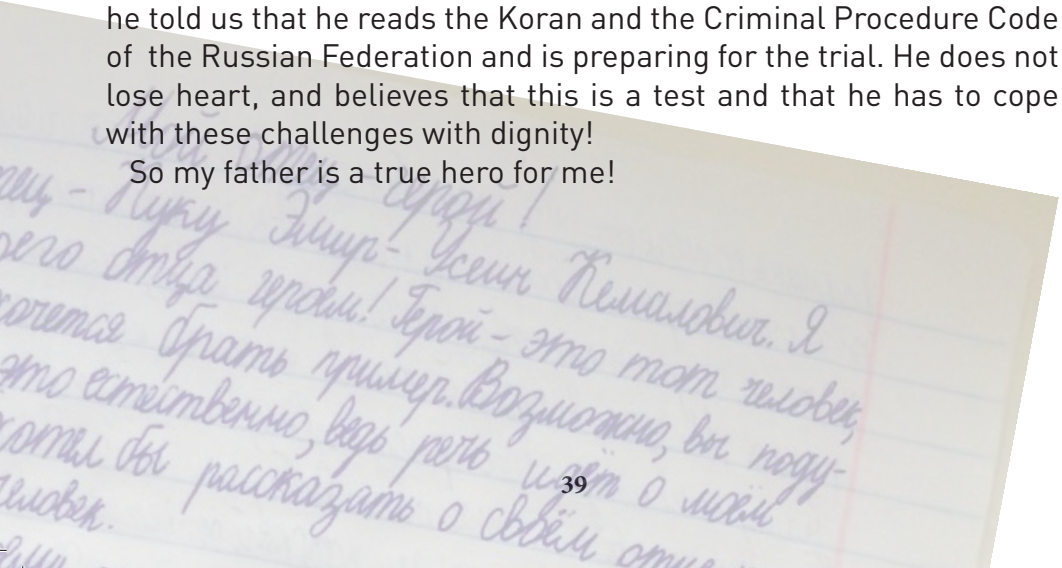




someone who brings fear to people, who kills innocent people! And who is a Muslim? A Muslim is a humble man obedient to God. But it seems that those people who adopted this terrible decision and those who took him away do not like God-fearing people.

On February 11, 2018, it turned two years since my dad is in prison. During this time, I saw him several times in the corridors of the court and twice on a date in the detention center in Simferopol. No matter how hard and sad, my father always tries to smile. During the date, he told us that he reads the Koran and the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation and is preparing for the trial. He does not lose heart, and believes that this is a test and that he has to cope with these challenges with dignity!

So my father is a true hero for me!





CTRC MISSION

We act to ensure the collective rights of the Crimean Tatars as the indigenous people and the individual rights of all residents of Crimea in order to achieve sustainable development. We protect the rights of the Crimean Tatar People, draft laws and regulatory acts, support cultural, educational, advocacy and democratic initiatives related to Crimea and the Crimean Tatar People, conduct monitoring of violations of individual and collective rights in the occupied Crimea, document cases of violations, inform the international community about the situation in the occupied Crimea, attract the legal, social and humanitarian assistance to political prisoners and their families, submit appeals to the special and universal treaty bodies, conduct international information campaigns and activities aimed at bringing the topic of Crimea in the focus, train lawyers and activists and prepare new public diplomats of the Crimean Tatar people. We believe that all the activities of CTCRC will contribute to the soonest deoccupation and reintegration of Crimea.

Booklet was prepared by:

1. Eskender Bariiev
2. Zarema Bariieva
3. Mumine Saliieva

Contact details:

Tel.: +38 044 489 61 25

Mob.: +38 0503607853

Website: www.ctrcenter.org

E-mail: ctrcenter2015@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CTRC2015>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ctrcenter>

Design: Viacheslav Yurchenko

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