

Crimean Tatar Leader Sentenced to 8 Years in Prison After Sham Trial

Ukraine

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Akhtem Chiygoz was arrested by Russian-imposed authorities in Crimea in January 2015.

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SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine -- A court in Ukraine's Russian-controlled Crimea region has sentenced prominent Crimean Tatar leader Akhtem Chiygoz, to eight years in prison after what Amnesty International called a sham trial. A court in the regional capital, Simferopol, sentenced Chiygoz on September 11 after finding him guilty of organizing an illegal demonstration there in February 2014. Chiygoz is the deputy chairman of the Mejlis, the Crimean Tatar assembly that was outlawed by Russia after it occupied and seized control of the Black Sea peninsula. In Kyiv, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry issued a strongly worded protest over the trial, verdict, and sentence. It said Chiygoz was arrested for his support for Ukrainian territorial integrity and fight for human rights. The case against Chiygoz was another demonstration of the repressive policy conducted by Russian on the Crimean Peninsula for the purpose of suppressing dissent...and discriminating against Crimean Tatars, the ministry said. [hellip;] [https://www.rferl.org/a/crimea-russia- ... ced-8-years/28728655.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/crimea-russia-...ced-8-years/28728655.html)