

Violations of international humanitarian law:

Digest of events for the period
from 9 to 30 April, 2022



Attention, this report contains images that show violence and cruelty.

On February 24, 2022, Russia, with the support of Belarus, launched a new phase of the war against Ukraine, carrying out an unprecedented large-scale invasion of the territory of our state in recent history.

The team of the Eastern Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives (EUCCI) continues its work, started in 2014, to collect and document violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) during the armed conflict, with a view to further submitting relevant materials to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Prosecutor General (Ukraine), international commissions of inquiry, whose mandates will include the collection, documentation and preparation for trial of all human rights violations, war and other crimes, as well as other international organizations.

We hope that the results of our work and current information will also be useful to journalists and a wide range of citizens who are interested in the course of the armed conflict and the facts of violations of IHL.

Both sides of the international armed conflict are obliged to adhere, at the minimum, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Additional Protocol I from 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Hague Convention on the Laws and Customs of Land Warfare of 1907, international customs (customary IHL) and to remember their obligations under international human rights law.

It is clear that not all acts committed by the parties to the conflict are violations of international law and / or war crimes or crimes against humanity. Therefore, we will try to explain for what reasons certain actions should be considered a violation of IHL.

1

Premeditated murder, torture and inhuman treatment.

In recent weeks, the search and exhumation of the bodies of people who died during the occupation has continued in the liberated settlements of Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy oblasts.

Examples:

On April 22, Kyiv Region Police Chief Andriy Nebytov noted that the number of bodies found in Kyiv Oblast, as of that date, amounted to 1,084 civilians. According to him, from 50 to 75% are people killed with small arms (machine gun, sniper rifle, machine gun)¹.

As of April 13, more than 100 civilians were reported dead in the Sumy region: "bodies were found with their hands tied, with traces of torture, and shots to the head." It was noted that the search for bodies continues².

Ukrainian journalist Yuriy Biryukov posted a post on his Facebook page about eight residents of Bucha (Kyiv region) who organized themselves on the first day of a large-scale Russian invasion on February 24 and tried to resist the occupation. The journalist says that the bodies of six of them were later found on Yablunska Street. They had their hands tied. People were shot from a short distance. The body of another, the seventh man shot, contained traces of torture: broken eyes, amputated nose and ears. A photo of the corpse has been published³.

photo: Yuriy Biryukov, Bucha, April 2022



¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/22/7341341/>

² <https://t.me/UkraineMediaCenterKyiv/519>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/yuri.biriukov/posts/3168831130052349>

On April 23, the head of the Bucha Amalgamated territorial community Anatoliy Fedoruk announced that the exhumation process was coming to an end on the territory of the community and 412 bodies of the dead had already been found (as of the day of publication)⁴.

On Telegram there has been a channel created "Dead in the Bucha district", which since April 7 has published photos of corpses found in the Bucha district (Kyiv region). The photo is accompanied by information about the person's name, date of birth, anthropometric data, place of discovery of the corpse, objects with her/him and the probable cause of death, if such information is known. The "Description" of the channel states that it was created "in order to find relatives and identify those who died as a result of Russian aggression in the Bucha district. "In case of identification of the person in the photo, the "subscriber" of the channel is asked to inform "Karina Kostyukevich, senior operative officer of the criminal police department of Bucha Regional Police Department"⁵. The content of this channel is for the most part carried out by employees of territorial divisions of the National Police of Ukraine.

EUCCI analyzed the information contained in this Telegram-channel for the period from April 7 to April 24, 2022 - and found there to be 395 corpses. The Telegram channel continues to be updated daily.

Of the total number (395 corpses), both gender and approximate or exact age of people are indicated (established) in 320 cases. In the remaining 75 cases (395-320 = 75) the gender or approximate age is unknown due to the condition of the corpse and the lack of documents with it.

Ratio table by gender and age.

Age (years):	Total number of corpses found:	Male:	Female:
from 0 to 18	4 (1%)	2 (0,5%)	2 (0,5%)
from 18 to 35	29 (9%)	26 (8%)	3 (1%)
from 35 to 60	170 (53%)	142 (44%)	28 (9%)
from 60 to 80	98 (31%)	67 (21%)	31 (10%)
over 80	19 (6%)	4 (1%)	15 (5%)
Total number of persons:	320 (100%)	241 (75%)	79 (25%)

Thus, the largest number of victims are men aged 35 to 60 (44%).

The description of the preliminary cause of death (until the forensic examination), on the basis of traces found on the corpse and / or clothing, is contained only for individual corpses. As such, the condition of many other corpses (decomposition changes, mummified state, burns, etc.) did not allow law enforcement to establish a preliminary (approximate) cause of death.

At the same time, information about the time, place and / or circumstances of the discovery of corpses, visual analysis of the posted photos, indicate that the death of the vast majority of these people was caused by the conflict and related to them. For example, the vast majority of 26 burnt corpses were found in the cabins of burnt cars. Some of the corpses were exhumed, in particular, but not exclusively, from mass graves (for example, a mass grave near the church building at 7B B. Khmelnytskoho Street in Bucha) and contained bullet and / or shrapnel wounds.

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/buchagolova/posts/424524199673133>

⁵ <https://t.me/buchazagybli>

The table of the previous ratio cause of death.

Preliminary (approximate) cause of death (until the forensic examination):	Number of corpses found (395 in total):
Gunshot wounds (head, chest, abdomen, limbs, etc.)	64
Shrapnel wounds, mine injuries	33
Severe thermal burns that do not allow to determine the preliminary cause of death (burnt corpses)	26
No signs of violent death (cardiovascular failure, etc.)	16
Damage to internal organs and deformation of bodies (bodies retrieved from the rubble of houses)	11
Mechanical physical force or physical abnormality that interferes with the uptake and/or delivery of oxygen	2
The preliminary cause of death has not been determined	243

Once again, we emphasize that this is a preliminary (initially determined) cause of death. The exact cause of death in each case will be determined in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Ukraine based on the results of forensic examination.

Locations of corpses, a total of 395:

- Bucha – 83
- Irpin – 57
- village Gostomel – 37
- village Borodyanka – 28
- village Vorzel – 21
- village Motizhyn – 8
- village Andriyivka – 8
- Other places (in particular, not mentioned in the description under the photo of the corpse) – 153

Examples:



The corpse of a man, born in 2007,
found in the village Blistavitsya.

There is a mark on the corpse, probably from a bullet wound, in the area of the heart.

Source: <https://t.me/buchazagybli/2006>

photo: telegram channel Dead in the Bucha district,
Bucha, April 2022

The corpse of a man, born in 1961,
found in Bucha on Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street, 7B
(place of mass burial). There are traces on the corpse,
probably from bullet wounds to the head and chest.

Source: <https://t.me/buchazagybli/1252>

photo: telegram channel Dead in the Bucha district,
Bucha, April 2022



The corpse of an unknown man,
found in the village of Gostomel.

The corpse is thought to have bullet wounds to the
chest and abdomen.

Source: <https://t.me/buchazagybli/1276>

photo: telegram channel Dead in the Bucha district,
Bucha, April 2022



Other specific examples:

On April 9,

it became known that the Russian military had killed Serhiy Piev, director of the Vovchanske Forestry State Enterprise. On April 8, the man was returning home after work and at that moment his car was shot with a small weapon⁶. The city of Vovchansk (Kharkiv region) and the district of the same name were occupied by the Russian military.



Serhiy Piev, Director of the Vovchanske Forestry State Enterprise, photo: Kharkiv Regional Department of Forestry and Hunting

April 12

in the village. Pravdyne (Belozersky district, Kherson region) servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces shot dead six men and one woman in a residential building. It is reported that after these murders, intending to cover up the crime, the military blew up a house with the bodies of those shot inside⁷.

On April 19

the management of the Kharkiv Regional Landscape Park "Feldman-EcoPark" reported the murder of two employees who remained in the park to feed animals in the zoo. Initially, the people were considered missing, but on April 18, their bodies were found in a utility room in the park with gunshot wounds⁸.

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/kharkivouimg/posts/992800301360940>

⁷ https://t.me/pgov_gov_ua/3671?fbclid=IwAR07oX6qoRCCdHZmaoSTgvQxjYOIRsGvoFua3cLXoLgVqPsPrjWFuaeVbxU

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/FeldmanEcopark/videos/5004989366259693/>

April 20

in the village Borodyanka (Kyiv region) Ukrainian Police found two places of mass burial of civilians at once. In one grave were two 35-year-old men and a 15-year-old teenage girl. The bodies of six people were found in the second place of burial: 4 men and 2 women. According to Kyiv Region Police Chief Andriy Nebytov, there are signs of torture on some bodies⁹. The cause of death will be determined.



The police perform exhumation in places of mass burial of civilians in the village of Borodyanka (Kyiv region), photo: Kyiv Region Police, April 2022

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/pol.kyivregion/posts/353315416832781>

On April 21,

it became known that there existed a probable place of mass burial near the Russian-occupied village of Mangush (Donetsk region), located 20 km west of Mariupol. A satellite photo of the area has been published (Maxar Technologies, April 9, 2022). It is noted that on March 23 there was no trench for the burial of corpses, and in the photo from March 29 the first visual signs of mass burial have already appeared. The Mariupol City Council estimates that between 3,000 and 9,000 Mariupol residents may be buried here. It is assumed that human bodies were placed in several layers¹⁰. It should be borne in mind that in this case, the probable causes of death may be premeditated killings, and indiscriminate shelling or other factors of war.



photo: Satellite image of a probable place of mass burial in Mangush, April 9, 2022

The next day, April 2022, it became known of another probable place of mass burial of the dead residents of Mariupol - near the cemetery in the occupied village Vinogradne. Vinogradne, located on the eastern outskirts of Mariupol¹¹. On April 25, there was a report of another mass grave. This time on the territory of the Old Crimean Cemetery (about 5 km north of Mariupol, occupied territory)¹². The number of people buried in these places is unknown.

¹⁰ <https://t.me/mariupolrada/9324>
<https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-skhemy-bratska-mohyla-manhush/31814746.html>

¹¹ <https://www.unn.com.ua/uk/news/1973647-masove-pokhovannya-zagiblikh-mariupoltsiv-radnik-mera-povidomiv-pro-nove-mistse>

¹² <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-skhemy-bratska-mohyla-staryy-krym/31820268.html>

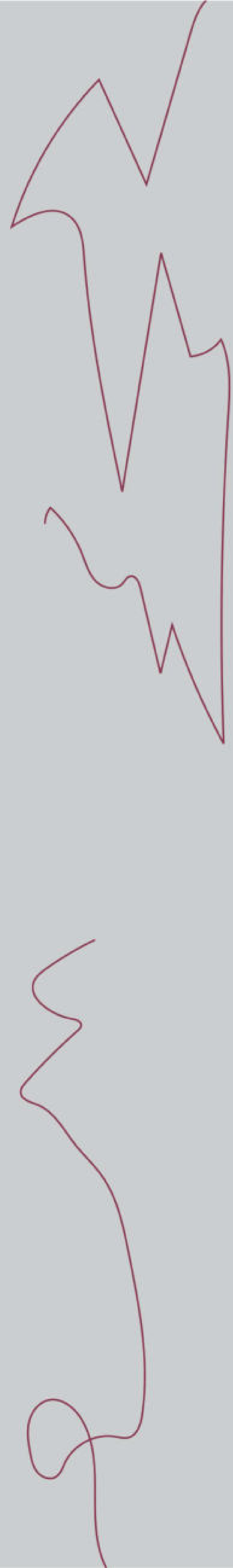
Why this constitutes a violation:

The rules of international humanitarian law stipulate that in order to ensure respect for and protection of civilians and civilian objects, the parties to the conflict must always distinguish between civilians and combatants, as well as civilian and military objects, and direct their actions only against military facilities (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Articles 48, 52, Customary IHL, Norms 1, 7).

Civilians have the right in all circumstances to have personal respect, respect for their honor, the right to a family, their religious beliefs and rites, habits and customs. They should always be treated humanely and protected, in particular, from any act of violence or intimidation, from the insults and curiosity of the crowd. Hostage-taking is prohibited (Fourth Geneva Convention, Articles 27, 34).

Murder, torture, cruel or inhuman treatment, abuse of human dignity, including humiliating and abusive treatment, corporal punishment, mutilation, rape and other forms of sexual violence, hostage-taking, enforced disappearance and arbitrary deprivation of liberty are prohibited (Additional Protocol I to the Convention). Article 75, Customary IHL, norms 87, 89-93, 96, 98, 99).

Intentional murder, torture or ill-treatment, illegal detention of a civilian is a serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 147) and war crimes within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 8 (1) (a) (i), (ii), (vii)).



2

Rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence.



A protest near the Russian Embassy in Tallinn over the mass rape of Ukrainian women by the Russian military, photo: Priit Mürk/ERR, 04/13/2022

The number of reports of sexual and gender-based violence by combatants, as well as cases of assault on human dignity, in particular abusive and degrading treatment, continues to increase.

Examples:

April 12

In a speech to the Lithuanian parliament on April 12, President Zelensky named the serviceman of the Russian Armed Forces who, according to media reports, sexually abused a baby. A 24-year-old Russian "Alexei Bychkov", probably a serviceman of the 2nd separate brigade of special purpose with a location in the Russian city of Pskov (military unit № 64044)¹³, was named.

April 26

In an interview with Ukrainian broadcaster Suspilne on April 26, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Lyudmila Denisova said that from April 1 to 14, the Ombudsman's Office received about 400 complaints of sexual violence by the Russian military¹⁴.

The JCI expects that the number of known cases of sexual violence will continue to grow as the occupied territories are liberated by the Ukrainian Armed Forces and access to victims and witnesses of violence is gained. The stories of the inhabitants of the occupied territories already show the existence of far-reaching cases of rape of women by combatants.

¹³ <https://www.slidstvo.info/news/pskovskiy-pedofil-shho-vidomo-pro-rosijskogo-vijskovogo-yakyj-znushhavsya-z-nemovlyaty/?fbclid=IwAR3n76fUbRMfLozbTTqX2vngiMN6k5gYPooCegm6gHm2jlw7GpH56zdmml>

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/denisovaombudsman/videos/1198051550998505/>

For example, in a video released on April 23, women from the village of Novy Bykiv (Bobrovytsia district, Chernihiv region), which was under Russian occupation in February-March, mentions cases of rape of local women. The proposed interview, like most others like it, does not specify the details of the rapes, and this necessitates a detailed interview of such witnesses by law enforcement and human rights activists. At the same time, in this case, there is an example of alleged sexual violence against a female teacher from a neighboring village, for whom there is enough other evidence of her detention by the Russian military and her subsequent disappearance. For this reason, the words of the interviewees deserve attention and trust¹⁵.

Other individual examples:

On April 15, Radio Svoboda released a video in which a woman (renamed Svetlana) described being raped by a 19-year-old Russian serviceman (others called him "Danya"). According to the woman, it happened on March 9 (in one of the occupied villages in Kyiv region). Svetlana also says that another soldier, called "Oleg", shot her husband (Alexander) in the presence of her neighbor (Natalia) and shot Natalia herself. The eldest of the persons in the Russian military was a man identified as 'Sanya'¹⁶.

Adviser to the Minister of Internal Affairs Anton Gerashchenko published the story of Tetyana Zadorozhnyak¹⁷, who was raped and killed on March 15 in the occupied village. Makariv (Kyiv region)¹⁸.

Cases of sexual violence against men are also known.



Tatiana Zadorozhnyak's dog is waiting for its owner, Makariv (Kyiv region), April 2022, photo: t.me/Pravda_Gerashchenko/11610

On April 16 (date of publication of the interview) the mayor of Bucha (Kyiv region) Anatoliy Fedoruk spoke of the case of rape of a security guard (a married man) of the children's camp "Orlyatko" (Vorzel, Kyiv region). The man's name has not been published. After, or as a result of abuse (the official does not specify), the victim died. The event took place during the occupation of the village¹⁹.

¹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v-UJETokNn39Y>

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/radiosvoboda.org/videos/388139929841647/>

¹⁷ https://t.me/Pravda_Gerashchenko/11599

¹⁸ https://t.me/Pravda_Gerashchenko/11610

¹⁹ <https://web.telegram.org/k/>

Full version of the interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v-FZ73kHlBeBM>

Why this constitutes a violation:

Women need special protection against any encroachment on their honor, and in particular protection against rape, coercion into prostitution or any other form of encroachment on their morality (Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 27, Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 76).

In resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflict, calling on UN Member States to make every effort to protect women and children from the devastating effects of war, seek to ban measures such as torture, degrading treatment and violence.

The widespread or systematic practice of rape and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity is a crime against humanity as its defined by Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 7 (1) (g)).

Rape and other forms of sexual violence are also considered war crimes within the meaning of the Rome Statute (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (xxii)).

In addition, the Rome Statute regards war crimes and encroachments on human dignity, including abusive and degrading treatment (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (xxi)).

Reference:

Sexual violence in situations involving armed conflict has been widespread in various forms since 2014, at the very beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, as EUCCI has repeatedly reported in its publications, research and other materials.

See, for example, the EUCCI report: "War without rules: Gender-Based Violence in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine": [https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1526026794_gon_201117_web_\(1\).pdf](https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1526026794_gon_201117_web_(1).pdf)



3

Deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian objects. Indiscriminate attacks. Failure to comply with the principle of proportionality in the attack.

In recent weeks, the Russian armed forces have continued to ignore IHL and, in violation of the principle of distinction, have deliberately attacked both civilians and civilian objects. The number of indiscriminate attacks remained consistently high. In many cases, the Russian military has failed to comply with the principle of proportionality in attacks. Recall that the essence of the latter is that it is prohibited to attack, which can be expected to cause accidental death of civilians or injuries to civilians, damage to civilian objects or a combination of such consequences that would be excessive compared to the expected definitive and immediate military advantage that should be gained.

During the described period of missile strikes, civilian objects of Kyiv were affected (for example, April 16, 2022, when at least one person was killed and several others were injured)²⁰, Poltava (for example, April 15, 2022, when a private farm was destroyed and one man died)²¹, Chernihiv region (for example, April 14, 2022, when the tactical missile system “Tochka-U” aimed at a private house in the Grodno region)²², Zhytomyr region (for example, April 12, 2022, when missiles aimed at the villages of Chudnivska territorial community) and other regions of Ukraine. Mykolaiv (for example, on April 15, 2022, when at least one person was killed) was subjected to regular shelling from “Grad” multiple rocket launchers and other artillery weapons²³.

The Russian military continued to carry out daily artillery shelling of Kharkiv. According to local authorities, about 25% of the city’s housing stock has already been destroyed but up to 1 million civilians remain²⁴. The targets of the Russian attacks are often difficult to understand. For example, on the night of April 21, the Russian armed forces destroyed two markets in Kharkiv and an apartment building with artillery at once (no civilian casualties were reported)²⁵. During the day’s shelling, a projectile hit a civilian car and two people died on the spot²⁶.

The aftermath of an artillery shelling of Kharkiv, photo: Public Kharkiv, 04/21/2022



²⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/16/7340022/>

²¹ <https://t.me/DMYTROLUNIN/1336>

²² <https://www.facebook.com/kommander.nord/posts/2121935781320542>

²³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/15/7339816/>

²⁴ <https://suspilne.media/231131-rosijski-okupanti-znisili-dva-rinki-v-harkovi-terehov/>

²⁵ <https://suspilne.media/231131-rosijski-okupanti-znisili-dva-rinki-v-harkovi-terehov/>

²⁶ <https://suspilne.media/231267-u-harkovi-rosijskij-snarad-vluciv-v-aktivku-dvoe-ludej-zaginuli/>



The aftermath of an artillery shelling of Kharkiv, photo: Public Kharkiv, 04/21/2022

In mid-April, the massive offensive of the Russian armed forces in the eastern regions of Ukraine, in particular in the area of the former Joint Forces Operation, long announced by military experts, began. During this offensive, a large number of settlements were subjected to indiscriminate shelling: Popasna, Rubizhne, Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Vugledar, Marinka and others (civilians continue to remain in all parts of these cities). The last city, Marinka, has been on the brink of conflict since 2014. At the same time, according to locals, since the large-scale Russian invasion on February 24, the city has suffered more damage than during the entire armed conflict since 2014.

Other individual examples:


On April 15, the Russian Armed Forces struck using Urugan multiple rocket launchers at the Kharkiv Industrial District. Ten civilians were reported dead, including a 7-month-old child. Additionally 35 people were injured. A number of residential buildings were damaged and destroyed²⁷. The next day, April 16, the Russian military struck Kharkiv with a Caliber long-range cruise missile. Two civilians were killed and 18 others were injured. Dwelling houses, shops and other objects of civil infrastructure were damaged²⁸.

The aftermath of an artillery shelling of Kharkiv, photo: Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office, 04/15/2022



 ХАРКІВСЬКА
ОБЛАСНА
ПРОКУРАТУРА

 ХАРКІВСЬКА
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ПРОКУРАТУРА

²⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/prokuraturakharkiv/posts/344437481050975>

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/prokuraturakharkiv/posts/344928137668576>

On April 17, the Russian military launched an artillery strike on the building of the cathedral in Severodonetsk (Luhansk region). The building was destroyed²⁹. No casualties were reported. This was the fourth attack on the building.



The aftermath of an artillery strike on the building of the cathedral in Severodonetsk (Luhansk region), photo: Serhiy Haidai, 04/17/2022

²⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/145373178002074>



The aftermath of an artillery strike on the hospital in Bashtanka (Mykolaiv region),
photo: Hanna Zamazieieva, 04/19/22

On April 19, it became known that an artillery strike by the Russian forces had taken place on a hospital in Bashtanka (the Nikolaev area). The destruction of the dialysis unit, the reception unit, damage to the operating room, as well as that there were a number of victims (their number was not specified) were reported³⁰.

On April 21, the Russian military used cruise missiles to strike the city of Zaporizhzhia, which is quite far from the rear flank of where Ukrainian troops are situated. It is known that both missiles hit the island of Khortytsia (the center of Zaporizhzhia). The first was in the area of the Preobrazhensky Bridge, at a time when the Zaporizhzhia-Lviv evacuation train was moving along the railway line. The blast shattered the windows of four cars. Several civilian cars moving on the bridge at the time were also damaged. No casualties were reported. The second rocket - in the area of the sanatorium of one of the local enterprises. Eight persons were reported as wounded³¹.

The aftermath of a missile attack on Zaporizhzhia,
photo: Oleksandr Starukh's TELEGRAM / Zaporizhzhia Regional State Administration, 04/21/22



³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/zamazeeva.official/posts/pfbid02JpIRXhsRq5o7sjbLbykTpACzbmADrvJC7nhjF6EDNigznMWtDPgsRChPXbasfTgNl>

³¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/21/7341237/>

On April 22, a Urugan multiple rocket fire system hit the Donetsk Regional Trauma Hospital (Lyman, Donetsk region) and nearby residential buildings³². The number of dead and wounded was not reported.



A missile strike on the hospital in Lyman (Donetsk region), photo: A screenshot of the Telegram video by P. Kyrylenko, the Head of the Donetsk RMA, 04/22/2022

On April 23, the Russian armed forces struck with cruise missiles at Odesa. One of the missiles hit a residential building. The rocket strike killed at least eight civilians, including a three-month-old baby³³. At least 18 civilians were injured³⁴. It was reported that the missiles were launched by TU-95 strategic attack aircraft from the Caspian Sea³⁵.



Valeria Hlodan and her baby who passed away on April 23 in Odesa, photo: Yuriy Hlodan.



Yuriy Hlodan, the father of the child, with his baby still alive, photo: Yuriy Hlodan.

³² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/22/7341358/>

³³ <http://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/04/24/248385/>

³⁴ https://dumskaya.net/news/sostoyanie-postradavshih_-163467/

³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/PvKPidnen/posts/7223413874400678>



The aftermath of the air strike on Sloviansk (Donetsk region),
photo: Office of the Prosecutor General, 04/26/22

On April 26, the Russian military launched an air strike on Sloviansk (Donetsk region). The buildings of the State Enterprise "Slavic Resort" were severely damaged, namely the hospital buildings. No casualties were reported³⁶.

On April 28, the Russian military used air-to-ground missiles to strike private housing in Zaporizhzhia, which is to the military rear of where Ukrainian troops are located. At least three victims were reported, including one child³⁷.

³⁶ https://t.me/pgov_gov_ua/3872?fbclid=IwAR1lCZgURsyrr4weGyNVht7zB2g78T04DtJm5XTXn41aUEVeF6lgdnKFuZM

³⁷ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/7044

The aftermath of the strike on the residential sector in Zaporizhzhia,
photo: Zaporizhzhia RMA, 04/28/2022



Reference:

According to the Secretariat of the VRU Commissioner for Human Rights, as of 10 a.m. on April 28, 2022, at least 217 children have been killed and 393 children injured since the start of the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is noted that due to the ongoing hostilities to establish the exact number of dead and injured is not yet possible³⁸.

Why this constitutes a violation:

The rules of international humanitarian law stipulate that in order to ensure respect for and protection of civilians and civilian objects, the parties to the conflict must always distinguish between civilians and combatants, as well as civilian and military objects, and direct their actions only against military facilities (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Articles 48, 52, Customary IHL, Norms 1, 7).

The protection of civilian objects ceases when these objects are used for military purposes.

Precautions during an attack include, but are not limited to, the person planning or deciding to carry out the attack should do everything possible to ensure that the targets of the attack are neither civilians nor civilians. civilian objects and are not subject to special protection, but are military objects (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 57, Customary IHL, Rule 16).

Non-selective attacks, in particular attacks that are not aimed at a specific military purpose, or attacks that use methods or means of warfare that cannot be aimed at a specific military purpose, are prohibited.

In case of doubt as to whether an object normally used for civilian purposes, such as worship, housing, school, is not used for effective support of hostilities, it is assumed that such object is used for civilian purposes (Additional Protocol And to the Geneva Conventions, Article 52).

Deliberate attacks on civilians or individuals court (ICC Statute, Article 8).

³⁸ https://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/news_details/upovnovazhenij-okupanti-shchodnya-porushuyut-pravo-ukrayinskih-ditej-na-zhittya-na-zdorovya

4

Threat to buildings and installations of increased danger.

Over the past weeks, Russia has continued to threaten the safe operation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant³⁹. From 300 to 500 Russian troops and about 50 units of heavy equipment remain on the perimeter of the station⁴⁰.

Demining of the territory, search for explosive devices and ammunition continues at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) facilities (under the control of the Russian Armed Forces from February 24 to March 31) and outside the industrial site⁴¹.



Russian military near Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, 2022
photo: Vkontakte Public "Returned to War"

On April 20, the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine reported that the infrastructure of the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology (Kharkiv), which houses the Nuclear Neutron Source Subcritical Unit (NPU), had suffered catastrophic damage. Various systems and buildings were damaged. It was emphasized that the likelihood of new damage that could directly affect the state of nuclear and radiation safety remains high due to constant shelling by Russian troops⁴². At the same time, it has already been mentioned above that according to local authorities, up to 1 million civilians continue to live in Kharkiv.

³⁹ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39125.html>

⁴⁰ <https://www.rbc.ua/ukr/news/german-galushchenko-rech-povyshenii-tarifov-1649180207.html>

⁴¹ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39125.html>

⁴² <https://snriu.gov.ua/news/shchodo-stanu-yadernoyi-pidkritichnoyi-ustanovki-dzherelo-nejtroniv-zasnovane-na-pidkritichnij-zbirci-shcho-keruyetsya-linijnim-priskoryuvachem-elektroniv>

Other individual examples:

The Russian armed forces have started the practice of attacking Ukrainian territories utilising cruise missiles that fly over nuclear power plants, which poses an extremely high threat to the safe operation of these facilities.

On April 16, over the site of the South Ukrainian NPP, three cruise missiles which fired most probably from the territory of Belarus in the direction of Nikolaev flew over. One of the missiles was recorded by NPP surveillance cameras⁴³.

On April 25, two cruise missiles fired by the Russian military were recorded over the Khmelnytsky NPP cooling reservoir, probably aimed in the direction of the cities of Rivne or Zdolbuniv⁴⁴.

On April 26, two cruise missiles flew at low altitude over the Zaporizhzhia NPP site in the direction of Zaporizhzhia⁴⁵.

On the other hand, on April 9, in Rubizhne (Luhansk region), the Russian military fired at a tank of nitric acid for at least the second time during another shelling of the city⁴⁶. The first such hit was recorded on April 5⁴⁷.

A cloud from hitting a nitric acid tank in Rubizhne (Luhansk region), photo: A screenshot of the video from Serhiy Haidai's Facebook page, 04/05/2022



⁴³ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/5244

⁴⁴ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/5368

⁴⁵ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/5396

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/videos/698752801158495/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/142230554983003>

Why this constitutes a violation:

Installations and structures containing dangerous forces - dams, dams and nuclear power plants - should not be attacked if such an attack could cause the release of dangerous forces and subsequent heavy casualties among the civilian population. Attacks are prohibited even if such facilities are military facilities (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 56). During attacks on high-risk structures and installations, special attention should be paid to avoiding the release of dangerous forces and excessive casualties among the civilian population during such attacks (Customary IHL, Rule 42).

At the same time, the ban on attacks on these objects is not absolute. For example, special protection against an attack on a nuclear power plant is terminated if the nuclear power plant generates electricity for regular substantial and direct support of military operations and if such an attack is the only practical way to stop such support.

It is clear that Ukrainian nuclear power plants are purely civilian and not military facilities. There are no other Ukrainian military facilities near the nuclear power plant. The consequences of hostilities near stations, damage to their infrastructure, conversion of nuclear power plants into Russian military bases, missile launches over nuclear power plants, mining of relevant territories and other similar actions are in most cases unpredictable and extremely dangerous.

Intentional attack, when it is known that such an attack will cause accidental death or injury of civilians or damage to civilian objects or large-scale, long-term and serious damage to the environment, which will be clearly incomparable to the specific and immediate expected general military advantage, is a crime within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (iv)).





The aftermath of the destruction of the Irpin Dam, photo: Twitter MilitaryLand.net, March 2022

The threat to the environment of Ukraine (air pollution, damage to ecosystems, water resources, etc.) is increasing every day.

The Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine notes that (cited selectively):

- destroyed military equipment and ammunition, as well as broken missiles and air bombs pollute the soil and groundwater with chemicals and heavy metals (titanium, vanadium, strontium, cadmium);
- the fighting has already covered a third of the area of the nature reserves of Ukraine. Their ecosystems and species have become vulnerable;
- The results of a study of surface water samples in the Ikva River in Rivne region, which was polluted upstream due to damage by fragments of a Russian missile tank with mineral fertilizers in the north of Ternopil region showed deviations from the norms for different indicators (ammonium, nitrates, etc.) and in different places from 1.9 to 163 times⁴⁸;
- destruction of cities and settlements leads to pollution by construction debris and asbestos. The effects of such pollution on the environment will be felt for years;
- in Vasylivka, Zaporizhzhia region, sewage treatment plants were damaged as a result of shelling. Due to military aggression, the process of wastewater treatment for Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Popasna and part of Zaporizhzhia is not provided. Discharge of untreated sewage impairs the microbiological safety of water, leads to the death of fish and aquatic organisms, which with the onset of the warm period will increase the risk of outbreaks of infectious diseases;
- The destruction of the Irpin Dam by the Russian military could threaten an ecological catastrophe in Kyiv Region. Potential negative consequences of the spill include infection through flooded landfills and cesspools, contamination of water with oils and fuels⁴⁹.

⁴⁸ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39125.html>

⁴⁹ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39120.html>



Forest fire, illustrative photo: <https://ecology.russia24.pro/krasn-krai/255199439/>

This is by no means a complete list of the negative effects of hostilities on the environment.

Armed aggression also indirectly damages Russia's own environment. In fact, seasonal fires in Russian Siberia are twice as big as last year, and are becoming uncontrollable: some experts attribute this, in particular, to the lack of forces and means to fight fires (usually Russians use military and military aircraft for this purpose)⁵⁰.

Why this constitutes a violation:

In the conduct of hostilities, care must be taken to protect the natural environment from widespread, long-term and serious damage. Such protection includes the prohibition of the use of methods or means of warfare which are intended to cause or are expected to cause such damage to the environment and thereby harm the health or survival of the population (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 55).

An attack on a military target is prohibited if such an attack can be expected to cause excessive accidental damage to the environment compared to the expected specific and immediate military advantage (Custom IHL, Rule 43). During military operations, all practically possible precautionary measures should be taken to avoid and in any case to minimize accidental damage to the environment (Custom IHL, norm 44).

Intentional attack, when it is known that such an attack will cause large-scale, long-term and serious damage to the environment, which will be clearly incomparable with the specific and immediate expected general military advantage, is a war crime within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (iv)).

It is obvious that it is still too early to talk about "broad, long-term and serious damage", as it is understood in the practice of applying the relevant IHL norms. At the same time, it is also clear that the Russian armed forces did not take all possible precautionary measures to avoid such potential damage. Further disregard for the above-mentioned IHL norms will inevitably lead to the above-mentioned damage.

6

Destruction and seizure of property, looting.

The trend of destruction, seizure and / or looting of property belonging to individuals and legal entities, the state and territorial communities in the occupied territories remains unchanged.

Some examples:

On April 11, it became known that the Russian military had seized the property complex of the Tavriya Construction Company plant (Kherson). The plant is engaged in the production of bricks⁵¹.

On April 19, it became known that the Russian military had seized the property complex of Agrocoin LLC (Vodiane village, Zaporizhzhia region). The company is engaged in the cultivation and sale of vegetable crops. The co-owner of the company - Andriy Chornyi⁵² reported on the seizure of the property complex, illegal sale of products and misappropriation of proceeds from the sale.

The premises of the property complex of Agrocoin LLC (Vodiane village, Zaporizhzhia region), photo: Andriy Chornyi, 04/19/2022



⁵¹ https://most.ks.ua/news/type/1/url/u_hersoni_okupanti_zahopili_zavod

⁵² https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=3184894378450766&id=100007907051629

On April 21, the All-Ukrainian Agrarian Council (VAR) announced on its Facebook page that in the Kherson region, the Russian military was taking ownership of an agricultural enterprise, forcing it to sow groups for use by the Russian Federation, removing products from warehouses, and forcing workers to work. Those who do not agree are threatened with physical violence. "The VAR quotes local agrarian Albert Cherepakha (owner of Agro-Commonwealth LLC and Commonwealth-South PE): "We have bases in the villages of Chongar, Chervonoye, Pavlovka, the land area being 20 thousand hectares. Armed men stated that now all the property of the company belongs to them. Heads of divisions were warned that in case of property losses they would be beheaded"⁵³.

On April 22, it became known that the Russian military had looted the property of the № 24 Lastivka kindergarten in occupied Melitopol. This fact was reported by the mayor - Ivan Fedorov⁵⁴.

Kindergarten, illustrative photo: Zaporizhzhia Channel 1



Why this constitutes a violation:

IHL rules prohibit robbery. Movable public property that can be used for military operations is allowed to be confiscated in the occupied territories; private property must be respected and not confiscated, except when the destruction or seizure of such property requires urgent military necessity (Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 53, Customary IHL, Rules 49-51).

Illegal, senseless or large-scale destruction and misappropriation of property not caused by military necessity, looting of settlements, as well as some other related acts committed during the international armed conflict are war crimes within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. 8).

⁵³ <https://www.facebook.com/100069143831787/posts/301464245501701>

⁵⁴ https://24tv.ua/melitopoli-rosiyani-rozgrabuvali-sadochok-lastivka-restavratsiyu_n1960044

7

The use of hunger as a method of warfare. Restrictions on access to humanitarian aid. Attacks on civilian survival targets.

The blockade of Mariupol by Russian troops has continued in recent weeks. The humanitarian situation in the city is critical. There are reports of famine among the civilian population. On the blocking of humanitarian cargo and the evacuation of civilians from the city, the EUCCI was described in detail in the Digest N°2 <https://totalaction.org.ua/stories/category/3>

As a result of damage to the water supply system, the city of Mykolaiv (Mykolaiv region) continues to remain without water supply⁵⁵. The city authorities provide some potable water, but its quantity is not enough, because in January 2022 the city's population was still around 470,000 people. The armed forces of the Russian Federation control the area of the damaged water supply system (the territory of the occupied Kherson region) and do not allow technical personnel to perform its repairs⁵⁶.

⁵⁵ <https://mkrada.gov.ua/news/16430.html>

⁵⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ahZ1p3jkg>

A queue of people waiting for water in Mykolaiv, photo: A screenshot from Radio Liberty's YouTube channel, April 2022



As of April 28, the cities of Rubizhne, Popasna, partially Lysychansk (according to other sources - completely), Novodruzhesk, Privillya, etc. (all - Luhansk region) were left without water supply. There are problems with centralized water supply to Severodonetsk (according to the head of Luhansk OVA Serhiy Haidai, the Russian military damaged the power cable that fed the city's main water intake)⁵⁷, as well as to many other settlements in eastern Ukraine.

Since the beginning of the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Russian armed forces have destroyed at least 6 large granaries in Ukraine (as of April 1, 2022)⁵⁸ and at the same time continue to blockade Ukrainian seaports.

At the same time, Russia's military aggression threatens the food security not only of Ukraine but also of the whole world. Thus, on April 16, the UN warned that "the closure of Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea could provoke a global food catastrophe that will lead to hunger, mass migration and political instability." Ukraine's grain elevators are reported to be overflowing, and the country's production helps feed 400 million people worldwide each year. At the same time, the supply chain was disrupted by the war, and ports could not function properly near the combat zone⁵⁹.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reported that the food price index rose by a record 12.6% from February to March, partly due to the shock of the war in Ukraine. Ukraine and Russia account for about a third of world wheat exports, 20% of corn and about 80% of sunflower oil exports⁶⁰.

Other specific examples:

On April 16, the Russian military launched a missile strike on a poultry farm in the Dnipropetrovsk region. It was reported that the poultry farm was not functioning and no one was injured. Therefore, it is difficult to say what exactly the military was aiming to achieve: perhaps intending to destroy an object they mistakenly considered a functioning poultry farm, thereby deliberately damaging the region's food security. Or destroy a target they mistakenly identified as a military target⁶¹.

On April 24, the armed forces of the Russian Federation launched a missile strike on the Kremenchug thermal power plant (Kremenchuk, Poltava region)⁶². As of April 25, there was no hot water supply in the city. The next heating season in the city is now under threat.



The aftermath of a missile attack on a poultry farm in the Dnipropetrovsk region, photo: V.Reznichenko / Dnipropetrovsk RMA, 04/16/2022

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/2080>

⁵⁸ <https://www.unian.ua/war/z-pochatku-viyi-rosiyani-poshkodili-v-ukrajini-shist-zernoshovishch-reuters-novini-vtorgnennya-rosiji-v-ukrajinu-11768158.html>

⁵⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/04/16/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#the-closing-of-ukraines-southern-ports-could-trigger-a-global-food-catastrophe-the-un-warns>

⁶⁰ <https://ukrainian.voanews.com/a/ija-tsiny-rist-tsin-konflikt-produkty-fao-ekonomika/6522343.html>

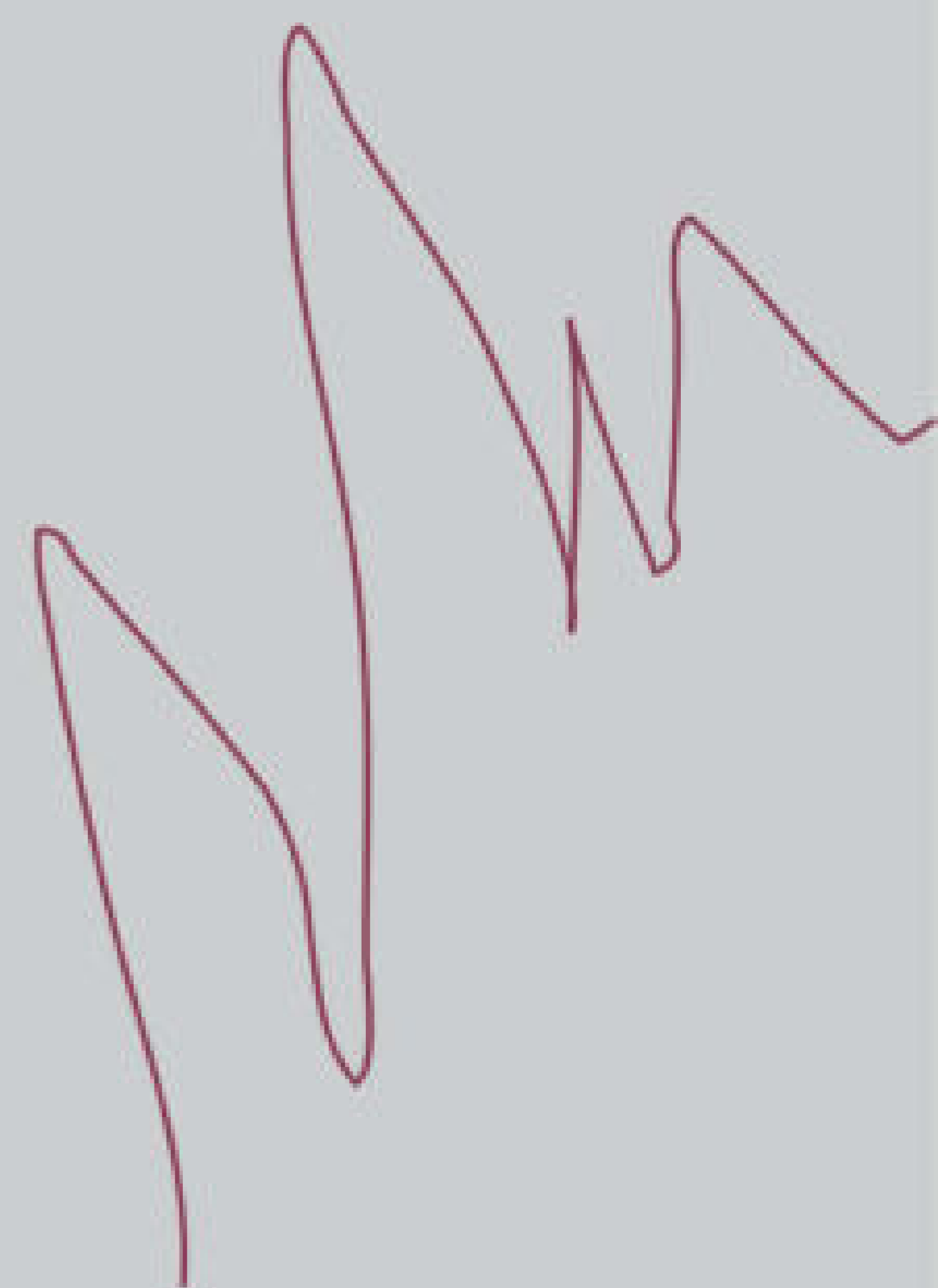
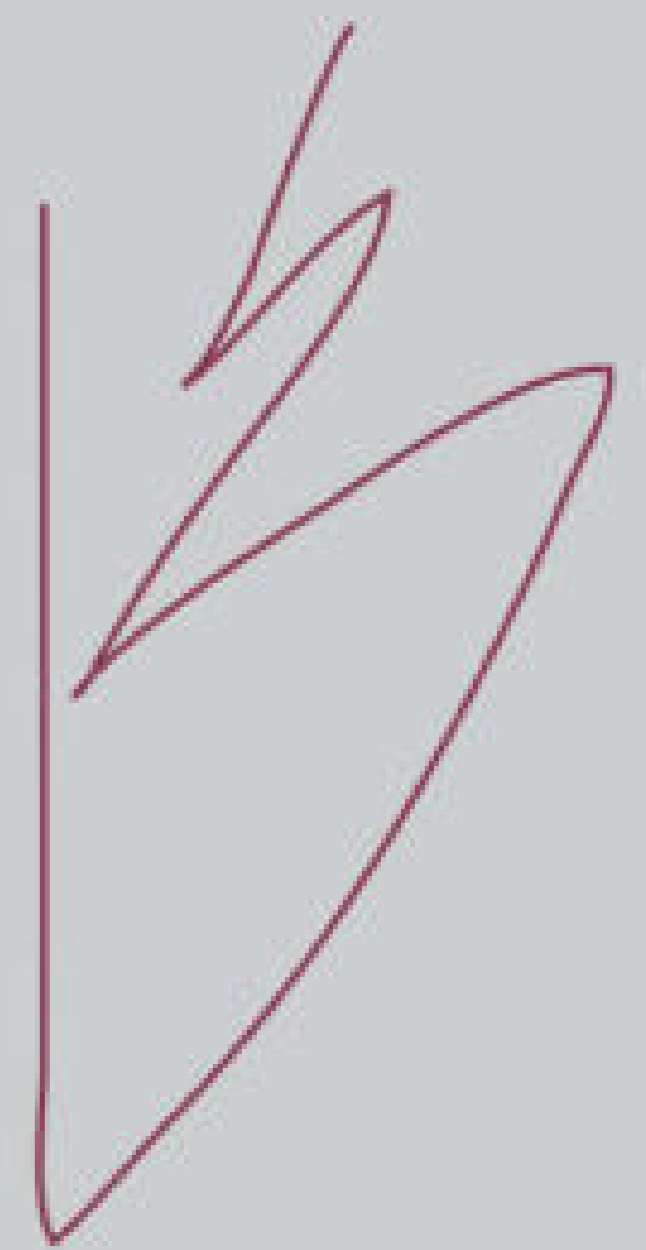
⁶¹ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/647>

⁶² <https://t.me/DMYTROLUNIN/1470>

Why this constitutes a violation:

It is forbidden to use the famine among the civilian population as a method of warfare, as well as to attack, destroy, export or render unusable objects necessary for the survival of the civilian population, such as food supplies, agricultural areas producing food, crops, livestock, buildings to provide drinking water and supplies for the latter, as well as irrigation facilities specifically to prevent their use by civilians or the opposing party as a means of subsistence, for whatever reason, such as to starve civilians, force them to leave or leave for some other reason. The parties to the conflict must authorize and facilitate the rapid and unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, provided that such assistance is impartial, non-discriminatory and subject to control by the parties to the conflict (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 54, Custom IHL, norms 53-56).

Deliberately starving civilians as a means of waging war by depriving them of their necessities for survival, including intentionally obstructing assistance as provided for in the Geneva Conventions, is a war crime within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ISS Statute, Article 8).



8

Deportation and forcible transfer of civilians to the occupied territories.



photo: illustrative photo
ukranews.com

Numerous reports continue to be received regarding the movement of the Ukrainian civilian population of the Russian-occupied territory outside Ukraine by the Russian armed forces. Such reports come not only from Mariupol, but also from other regions of Ukraine.

For example, on April 16, the head of the Youth Department of the Iziium City Council Maksym Strelnyk announced the deportation of 50 local residents of the occupied Iziium (Kharkiv region) to Russia⁶³.

On April 20, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Serhiy Kyslytsia stated at a UN Security Council meeting that the Russians had forcibly deported more than 500,000 Ukrainians to Russia, including 121,000 children. In addition, according to the official, at least 20,000 Ukrainians are kept in so-called "filtration camps" located along the line of settlements "Mangush - Nikolskoe - Yalta" (west of Mariupol) and about 5,000 -7,000 thousand in the village Bezimenne (east of Mariupol)⁶⁴. We wrote in detail about the functioning of "filtration camps" in the Digest № 2 <https://totalaction.org.ua/stories/6>

According to Russian authorities, noting they deported 1,002,429 people, including 183,168 children, to the territory of the Russian Federation since the beginning of the "special military operation"⁶⁵.

⁶³ <https://www.facebook.com/max.strelg/posts/1740435009497051>

⁶⁴ <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3462129-kislitsa-v-oon-zagarniki-ak-nacisti-vivozat-ukrainciv-iz-zahoplenih-teritorij.html>

⁶⁵ <https://ria.ru/20220427/evakuatsiya-1785836409.html>

The well-known Ukrainian online publication Slidstvo.Info conducted its own investigation into the role of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) in the movement of Ukrainians to Russia. In the article "Deport your neighbour: how the Russian Orthodox Church together with the security forces forcibly relocate Ukrainians to Russia"⁶⁶, journalists describe the church's cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, the church's participation in providing housing for deportees (churches and monasteries), food and basic necessities, conducting outreach work with people, etc.



The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia in Khabarovsk Krai and the Khabarovsk Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church signed a cooperation agreement, photo: Website of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia and slidstvo.info

Why this constitutes a violation:

It is prohibited, regardless of the motives, to carry out the forced individual or mass resettlement or deportation of persons under protection from the occupied territory to the territory of the occupying state or to the territory of any other state, regardless of whether it is occupied or not. However, the occupying Power may carry out a general or partial evacuation from a certain territory if this is necessary to ensure the security of the population or for particularly good military reasons. Such evacuations may not involve the movement of protected persons outside the occupied territory, except in cases where this cannot be avoided

for material reasons (Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49, Customary IHL, Rule 129).

Deliberate deportation or relocation of all or part of the population of the occupied territory within or outside the territory in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention is considered a serious violation of international humanitarian law (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 85) and a war crime within the meaning of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (a) (vii), (2) (b) (viii)).

⁶⁶ <https://www.slidstvo.info/warnews/deportuj-blyzhnogo-svogo-yak-rosijska-pravoslavna-tserkva-razom-iz-sylovykamy-prymusovo-pereselyayut-ukrayintsiv-do-rosiyi/>

9

Illegal detention and deprivation of liberty of civilians, hostage-taking.

The practice of illegal detentions by the Russian armed forces and detention of civilians in places of detention has continued. As before, unlawful deprivation of liberty is widespread and is clearly part of Russia's plan or policy towards certain sections of the civilian population in the occupied territories (journalists, civic activists and bloggers, volunteers, entrepreneurs, peaceful protesters and others who do not support the occupation).

Some examples:

- On April 9,** in the occupied city of Kherson, the Russian military detained the former head of the Kherson Regional State Administration, Andrei Putilov⁶⁷.
- On April 12,** in occupied Melitopol, the Russian military detained public activist Yevgeny Gulomov⁶⁸.
- On April 13,** the Russian military allegedly detained Volodymyr Kurikov, a member of the Skadovsk district council from the European Solidarity party, in occupied Skadovsk (Kherson region). It later became known that the Russians had released the man⁶⁹.

⁶⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/9/7338362/>

⁶⁸ https://t.me/vykradeni_melitopol/61

⁶⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=5085284501592917&set-a.468508653270548>

Andriy Putilov, photo: VOLEXRDA.GOV.UA

Yevgeny Gulomov, photo: Kidnapped Melitopol residents telegram channel

Volodymyr Kurikov, photo: Serhiy Khlan



April 15

at the checkpoint in the village of Novooleksiyivka (Genichesky district, Kherson region) the Russian military detained Eskender Fyk and his son Reshat (both civilians). It was reported that the men could be detained in the premises of the seized Higher Vocational School No. 17 in Henichesk (a place of mass detention of detainees). The family home was searched⁷⁰.

On April 20,

Russian military detained lawyers Oleg and Gleb Zubov in occupied Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia Oblast. This is the second detention of Oleg Zubov. It is known that the man was first detained on the night of April 1⁷¹.

Oleg Zubov, photo: Kidnapped Melitopol residents telegram channel



Gleb Zubov, photo: Kidnapped Melitopol residents telegram channel



Why this constitutes a violation:

During an international armed conflict, the reasons why a party to the conflict may deprive a civilian of his liberty are enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention: civilians may be interned or forcibly resettled in a certain place only if absolutely necessary for security reasons. the state under whose authority they are (Article 42), and in the occupied territories - for reasons of maintaining security (Article 78). In order for deprivation of liberty to be considered lawful in such cases, it is also necessary to follow the established procedure (Articles 43, 78 and others).

Forced disappearances and arbitrary deprivation of liberty (Customary IHL, norms 98, 99) against civilians are prohibited.

As for journalists, the IHL considers them civilians protected by the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, provided that such persons do not take any action incompatible with their status as

civilians (subject to the right of military correspondents to the status of prisoners of war). They have the right, in particular, but not exclusively, in all circumstances, to respect for their identity, honor, family rights and the right to humane treatment, in particular, they must be protected from any acts of violence or intimidation.

The widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearances, imprisonment or other cruel deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental international law is a crime against humanity as defined in Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 7 (1) (e) (i).

Unlawful deprivation of liberty, hostage-taking and certain other related acts are also considered a war crime within the meaning of the Rome Statute (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (a) (vii), (viii)).

⁷⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/CTRC2015/posts/3146724108940951>

⁷¹ https://t.me/vykradeni_melitopol/80

Reference:

Since 2014, EUCCI has been documenting human rights violations committed during the war in Ukraine. The EUCCI team underwent a series of specialized trainings, where they learned how to properly collect, process and store testimonies of victims. During 2014-2021, the centre's interviewers visited almost every city in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (in the territory controlled by the Ukrainian Government) to collect dozens of first-hand reports of human rights violations. We collected information on gross human rights violations caused by the armed conflict, including:

- illegal detention and detention;
- inhuman treatment;
- torture;
- involvement of minors in organized armed groups;
- gender-based violence.

EUCCI offers each victim free legal aid in the form of counselling and support in court cases.

The publication was jointly prepared by the [Eastern-Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives](#) (EUCCI) and the German organization [KURVE Wustrow](#) – Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action as part of the Civil Peace Service (CPS) in Ukraine.

The publication was supported with funds from the German Federal [Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ). We now face new challenges in the new phase of the war and Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, but we continue our human rights work and call on all victims and witnesses of human rights violations and IHL to report such violations to us:

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