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## Crimea: Woman human rights defender Irina Danilovich abducted

On 29 April 2022, woman human rights defender **Irina Danilovich** was reportedly abducted in Koktebel, Crimea. Irina Danilovich went missing when returning home from work. On the same day the woman human rights defender's house was searched by special police units OMON who informed her relatives that there is an administrative arrest order issued against the defender. Her whereabouts are currently unknown.

[Irina Danilovich](#) is a human rights defender and civic journalist who exposes problems of the health care system in Crimea, including in response to the coronavirus pandemic. She also works as a medical personnel and has been advocating for the rights of health workers through their professional trade union and her own project "[Crimean medicine without a cover](#)". The woman human rights defender cooperates with many independent media outlets, including "INжир" and "Crimean Process" that reports on court hearings on politically motivated cases in Crimea.

On 29 April 2022, Irina Danilovich disappeared while travelling home from work in Koktebel. On the same day the woman human rights defender's house in the village of Vladislavovka was searched by the officers of the Special Purpose Mobile Unit OMON who wore balaclavas. Irina Danilovich's laptop, her phone, relatives' phones, several books and documents were seized. While the court order for the search was read out to Irina Danilovich's father, a copy of the search warrant was not left behind. The human rights defender's father was informed by OMON officers that his daughter was sentenced to 10 days of administrative arrest because of "the transfer of unclassified information to a foreign state."

Since 29 April 2022, the woman human rights defender's lawyer and family have been searching for her in temporary detention centres in different cities in Crimea but are unable to locate her. On 2 May 2022, Irina Danilovich's lawyer wrote an appeal on the circumstances of her disappearance to the Russian Prosecutor's Office of Crimea and her parents filed a statement to the police. Irina Danilovich's lawyer perceives this as an abduction as it has been 5 days since authorities have not informed the lawyer and family of her whereabouts.

Irina Danilovich has been facing increasing pressure for her human rights work. In December 2021 a series of publications labelling the defender as a "foreign agent" were posted in the telegram channel "Lis i voron". She was one of few Crimean healthcare workers who spoke out against the issues in the healthcare system in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In early October 2020, after Irina Danilovich and other medical personnel demanded the promised coronavirus payment, she and her colleagues were fired from the hospital in Feodosia.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the reported abduction of woman human rights defender Irina Danilovich. It believes that Irina Danilovich is facing reprisals for her peaceful and legitimate work revealing problems of health care system and protecting, promoting healthcare workers rights in Crimea.

**Front Line Defenders demands the authorities in Russia to:**

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the abduction of Irina Danilovich with a view to ensuring her protection, publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
2. Ensure that all necessary measures are taken to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Irina Danilovich;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Crimea are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.