



Crimean Tatar
Resource Center



MEALIS
OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR
PEOPLE

1944 2014



On May 18, 1944, on the basis of decisions of the Soviet authorities, the Crimean Tatar people were subjected to total deportation from their historical homeland Crimea.

The deportation was carried out by the NKVD troops of the USSR in the form of a special **punitive operation**:

- with armed encirclement of settlements,
- forced eviction of Crimean Tatar families from their homes,
- prolonged detention of people in the squares of settlements or cemeteries,
- loading people into overcrowded cattle wagons,
- confiscation of all property.

The purpose of the special operation was to **eliminate an entire people**, its historical and cultural heritage.





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According to the official data, as a result of the deportation in May 1944, **193,865 Crimean Tatars** were forcibly deported from Crimea to Central Asia, Siberia and the Urals.

According to the census of the Crimean Tatar national movement on the way and in the first years of deportation **about 46.2% of Crimean Tatars** died due to inhumane conditions - famine, epidemics, repression and the brutal regime of special settlement that lasted from 1944 till 1956.

The vast majority of the dead were elderly people, women and children.





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MEDIA
OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR
PEOPLE

GENOCIDE 1944



After the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people in 1944, the Soviet authorities began a **deliberate falsification** of the history of Crimea and the destruction of historical and cultural monuments that testified about tight connections of the indigenous people with the peninsula. After the deportation of 1944, almost all Muslim cemeteries and mosques in Crimea were demolished.

In 1945, the **national-territorial autonomy of the Crimean Tatars** (Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic) was abolished and **1,444 toponyms in Crimea** that indicated a relationship with the Crimean Tatars were renamed. Until 1989, the USSR pursued a state policy of **prohibiting the return** of Crimean Tatars to Crimea, the study of the Crimean Tatar language and the development of cultural and national traditions, which led to disastrous consequences for the future of the entire nation.





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1944



The deported Crimean Tatars were settled in specially created **barracks**, where they were under strict supervision of the NKVD.

They were not allowed to leave their place of residence without permission and could not move freely even to neighboring streets and villages.

Any manifestations of discontent or attempts to escape were severely punished up to **imprisonment**. Escape from a special settlement was punished by 20 years of hard labor. Such control and restrictions lasted for more than **10 years from 1944 till 1956**.





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MEJLIS
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THEY STEAL THE FUTURE!



For almost 50 years, the ethnonym “Crimean Tatars” has been **excluded** from legal and scientific use, and **the Crimean Tatar people were removed from the list of peoples of the USSR.**

After Stalin's death and the partial rehabilitation of some deported peoples, **Crimean Tatars were still banned from returning to their homeland**, Crimea. The Soviet authorities did not allow them to buy housing or receive land plots in Crimea, nor to restore their right to live in their historical homeland. Those families who managed to settle in Crimea despite the prohibitions were subjected to repeated deportation outside the peninsula.

Thousands of Crimean Tatars **have been imprisoned and persecuted** for trying to return back to their homeland. The struggle for the right to live in Crimea lasted until the late 1980s and was accompanied by numerous repressions.





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1944



In 1989, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR condemned the practice of forcible resettlement of entire peoples "as a grave crime contrary to the principles of international law" and opened the possibility for the Crimean Tatar people to return back to their homeland.

However, this process was extremely **difficult** due to the state's failure to restore the collective rights of the Crimean Tatar people, sabotage of local authorities with the support of leftist political forces, lack of necessary infrastructure, restrictions on the allocation of land for building houses and a lack of educational institutions with the Crimean Tatar language of instruction.

All these factors **complicated the restoration** of the rights and revival of the Crimean Tatar people in Crimea.





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DEPORTATION 1944 – ONGOING CRIME!

1944 - DEPORTATION

2014 - OCCUPATION

2024 - LARGE-SCALE WAR

2034 - ■



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Since the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, the situation for Crimean Tatars has **deteriorated again**, with enforced **disappearances**, politically motivated **persecution**, racial **discrimination**, mass **searches**, **detentions** and **arrests**, and **infringements** on freedom of expression, **freedom of religion or belief**, **freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly**.

The activities of **Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar** people, the representative body of the indigenous people of Ukraine, have been **banned**, Crimean Tatar TV channels and media have been **suspended**, and dozens of Crimean Tatar classrooms have been **closed**. Activists and representatives of the Crimean Tatar people are **persecuted**, **imprisoned** and **forced** to leave the peninsula. **Tens of thousands of Crimean Tatars** have been forced to flee the peninsula because of persecution, repression and their political position.





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MEALIS
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IMPUNITY BREEDS LAWLESSNESS

**GENOCIDE
1944**



**GENOCIDE
2022**



Throughout the occupation of Crimea, Russia has continued **the hybrid deportation** of the Crimean Tatar people, using **threats, harassment, arrests, abductions**, and since the beginning of the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war on February 24, 2022, **forced mobilization** into the Russian army has been added to this list. Men eligible to be drafted for a service are sent to the war front without the possibility of refusal.

Not wanting to become participants in a war crime, Crimean Tatars are once again forced to **leave their homes** and travel from their homeland to third countries. And again, it remains unknown when they will be able to return back to Crimea.





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MEALIS
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RECOGNIZE THE DEPORTATION 1944 AS GENOCIDE - RESTORE JUSTICE



ЕРМОЛЕНКО

Recognition by the international community of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people in accordance with the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide will not only **restore historical justice**, but will also **serve as condemnation of the persecution of the Crimean Tatar people** today and **prevent** similar actions against Crimean Tatars and any other people in the future.

The world must **condemn** the 1944 deportation so that it never happens again. This is especially important during the full-scale war in Ukraine in 2022, when Russia continues the genocide of the entire Ukrainian people.

Impunity breeds lawlessness.





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80-TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENOCIDE OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR PEOPLE
IT'S HIGH TIME TO RECOGNIZE DEPORTATION
1944 AS GENOCIDE. WHAT ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY?
THANK YOU FOR RECOGNITION!



WHO IS NEXT?

Officially, the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people was recognized as genocide by the **Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine** on November 12, 2015, and by the parliaments of **Latvia** (2019), **Lithuania** (2019), **Canada** (2022), **Poland** (2024) and **Estonia** (2024). At the same time, they condemned the ongoing policy of repression, discrimination and violence against the Crimean Tatar people by the Russian Federation in the occupied Crimea.

Due to the fact that the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people from their historical homeland - Crimea is a **continuing international crime** that has no statute of limitations and has been ongoing since 2014, we **call for the condemnation and recognition** of the Deportation of the Crimean Tatar people in 1944 as genocide, and the occupation and persecution of the Crimean Tatar people as a continuation of this crime.





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NO GENOCIDE!



HOLODOMOR	1921-1923, 1932-1933, 1946-1947
DEPORTATION	1944
OCCUPATION OF CRIMEA AND DONBAS	2014
FULL-SCALE WAR	24.02.2022

WE MUST STOP THIS!

An important factor in deterring crimes against humanity, minimizing all forms of discrimination and violence on the temporarily occupied peninsula should be **the recognition by all civilized countries of the world** the deportation of 1944 as **genocide** of the Crimean Tatar people, and the occupation of Crimea in 2014 and the persecution of the Crimean Tatar people as its continuation.

Therefore, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine regularly appeals to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly, governments and parliaments of the world to recognize **the deportation as genocide of the Crimean Tatar people.**

