

Released Crimean Tatar Leader: 'I'd Rather Accept Death Than Kneel'

Ukraine

Posted by:

Posted on : 2017/11/12 1:06:14

Deputy Chairman of the Crimean Mejlis Akhtem Chiygoz vows never to kneel to Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea after his release, partly due to an intervention by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

From RFE/RL, Nov 09, 2017 Crimean Tatar leaders Ilmi Umerov and Akhtem Chiygoz were unexpectedly released from custody in their Russian-occupied homeland in October. Both are deputy chairmen of the Mejlis, the Crimean Tatar self-governing body that has been outlawed by Russian authorities. Immediately after their release, they were flown to Turkey on October 25, thanks partly to an intervention by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. They have vowed to return to Crimea to campaign for the release of other prisoners. Kateryna Nekrecha, a correspondent with RFE/RL's Crimea Realities service, spoke with Chiygoz about his detention. Access the podcast at the link below: <https://www.rferl.org/a/crimea-chiygoz/28845002.html>