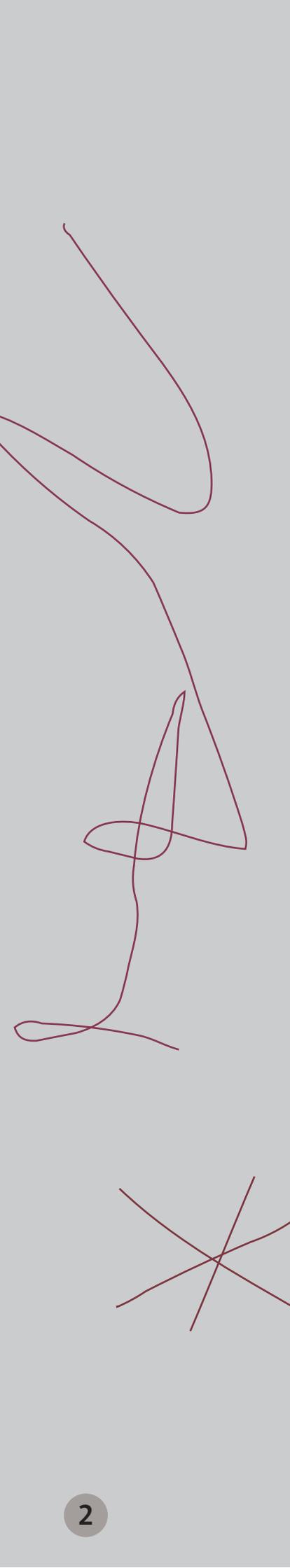


Violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine:

digest of events for the period
from 01 to 30 of June, 2022.





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.

Both parties to an international armed conflict are obliged to comply at least with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Additional Protocol I of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Hague Convention on the Laws and Customs of Land Warfare of 1907 and Regulations on laws and customs of land warfare, which is an annex to this Convention, observe international customs (Customary IHL) and remember their obligations under the international human rights law.

The team of **the Eastern Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives (EUCCI)** continues its work started back in 2014 to collect and document violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) during the armed conflict with the aim of further submitting relevant materials to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Office of the General Prosecutor (Ukraine), international investigation commissions having the mandate to collect, document and prepare all human rights violations, war and other crimes for trial, as well as to other competent organizations.

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

In this digest, the reader will find information about some of the most important events of the armed conflict that occurred in Ukraine during the specified period and affected rights of the civilian population. We will explain why certain acts should be considered a violation of IHL.

1

Premeditated murder and torture.



A woman who died during the Russian occupation in the Kyiv region. Photo: Telegram channel of Mykhailo Podolyak

Search and exhumation of the bodies of people whose deaths occurred during occupation continued in the de-occupied municipalities in the regions of Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy during June of 2022.

Compared to previous months, the number of reports of finding new corpses has significantly decreased, which is probably due to the gradual completion of the the process of survey of the locations of the occupation forces.

The head of the National Police of Ukraine Ihor Klymenko said in an interview with journalists on June 13: *"In Bucha, 116 people were buried in one such grave, there were smaller burials, 5-7 people in each"*¹.

¹ <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/838766.html>

On 20 June 20, Andrey Nebytov, Chief of the Police of the Kyiv region, reported that the police had already found 1,332 corpses in the region.² According to him, most of these people were killed by small arms.³ We remind that as of 18 May, according to preliminary data, the number of bodies found in the territory of the Kyiv region was 1,288⁴, and as of 22 April, 1084 corpses.⁵

At the same time, the issue of deaths and torture of people in the temporarily occupied territories and in places where active hostilities continue (certain areas of Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions) remains open.

EUCCI believes that, given the intensity of the fighting and its duration, the level of atrocities by combatants against the civilian population of these territories will be no less than previously detected in the already de-occupied territories.

Individual examples:

On 05 June, it became known that the other day in the forest near the village of Vyshegrad (Bucha district, Kyiv region), where positions of the Russian military had been located according to the police, an exhumation of a male corpse was carried out. It is alleged that according to preliminary data, a **41-year-old construction worker** was shot in the head by a firearm.⁶



The police are exhuming in a forest near the village of Vyshegrad.
Photo source: the Police of Kyiv region



The body of a 41-year-old construction worker after exhumation.
Photo source: the Police of Kyiv region

² The report does not specify the relationship of the dead to civilians or combatants, however, it follows from the context that this is exclusively about civilians.

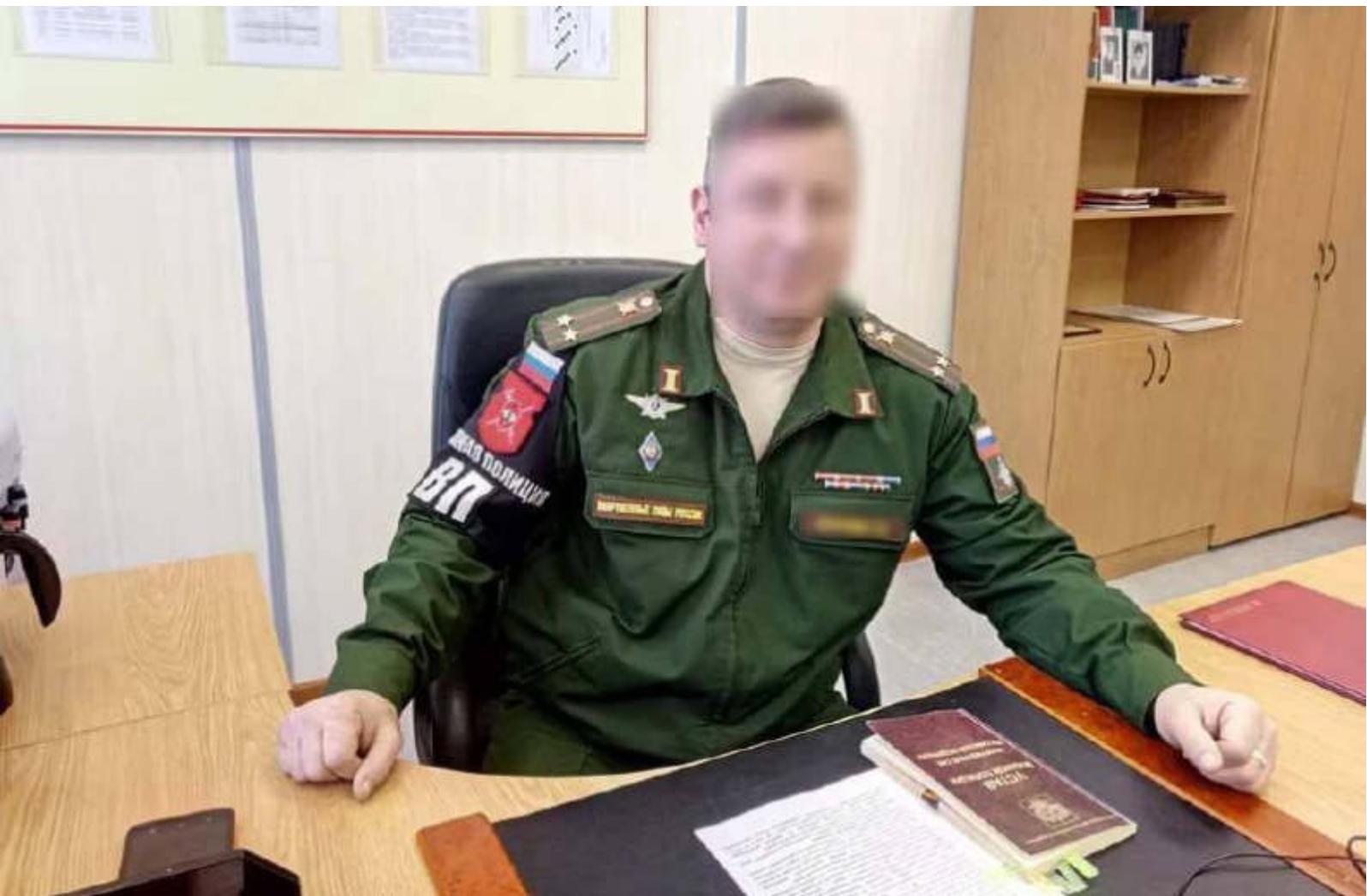
³ https://t.me/andrii_nebytov/129

⁴ <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/833111.html>

⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/22/7341341/>

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/pol.kyivregion/posts/pfbid0243SVkQJSpqFpWrYgu4Y8V6rHo7uwLFxebcnVWxf5xhz27sValCB4NpHGrUKvspzEl>

On June 08, it became known that Ukrainian law enforcement officers have notified of suspicion of violating the laws and customs of War (Part 1 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) in absentia to the military commandant of the garrison of the city of Samara, lieutenant colonel of the armed forces of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the RF). The Russian officer is suspected that servicemen subordinated to him detained a male civilian in the Sumy region on 25 February, and the lieutenant colonel, in order to intimidate the detainee, gave his subordinates an order to pretend they execute by him shooting. The man was forced to strip down to his underwear and held for 4-5 hours handcuffed next to black plastic bags that probably contained corpses. At the same time, the room temperature was about +4°. Subsequently, the man was released. On 28 February, the Russian military, according to a similar scheme, detained two more local residents who were delivering bread. The lieutenant colonel ordered his subordinates to put metal handcuffs on them and blindfold them. The detainees, on the instructions of the lieutenant colonel, were systematically struck with the butt of a weapon. Subsequently the men were released.⁷ Journalists of "Ukrpravda" found that this is probably about the 48-year-old Russian military **Georgiy Petrunin** who served in Chechnya and Syria and died in Ukraine in the end of March 2022.⁸



A Russian lieutenant colonel who has been notified of suspicion of committing crimes. Photo source: the Office of the General Prosecutor

⁷ https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/viddavav-nakazi-pro-zorstoke-povodzennya-iz-zatrimanimi-civilnimi-u-konotopi-pidpolkovniku-zs-rf-povidmleno-pro-pidozru?fbclid=IwAR1yziQ68YpHy5YAN88_LvETl8tzQwox9hjx7mYClfV18tUUqNOEYtdtCro

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/8/7351262/>

On 13 June, the police reported a mass burial site near the positions of the Russian military near the village of Myrotske (Bucha district, Kyiv region). Bodies of **7 male civilians** were found in this place with signs of torture (some had their hands tied and their knees shot through). According to the report, all the men were executed by a shot in the head.⁹



The police are carrying out an exhumation near the village of Myrotske. Photo source: the Police of Kyiv region

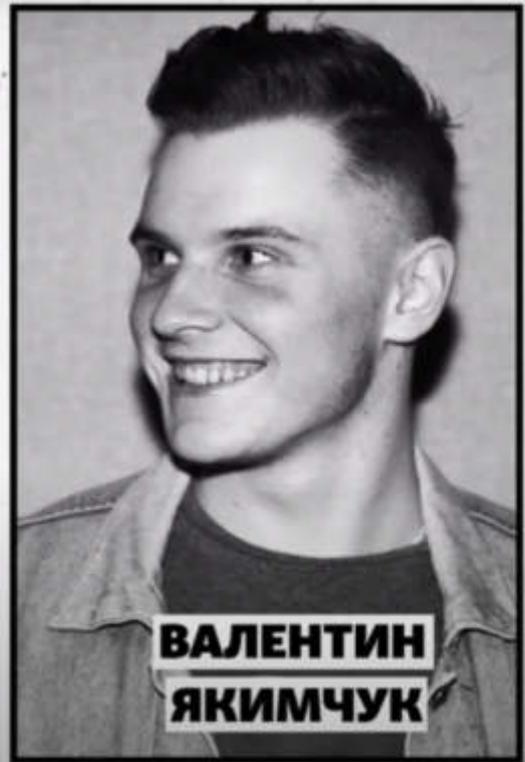


Corpses of civilians found near the village of Myrotske. Photo source: the Police of Kyiv region

⁹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=713485926647755&id=100039590617894

On 19 June,

it became known about the premeditated murder of 17-year-old twin brothers **Bogdan** and **Yevhen Samodiy** as well as their 18-year-old male friend **Valentyn Yakimchuk** in the village of Mokhnatyn (Chernihiv district, Chernihiv region), which took place on 14 March during the occupation of the village. According to the testimony of local residents shown in a video by journalists, the Russian military, moving in a column during the day, shot the unarmed boys right in the middle of the street for no reason. A local woman, who was probably an eyewitness to the murder, claims that the boys did not commit hostile actions against the military and at the time of the shots had their hands raised above the head. The boys were shot at with weapons of caliber 5.45 mm, 7.62 mm and 30 mm (armament of armored vehicles), which did not give them any chance to survive.¹⁰



The dead boys from the village of Mokhnatyn in Chernihiv region. Video screenshot. Source: Radio Liberty Ukraine



A resident of the village shows journalists the place where the body of Valentyn Yakimchuk mutilated by shots lay. Video screenshot. Source: Radio Liberty Ukraine

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-fgVpYYgQE>

On June 22, the international organization "Reporters Without Borders" published a report on the results of a journalistic investigation of the death of the Ukrainian photographer and journalist **Maksym Levyn**, whose body together with the body of the Ukrainian military man **Oleksiy Chernyshov** was discovered on 1 April 2022 in a forest near Kyiv.¹¹ The investigation procedure and collected evidence are described in the report in detail. On their basis, it is alleged that the men were executed by the Russian military on the day of their disappearance on 13 March, probably after interrogation and torture.¹²



Crime scene and Maksym Levyn's burnt car found by RSF on 28.05.22. Photo: Patrick Chauvel. Source: RSF



Oleksandr Levyn lays flowers on the grave of his brother Maksym, 30.05.22. Photo: Patrick Chauvel. Source: RSF



One of the bullets found by RSF in Maksym Levyn's burnt car on 28.05.22. Photo: Florent Marcie. Source: RSF

¹¹ <https://rsf.org/en/exclusive-rsf-investigation-death-maks-levyn-information-and-evidence-collected-indicates>

¹² https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/medias/file/2022/06/Rapport%20Ukraine_RUSSE.pdf

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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

Civilians have the right to personal respect, respect for their dignity, the right to family, their religious beliefs and rituals, habits and customs under any circumstances. They must always be treated in a *humane* way and be protected, in particular, from any act of violence or intimidation, from insults and curiosity of the crowd. Taking hostages is prohibited (the Fourth Geneva Convention, articles 27, 34).

Murder, torture, cruel or inhuman treatment, abuse of human dignity, in particular degrading and humiliating treatment, corporal punishment, mutilation, rape and other forms of sexual violence, taking hostages, forced disappearance and arbitrary imprisonment shall be *prohibited* (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 75, Customary IHL, norms 87, 89-93, 96, 98, 99).

Premeditated murder, torture or inhuman treatment, illegal detention of a civilian are serious violations 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

Sexual and gender-based violence.

Cases of sexual and gender-based violence by combatants continue to be reported, as well as cases of encroachment on human dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment.

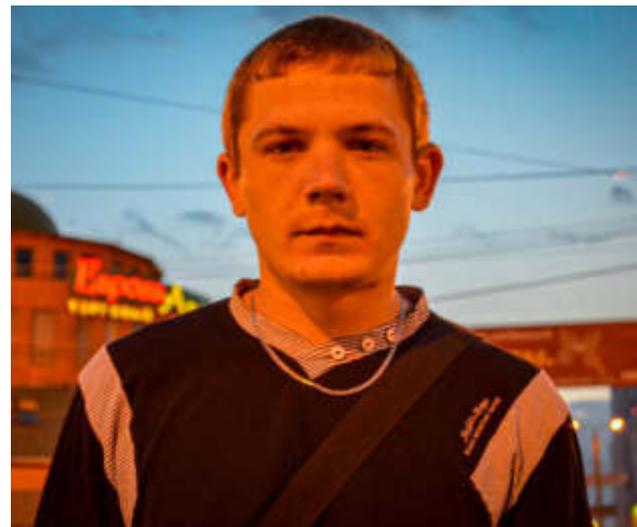
Individual examples:

On 16 June, the Defense Forces of Zaporizhzhya region reported on the fact of rape by the Russian military of a woman born in 1993 in the occupied city of Berdyansk (Zaporizhzhya region) on 06 June (the full name of the woman and other details of the incident are not quoted).¹³

On 16 June, a woman named Yana (last name is not quoted), tells reporters in a video about how she left her home in the occupied village of Dudchany (Novovorontsovskiy district, Kherson region). She recalls an incident that allegedly took place with her friends. During a search of their home, the Russian military ordered adults to leave the house and underage girls to stay. According to the woman, later the children said that the male military felt them by different parts of their bodies. The military told adults to leave the municipality, otherwise the girls would definitely be raped either by themselves or by other military personnel.¹⁴

On 23 June,

in the Solomyanskiy District Court of the city of Kyiv, a preparatory hearing began on the criminal case on charges of a Russian military man **Mikhail Romanov** of violation of the laws and customs of war. The review of the case is carried out in the absence of the accused under a special procedure (in absentia), since he is not accessible to Ukrainian law enforcement officers. According to the charges, in March 2022, during the occupation of the village of Bogdanivka (Brovary district, Kiev region), the accused, along with another Russian serviceman, broke into a private house and shot its unarmed owner Oleksiy Zdorovets. Later, while under the influence of alcohol, the servicemen took turns raping the wife of the murdered man (the woman's name is not quoted). Given the nature of the crime, the hearing is held behind closed doors. The victim takes part in the case.¹⁵



The accused Mikhail Romanov.
Photo: personal page in a social network. Source: Graty

¹³ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=446740773960144&id=102610391706519

¹⁴ https://t.me/u_now/51686

¹⁵ <https://graty.me/muzh-u-tebya-byt-nacizstom-poetomu-ya-ego-zastrelil-v-kieve-nachali-zaochno-sudit-rossijskogo-voennogo-obvinyaemogo-v-ubijstve-i-iznasilovanii/>

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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

In the resolution 3318 (XXIX) of December 14, 1974, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration on protection of women and children in emergency situations and during armed conflicts, in which it called on UN member states to make every effort to protect women and children from the devastating consequences of a war, to achieve a ban on such measures as torture, degrading treatment and violence against them.

Widespread or systematic practice of rape and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity constitutes a crime against humanity as defined by the 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 a war crime in the understanding of the Rome Statute (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (XXII)).

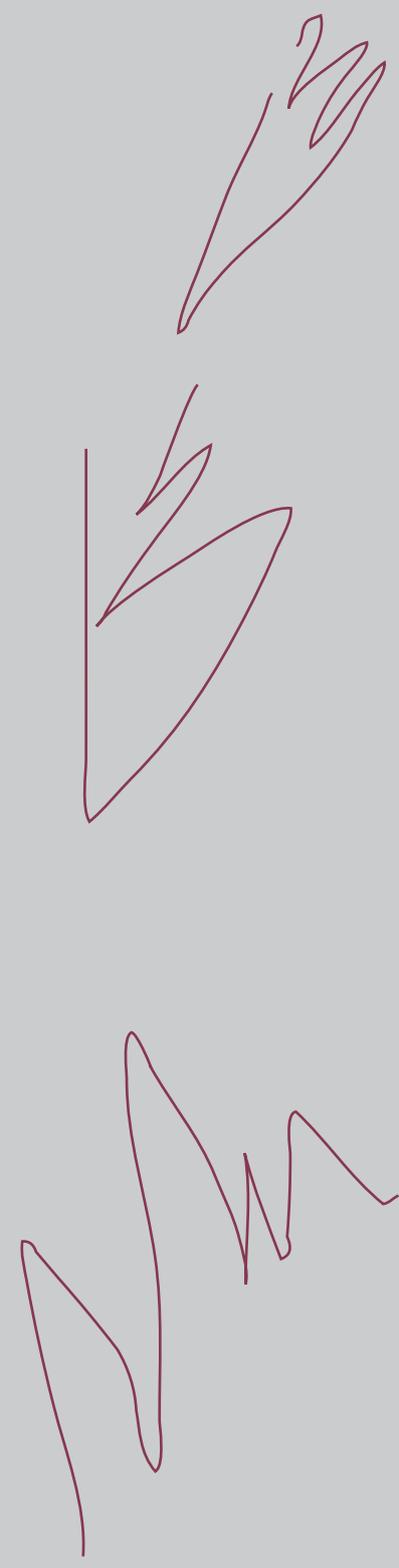
In addition, the Rome Statute also treats encroachments on human dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment as war crimes (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (xxi)).

For reference:

Sexual violence in situations related to armed conflict, in its various forms, has been widespread since 2014, that is, since the very beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, as EUCCI has repeatedly reported in its publications, researches 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/1522852942_gon_eng_web.pdf



3

Deliberate attacks on civilian population and civilian objects. Attacks of indiscriminate nature. Failure to comply with the principle of proportionality in an attack.



Consequences of shelling in Luhansk region. Photo: Facebook Sergiy Gaidai

From the very beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion, in violation of the *principle of distinction*, deliberate attacks are carried out on both civilians and civilian objects. The number of *indiscriminate attacks* continues to be consistently high. In many cases, there are signs of non-compliance by combatants of *the principle of proportionality* during attacks. We remind that the essence of the latter is that attacks which can be expected to cause accidental death of civilians or injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination of such consequences that would be excessive in comparison with the expected specific and immediate military advantage that should be obtained are prohibited.

As in the previous month, during June 2022, municipalities where active hostilities continued inside or nearby (for example, the cities of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk in Luhansk region), still were subject to indiscriminate artillery attacks and missile and bomb attack, as well as those municipalities located in the rear of Ukrainian troops (for example, the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Kremenchuk and others). Municipalities in the border regions of Ukraine that were previously de-occupied (Chernihiv and Sumy regions) are subject to regular and rather intensive artillery attacks from the territory of the Russian Federation. Due to the shelling, as of the end of June 2022, there are probably no municipalities in Ukraine that could be considered absolutely safe for stay.



Grave of the 13-year-old Anastasia Pokhilko in the courtyard of her aunt's house. The girl was killed as a result of shelling on June 21 in the city of Lysychansk (Luhansk region). Photo: Victoria Roshchyna / Hromadske Radio. Source: Hromadske Radio

At least **89** civilians died from war factors in the territory of Donetsk region during June 2022, and at least **214** were injured. These data include cases of death/injury that occurred in the territory controlled by Ukraine, as well as known cases from the occupied territory according to the information that became available in June (for example, some data about the city of Mariupol).

Tentative information on the number of dead and wounded in the territory of the Donetsk region (Ukrainian controlled territory and some known cases from occupied municipalities) from **01 to 30 June 2022** (information is provided according to the daily statements of the Chairman of Donetsk Regional State Administration / Regional Military Administration) in Telegram https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda:

Date:	Dead:	Wounded:
1 June	7	9
2 June	3	9
3 June	-	3
4 June	6	9
5 June	3	2
6 June	5	9
7 June	-	5
8 June	8	11
9 June	3	-
10 June	2	7
11 June	2	10
12 June	1	3
13 June	3	5
14 June	3	4
15 June	1	10
16 June	-	2
17 June	4	6
18 June	1	11
19 June	2	12
20 June	3	2
21 June	1	19
22 June	4	5
23 June	6	5
24 June	5	4
25 June	3	2
26 June	1	8
27 June	2	13
28 June	1	8
29 June	2	2
30 June	4	18
-	86	213

Information on the number of dead and wounded in the territory of the Donetsk region (Ukrainian controlled territory and some known cases from occupied municipalities) from **01 to 30 June 2022** by municipalities (information is provided according to the daily statements of the Chairman of Donetsk Regional State Administration / Regional Military Administration) in Telegram https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda:

Municipality:	Dead:	Wounded:
<i>Cities and towns</i>		
Soledar	2	8
Kostyantynivka	3	6
Avdiyivka	12	31
Lyman	2	1
Svyatohirsk	3	4
Yampil	-	1
Druzhkivka	2	1
Chasiv Yar	3	12
Maryinka	-	2
Mariupol	4	1
Kurakhove	4	7
Bakhmut	3	10
Hirnyk	1	-
Dobropillya	1	-
Toretsk	-	6
Krasnohorivka	5	7
Vuhledar	-	6
Pokrovsk	-	2
Siversk	1	1
Slovyansk	1	11
Selidove	1	1
Total in cities and towns:	48	118
<i>Townships / villages</i>		
Vesele	4	-
New York	5	8
Tetyanivka	1	1
Staryi Karavan	4	1
Solovyove	-	1
Vasylivka	-	1
Vremivka	-	4
Karlivka	-	5
Bogoyavlenka	-	3
Drobysheve	-	1
Pisky	1	1
Ocheretine	-	5
Lastochkine	-	2
Mykolayivka	-	2
Opytne	-	1

Municipality:	Dead:	Wounded:
Vidrodzhennya	-	1
Novoselivka Persha	1	2
Novoukrayinka	3	2
Pervomaiske	1	5
Zakitne	-	1
Netailove	1	6
Novobakhmutivka	-	1
Kurakhivka	1	
Novoluganske	1	3
Berdychi	-	1
Vyryvka	-	3
Kurdiuvivka	-	1
Panteleimonivka	2	
Pokrovske	-	2
Zaitseve	1	1
Raigorodok	3	2
Malynivka	-	6
Rodynske	-	1
Maksymylyanivka	1	3
Zalizne	1	3
Shevchenko	-	1
Stara Mykolayivka	1	
Pavlivka	-	1
Prechystivka	2	
Novomykhailivka	-	2
Yarova	-	1
Grygorivka	-	1
Shcherbynivka	-	2
Pryshyb	3	
Ivanivka	-	1
Pyvdenne	-	1
Sydorove	1	
Hostre	1	3
Mayaky	-	1
Adamivka	1	1
Khrestyshche	1	1
Total in townships / villages	41	96
TOTAL (cities and towns + townships / villages)	89	214

Note: the exact number of victims in the cities of Mariupol, Volnovakha and other localities, that have fallen under occupation or where active hostilities continue, is unknown; all the data quoted are preliminary (indicative), may contain inaccuracies and require verification (clarification).

The number of dead and wounded in the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region is unknown. At the same time, it is worth noting that during June 2022, residential and public buildings of the occupied city of Donetsk (Donetsk region), in particular, but not exclusively, the central part of the city, as well as some other occupied cities, were subjected to atypically intense artillery attacks. Based on the subjective observations of the EUCCI analysts (based on the analysis of data from Telegram channels covering local events, for example, "Typical Donetsk"¹⁶), the greatest intensity of shelling in Donetsk occurred in the period from **June 15-18**, exactly at the time when the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2022 was held in Russia, and especially on the last day of the forum, **18 June**. As of the evening of this day, according to unconfirmed reports, at least 5 people were killed and about 17 others were injured in Donetsk.¹⁷



Universytetska street in the city center of Donetsk, 18.06.22.
Photo source: "Typical Donetsk"



Vatutina street in the city center of Donetsk, 18.06.22.
Photo source: "Typical Donetsk"

3According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in the period from 24 February, 4 am, until midnight 23 June 2022, **10506 victims** were registered among the civilian population of the country: **4,677 were killed** (1,793 men, 1,208 women, 132 girls and 148 boys, as well as 41 children and 1,355 adults, whose gender is still unknown) and **5,829 wounded**. OHCHR has noted that the majority of reported deaths or injuries were caused by strikes with weapons with a long striking range (including shelling with the use of heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, MLRS), and it believes that the actual numbers are much higher because information is received late from places where intense fighting continues and requires verification.¹⁸

The head of the National Police of Ukraine Ihor Klymenko said in an interview with journalists on 13 June that the police are investigating criminal proceedings "by the facts of death of more than 12 thousand Ukrainians, while 1,200 bodies, in particular, those found in mass graves, have not yet been identified"¹⁹.

¹⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk>

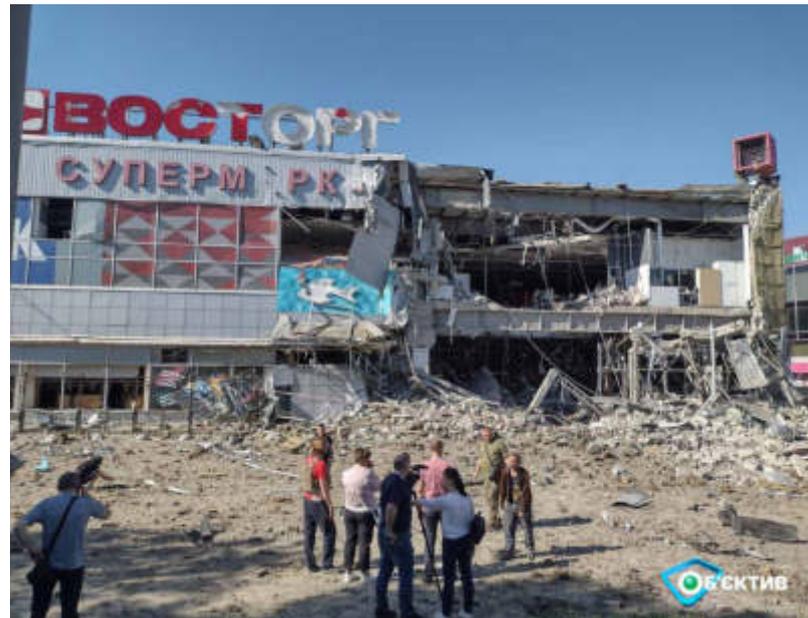
¹⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/18165>

¹⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/ru/news/2022/06/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-24-june-2022>

¹⁹ <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/838766.html>

Individual examples:

On 08 June, it became known about the next shelling of the city of Kharkiv (Kharkiv region). The Shevchenko and the Industrial districts of the city were shelled during the day and night. Residential high-rise buildings, administrative buildings and low-rise households, a supermarket, and numerous non-residential premises were damaged. During the day, at least one person was killed and six others were injured.²⁰ As early as in the evening of 08 June, the Novobavarskiy district of the city was shelled. Two people were reported dead and four injured. The buildings of a cafe, store, school and a library were destroyed.²¹ **On 21 June,** a similar artillery attack on the city claimed the lives of at least five people. Another 11 people were injured. Damage to commercial and residential buildings has been reported.²²



Consequences of the shelling of Kharkiv, 08.06.22. Destroyed building of the supermarket. Photo: Obyektyv Kharkiv. Source: Obyektyv Kharkiv

Consequences of the shelling of Kharkiv, 21.06.22. Police are examining the destroyed supermarket building. Photo: Sergiy Bolvinov. Source: Sergiy Bolvinov (head of the Investigation Department of the Main Department of the National Police in Kharkiv region)



²⁰ <https://t.me/synegubov/3399>

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/MNSKHARKIV/posts/pfbid02H4JWsREAuwgEzUdX6TLZZxhjfs4z4CWt5fKrgqkyKYvejqqWmYRBh3sVFoUUyiZ8L>

²² https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0rsn7uY2kHiz9pK3bJ425H53SMGdrxJud9kFTz7WN7WvJsZKTQdGGzXU1RS4kffRL&id=100002276907245

Residents of Kharkiv region also regularly become victims of artillery attacks. For example, on **10 June**, there was a massive shelling of a low-rise residential sector in the town of Dergachi, which is controlled by Ukrainian troops. As a result, there were fires in four private homes, and two people were injured. On the same day, as a result of the shelling of the Chkalivska community, four people were killed. On **21 June**, the city of Chuguiv was shelled. Six people were killed and six other civilians received shrapnel wounds. A high-rise building, shopping pavilions and a bus station were damaged.²³



Consequences of shelling of low-rise residential buildings in Kharkiv region, 10.06.22. Fire extinguishing. Photo source: the Main Department of the State Emergency Service in Kharkiv region



Fire at the bus station in Chuguiv, 21.06.22. Photo source: Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor Office

²³ <https://www.facebook.com/prokuraturokharkiv/posts/pfbid037RNWbwUBMeudJWCtgcAMYdNSvcjAQvKMJg7RmW5HYT2AopzxcJydfBLH3TEFeGJ7l>

On 11 June, in the evening, a missile attack was launched on the city of Chortkiv (Ternopil region). 23 persons were injured, including both civilians and military. A significant part of the destruction occurred in residential buildings located near the place of impact of the missiles. It was reported that a 12-year-old girl from Kharkiv was among the victims. Her family, after the beginning of a full-scale invasion, moved to the Ternopil region.²⁴



Consequences of the missile strike on Chortkiv. Video screenshot. Source: Volodymyr Trush / Ternopil Regional State Administration (Regional Military Administration)

On 16 June, at night, the Russian military launched a missile strike on the territory of the near-border Sadivska community (Sumy district, Sumy region). Four people were killed and at least six people were injured. At about 5 a.m., the Krasnopil near-border community was hit by a missile attack and mortar fire. No fatalities or injuries were reported.²⁵

On 19 June, another near-border settlement of Sumy region, the town of Seredyna-Buda, was subjected to mortar fire. One residential building was completely destroyed, at least nine houses, outbuildings etc., were damaged. A 48-year-old local female was injured.²⁶

²⁴ <https://t.me/ternopilskaODA/1208>

²⁵ https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/2609?fbclid=IwAR2OdybfVgXthfNee_S8sB7_sxlFWtSb16a7noAZ8GbkY6PxDNmD5QvAGMs

²⁶ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbidoESWQLE11fVQNdngZbQg64Vhw3TvdmfCVucx4yamXqVVnnT7wkGXDKUPS6p2rxJdl&id=948846185147719

On 20 June, at noon, two drones attacked the territory of the Yunakivska community. Mortar attacks were also reported. As a result, one person was killed and another one was injured. Other municipalities of the region were also shelled on this day, but no casualties or destructions were reported.²⁷

On 21 June, the so-called "kamikaze drones" attacked objects in the territory of the Krasnopil community. Four people were injured, two of them were taken to the hospital in a serious condition. Houses, outbuildings, a school and a village council were damaged by mortar attacks.²⁸ During June 2022, similar messages were received almost daily from different municipalities of Sumy region.



Elimination of a fire in a low-rise residential building damaged by mortar fire. Seredyna-Buda, 19.06.22.
Photo source: Sumy Regional Office of the Prosecutor

²⁷ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/2707>

²⁸ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/2725>

On 26 June, a missile strike was launched on the city of Kyiv.²⁹ One of the missiles hit an apartment building, the other exploded in the territory of a kindergarten. As a result of the missile strike, a family living in the high-rise residential building was affected. The man was killed, and his wife and a young child were injured. At least four other people were also injured.³⁰ A number of Western politicians directly blamed the Russian armed forces for the missile strike.³¹



Search for people under the debris of a residential building after a missile strike in Kyiv. Photo source: State Emergency Service



Crater from an explosion near the kindergarten in Kyiv. Photo: Sonya Lukashova, Ukrpravda

²⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/26/7354695/>

³⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/26/7354776/>

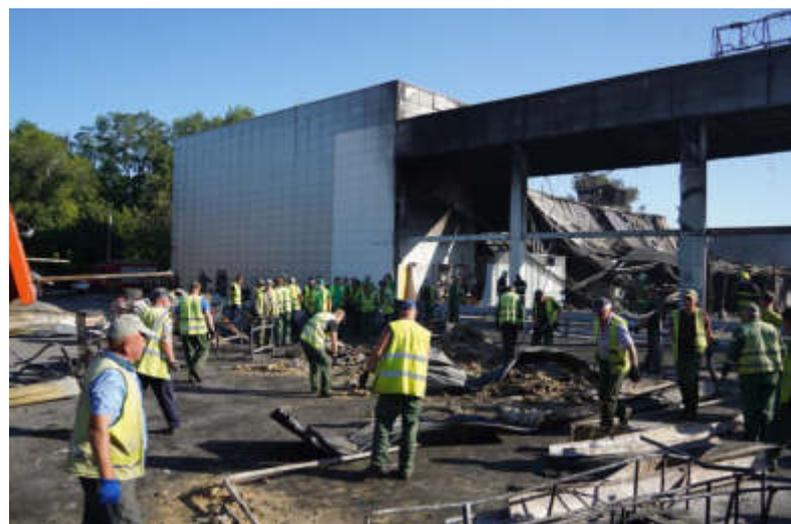
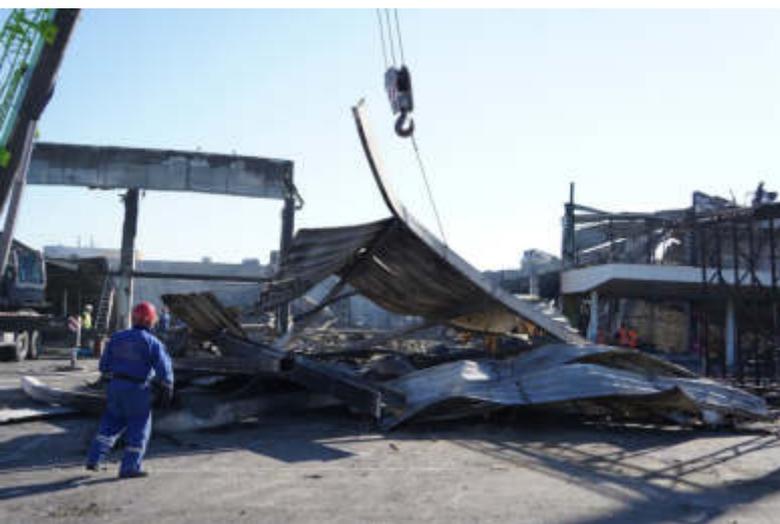
³¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/26/7354770/>

On 27 June,

a missile strike was launched on the city of Kremenchuk (Poltava region). One of the missiles hit the building of the "Amstor" shopping mall, located in the central part of the city.³² At least 20 people were killed, more than 59 people were injured and more than 40 people were reported missing obscurely as of 28 June. Excavation of the rubble and search for people continued.³³ The Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine said that law enforcement officers have already identified the Russian pilots who directly carried out the missile strike.³⁴ A number of Western politicians, such as French President Emmanuel Macron, have condemned such actions by the Russian military.³⁵



Shopping mall in Kremenchuk after a missile strike. Screenshot of the video. Source: Espresso.tv



Search for people under the debris of the shopping mall in Kremenchuk after the missile strike. Photo source: Dmytro Lunin / Poltava Regional State Administration (Poltava Regional Military Administration)

³² <https://t.me/DMYTROLUNIN/2739>

³³ https://t.me/OP_UA/6945

³⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/28/7355122/>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/EmmanuelMacron/status/1541535296168280064?cxt=HHwWgJCyjeeLoeQqAAAA>

On 27 June,

a missile, allegedly from MLRS “Uragan”, hit near the water delivery point in the city of Lysychansk (Luhansk region). At least eight people were killed and about 20 were injured. It is alleged that the missile strike on the city, which is controlled by the Ukrainian military, was carried out by the armed forces of the Russian Federation.³⁶ On **16 June**, an air strike on Lysychansk claimed the lives of at least four people and injured at least seven. According to the report, one of the bombs hit the building where civilians were hiding. Another bomb hit a medical facility. It was assumed that there may also be people under the rubble of this building.³⁷



A man near a deceased person in Lysychansk, probably his relative, 27.06.22. Video screenshot. Source: Serhiy Gaidai / Luhansk Regional State Administration (Luhansk Regional Military Administration)



Rescuers are excavating the rubble of a building destroyed by the air strike in Lysychansk, 16.06.22. Source: Serhiy Gaidai / Luhansk Regional State Administration (Luhansk Regional Military Administration)

³⁶ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/3828>

³⁷ https://t.me/serhiy_hayday/7120

On 29 June,

a shell hit a high-rise residential building in the city of Mykolaiv (Mykolaiv region). At least three people were killed and one person was injured.³⁸ Before, on **17 June**, as a result of a missile attack on the city, at least two people were killed and at least 20 were injured.³⁹ Five residential buildings were damaged.⁴⁰

*"The overall situation is very bad. We are being shelled every day. In general, as of today, **111 people were killed**. One of them is a child. Also, 502 people were injured, including 6 children (as of June 21 – editorial). They fire at us almost every day with different types of shells. About 80% of these projectiles are cassette type ones. That is, multiple launch rocket systems of the 'Smerch' or 'Uragan' type", the mayor of Mykolaiv Alexander Senkevych commented on the situation in the city (interview with the project of Radio Liberty/News of the Azov Region).⁴¹*

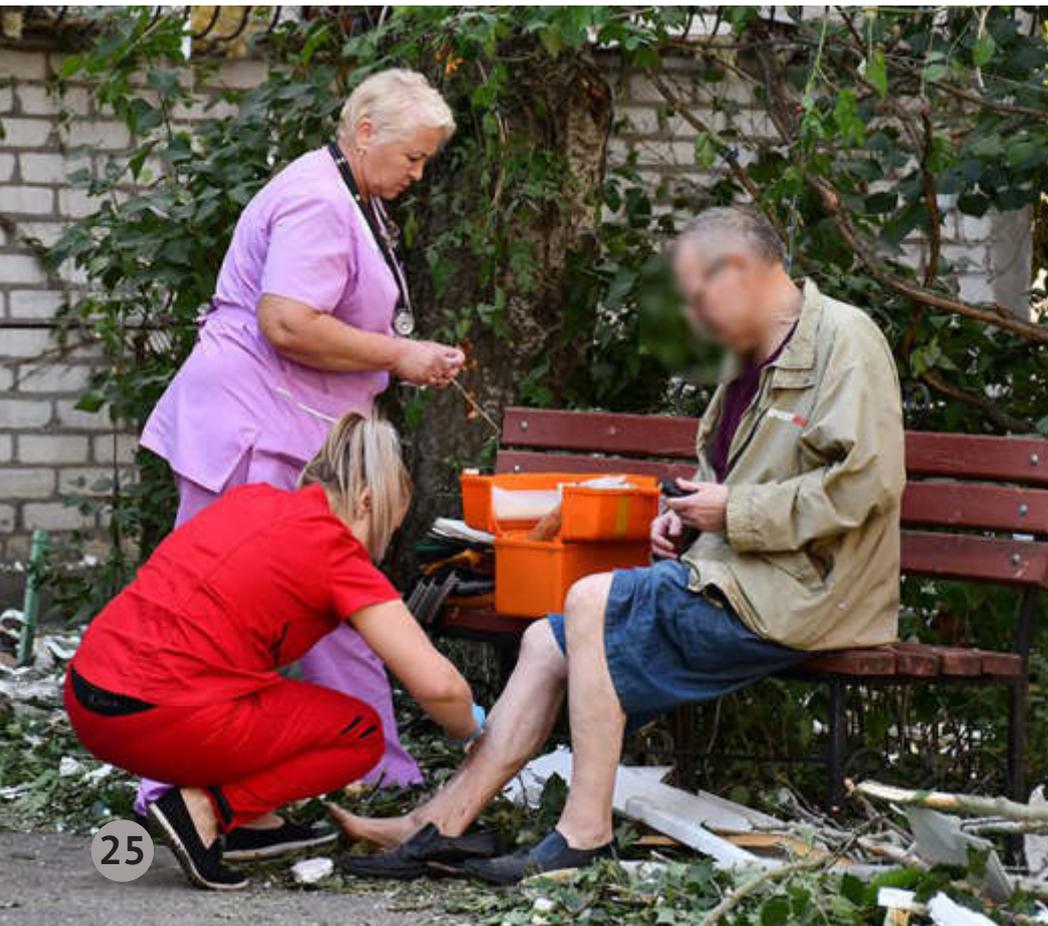


Consequences of a shell hitting a residential building in Mykolaiv, 29.06.22.
Photo source: Main Department of the State Emergency Service in Mykolaiv region



One of the residential buildings after the missile strike on Mykolaiv, 17.06.22. Photo source: Main Department of the State Emergency Service in Mykolaiv region

Medics provide first aid to a wounded man after the missile strike on Mykolaiv, 17.06.22.
Photo source: Main Department of the State Emergency Service in Mykolaiv region



³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/DSNSMYKOL/posts/pfbido36rwWG6i82XDkijf4g7huUKZbvhae5Mjia5DMqRsREzAff7s1DW/c1LFG9dNWQd6CEI>

³⁹ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/1515>

⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/DSNSMYKOL/posts/pfbido2EiU52eMPAd2wx1AZKkDCC8xZLRCPdGFuULJahhzSXzUGnRjVxkdmuxJpsmeTBJl>

⁴¹ https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/novyny-pryazovya-mykolayiv-obstrili-senkevych/31911643.html?fbclid=IwAR2trXw_eKhzEEPeMQbbP8auGDCTNaPgYclzFyNbm5hiSogVsoKpCOnlGhE

For reference:

According to the latest preliminary data from the Secretariat of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Parliament of Ukraine, as of the morning of **13 June**, since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion to Ukraine, at least **288** children have been **killed**. 527 children were injured. It is noted that due to the ongoing fighting, it is not yet possible to establish the exact number of dead and injured.⁴²

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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

Protection of civilian objects is stopped when these objects begin to be used for military purposes.

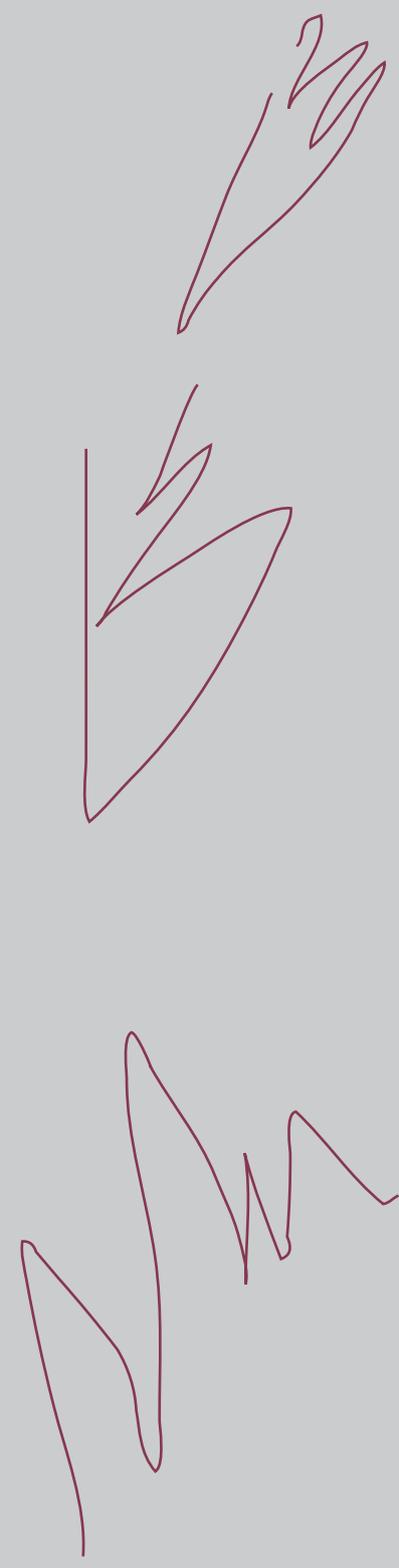
Preventive measures during an attack provide, in particular, but not exclusively, that the person who plans an attack or decides on its implementation, must do everything practically possible to make sure that the objects of the attack are neither civilians nor civilian objects and are not subject to special protection, but are precisely military targets (Additional Protocol I to Geneva Conventions, Article 57, customary IHL, Rule 16).

Indiscriminate attacks, in particular attacks not aimed at a specific military target, or attacks where methods or means of conducting military operations are used that cannot be directed at a specific military target, are prohibited.

In case of a doubt as to whether an object which is normally intended for civilian purposes, such as worship, a residential building, a school, is used to effectively support hostilities, it is assumed that such an object is used for civilian purposes (Additional Protocol and to the Geneva Conventions, Article 52).

Deliberate attacks on civilian population or individual civilians, deliberate attacks on civilian objects, failure to comply with the principle of proportionality of an attack, and certain other related acts committed during an international armed conflict are war crimes within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 8).

⁴² https://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/news_details/stanom-na-ranok-13-cherwnya-z-pochatku-vtorgnennya-rf-v-ukrayini-zaginuli-288-ditej-postrazhdali-527



4

Threat to high-risk structures and installations.

During June 2022, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continued to threaten the safety of the **Zaporizhzhya**⁴³ and the **South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plants**⁴⁴ by their actions.



South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant. Illustrative photo

Armed Russian military personnel remain in the territory of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.⁴⁵ Their number is currently not reliably known, however, as of May, it was estimated as about 500 people.⁴⁶ Earlier, it was also reported that the Russian army stores heavy military equipment in the perimeter of the nuclear power plant.⁴⁷ During June, the military was probably engaged in strengthening previously constructed trenches and completing fortifications.⁴⁸

⁴³ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39348.html>

⁴⁴ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39274.html>

⁴⁵ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39348.html>

⁴⁶ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39252.html>

⁴⁷ <https://www.rbc.ua/ukr/news/german-galushchenko-rech-povyshenii-tarifov-1649180207.html>

⁴⁸ <https://espresso.tv/bilya-zaes-okupanti-ukriplyuyut-okopi-y-rozmishchuyut-ozbroennya>

On 08 June, the Ukrainian state enterprise Energoatom, which is operating all nuclear power stations in Ukraine, reported that over the past week, the Russian military detained eleven employees of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. The names of the detainees and the reasons for the detentions were not quoted.⁴⁹ This fact was also reported by the mayor of the city of Energodar Dmytro Orlov in a conversation with journalists of the Radio Liberty Project "News of the Azov Region".⁵⁰

"Now hundreds of residents of the city are being held captive. A significant part of them are qualified employees of Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. People are electrocuted, beaten, and held in custody for weeks, and sometimes even months. They are demanded to confess of 'illegal activities', in particular their participation in the self-defense of the city, concealment of weapons, and to give the names of their other 'accomplices'", Dmytro Orlov wrote on 26 June in his Telegram channel.⁵¹

On 05 June and 26 June, video surveillance cameras of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant recorded the flight of missiles over the territory of the plant.⁵²



Missile over the territory of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant, 05.06.22. Video screenshot. Source: Energoatom

On 25 June, the sub-critical nuclear installation "Neutron Source" sustained further damage as a result of shelling (in the city of Kharkiv). Damage to the buildings and infrastructure of the industrial site was reported, as well as the transfer of the nuclear installation "into a deep sub-critical status".⁵³

⁴⁹ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/6974

⁵⁰ <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-okupanty-pratsivnyky-zaes/31908073.html?fbclid=IwAR36X2k7OviAoJ3gg1GiOEXVE8xUscPS-7J0qMhuu74LGnL8GE74r0eq38>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/orlovdmytroEn/611>

⁵² https://t.me/energoatom_ua/6877
<https://www.facebook.com/energoatom.ua/posts/pfbidomxFZsC15Qy7izTNZA1mNsHnkybzjPhvAmBE7d5UGVQQhh3H6DYxd37Smni9GN4Hl>

⁵³ <https://t.me/snriugovua/390>

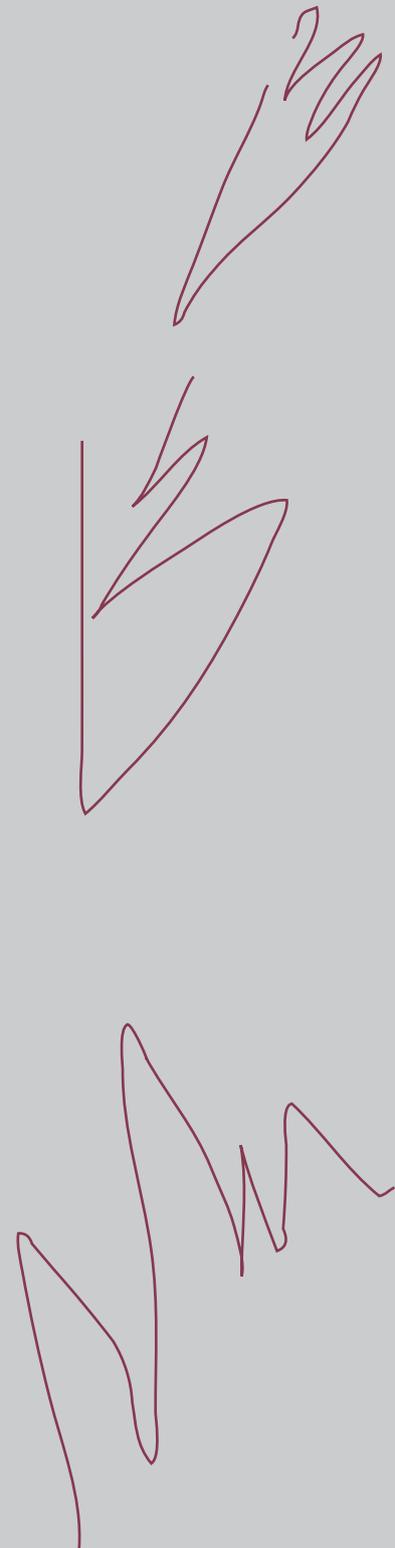
Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

Installations and structures containing dangerous forces like dykes, dams and nuclear power plants, shall not be targeted if such an attack can cause a release of dangerous forces and subsequent heavy civilian casualties. Assault is prohibited even in those cases where such objects are military ones (Additional Protocol I to 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 civilian casualties during such attacks (Customary IHL, norm 42).

At the same time, the ban on attacks on these objects is not absolute. For example, the special protection against attacks against nuclear power plants 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 quite obvious that Ukrainian nuclear power plants are purely civilian facilities and are not military facilities. There are no other Ukrainian military facilities near the nuclear power plant. Consequences of conducting military operations near power plants, damage to their infrastructure, turning nuclear power plants into military bases of the Russian Federation, launching missiles over the territory of nuclear power plants, mining the relevant territories and other similar actions in most cases are unpredictable and pose an exceptional danger.

An intentional attack, when it is known that such an attack will cause accidental death or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects or large-scale, long-term and serious damage to the natural environment, which will clearly not be comparable to 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)).



5

Threat to the natural environment.



Dead dolphin on the Black Sea coast. Photo: Ivan Rusev. Photo source: Ukrpravda.Life

Threat to the natural environment of Ukraine as a result of armed hostilities (air pollution, damage to ecosystems, water resources, etc.) is increasing daily.

In addition to the threats described in our previous digests⁵⁴ which have not ceased to exist, we note that in June 2022, the Ministry for Environment of Ukraine in its weekly reports noted the following (quoted selectively):

- the Russian military seized the Zaporizhzhya Iron Ore Plant in the village of Mala Bilozirka (Vasylivskiy district, Zaporizhzhya region). The employees continue to stay at the plant while trying to pump out the water. It is noted that if this process is stopped, the mine will be flooded and iron will pollute the aquifers of the entire region;⁵⁵
- the area of fires, compared to the same period last year, increased 99 times. Fires have already covered 6460.4 thousand hectares. An average area of one fire increased 31 times. In the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, due to continuous fighting the places of fires of 2020 are burning again;⁵⁶

⁵⁴ https://totalaction.org.ua/war-news/195?fbclid=IwAR3aNhQ8smdXxOtaW8F6RHYJEYNup__cFXgU_6bZL5HWMXBq-Fg3LNQ2CTg

⁵⁵ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39348.html>

⁵⁶ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39320.html>

- On 3-4 June, a fire on the Kinburn spit destroyed approximately 300 hectares of protected areas. Areas of forest ecosystems were lost, rare animal species and the unique sandy flora of Kinburn were destroyed and damaged. We remind that the Kinburn spit has international environmental protection importance, as it is a site of the Emerald network;⁵⁷
- because of military operations, dolphins are dying massively, migration routes of migratory birds are changing, and nesting sites of rare species are being destroyed. 14 Ramsar wetlands in Ukraine are under the threat of destruction.⁵⁸



Valentyna Polishchuk

A bird that died as a result of shelling. Photo: Facebook Valentyna Polishchuk

The Ministry for Environment of Ukraine believes that since the beginning of the full-scale war, the environment throughout Ukraine has been damaged at least for **202 billion UAH**.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39274.html>

⁵⁸ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39274.html>

⁵⁹ <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/06/23/249243/>

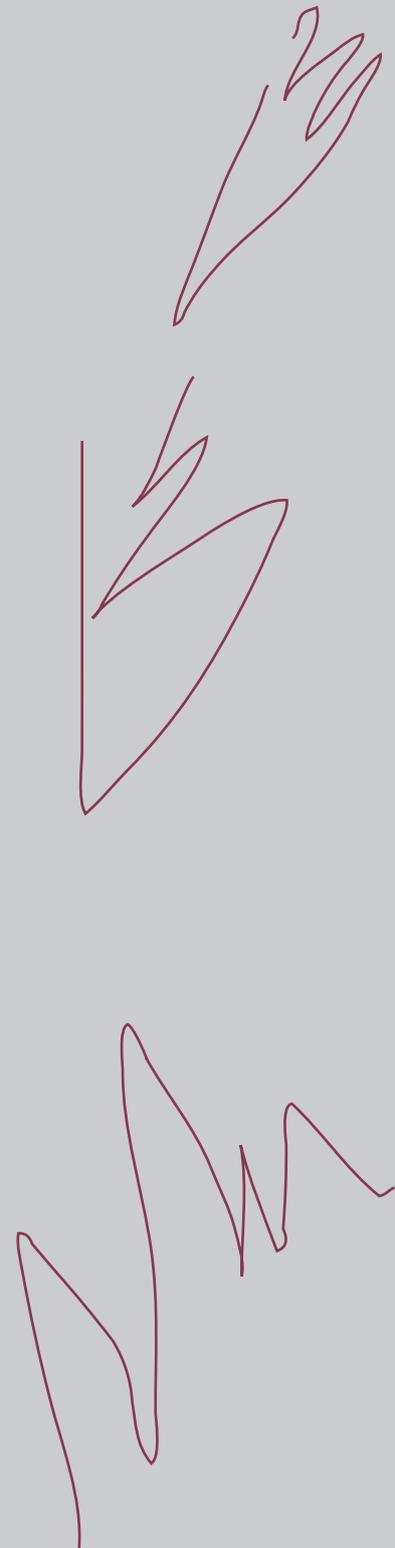
Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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

It is prohibited to make an attack on a military target if such an attack can be expected to cause excessive accidental damage to the natural environment compared to the expected specific and immediate military advantage (Customary IHL, norm 43). When conducting military operations, all practically possible precautions must be taken to avoid and in any case minimize accidental damage to the environment (Customary IHL, norm 44).

An intentional attack, when it is known that such an attack will cause a large-scale, long-term and serious damage to the natural environment, which will clearly not be comparable to 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)).

Obviously, it is too early to speak of "widespread, long-term and serious harm" as it is understood in practice of application of the relevant IHL norms. At the same time, it is also obvious that the armed forces of the Russian Federation do not take all practically possible *measures of precaution* to avoid such potential harm. Further disregard of the above-mentioned norms of IHL will inevitably lead to the harm mentioned above.



6

Seizure and looting of property.

The trend of seizing and looting property which belongs to individuals and legal entities, the state and territorial communities continued to remain unchanged in the occupied territories during June 2022.

The range of types of property that becomes an object of encroachment is getting more and more diverse: from domestic robbery of the local population (cars, money, etc.), to the seizure and looting of the property of large companies in significant amounts (crops of agricultural enterprises, steel products of metallurgical plants, goods and property complexes of hypermarkets, etc.).

In June, the Ministry for Environment of Ukraine, with a reference to the Washington Post and Babel, published the following infographic of looting of the property of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant:

RUSSIAN LOOTING AT THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

TOP LEAD

Russian troops stole **more than \$135 million worth** of equipment and invaluable software from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.



698

computers



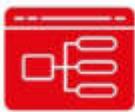
344

vehicles



1 500

dosimeters



Software needed to control the radiation level



Almost all fire firefighting equipment



Kitchenware

The result of looting of property during occupation of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Source: <https://mepr.gov.ua/en/news/39274.html>

Individual examples:

On 01 June,

armed representatives of the occupation authorities forcibly seized the premises of the Epicenter shopping mall and the Nova Liniya hypermarket in the city of Kherson. The company reported the loss of control over its assets.⁶⁰



"Epicenter" hypermarket. Illustrative photo. Source: Epicenter K

On June 13,

it became known that in the village of Mala Bilozirka (Vasylivskiy district, Zaporizhzhya region) in the territory of an iron ore plant, the occupation authorities arbitrarily seized 54 freight railway carriages with sinter iron ore, with a total weight of 3,240 tons, as well as a "Kamaz" truck.⁶¹

On 16 June,

Energoatom stated that the Russian military brought information to the attention of employees of Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant about the transfer of the plant under the control of the Russian Federation and the Russian company Rosatom from 1 September 2022.⁶²

On 23 June,

it became known about the dismantling and removal by the occupation authorities of solar panels from the solar power plant in the Tokmak district of Zaporizhzhya region. It is claimed that the solar power plant belongs to Tokmak Solar Energy and is the fifth largest in Ukraine. It has a capacity of 50 MWt and an area of 96.4 hectares.⁶³ Information about equipment theft requires additional clarification and verification. The company's website does not contain relevant information yet.⁶⁴



Tokmak Solar energy solar panels.
Photo source: Tokmak Solar Energy

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/epicentrkua/posts/pfbidowcvY8dczUfjxsyMcLbTmptEUqJk1rdpLFClqPnb4es84K6qV6wtjjdnbKZPHwezsl>

⁶¹ <https://www.facebook.com/102610391706519/photos/a.135562685077956/444915044142717/>

⁶² https://t.me/energoatom_ua/7196

⁶³ <https://www.epravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/23/688494/>

⁶⁴ <http://test.tokmaksolar.com.ua/ru/novosti>

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

IHL regulations prohibit robbery. It is allowed to confiscate movable public property in the occupied territory, *which can be used for military operations*; private property must be respected, it is not allowed to be confiscated, except in cases where destruction or seizure of such property is required by *urgent military necessity* (Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 53, IHL, norms 49-51).

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



7

Using hunger as a method of warfare.

On 20 June,

the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy **Josep Borrel** called the blockade of Ukrainian grain exports a war crime:

"It is unconceivable, one cannot imagine that millions of tons of wheat remain blocked in Ukraine while in the rest of the world, people are suffering from hunger. This is a real war crime. So I cannot imagine that this will last much longer. Otherwise, it will be something that Russia will be accountable for".⁶⁵

The European Council has called on Russia to immediately stop attacks on agricultural facilities, as well as to unblock the Black Sea, in particular the port of Odesa, to allow grain exports from Ukraine and commercial shipping operations. *"Russia, by weaponizing food in its war against Ukraine, is solely responsible for the global food security crisis it has provoked"*, was stated in the conclusion of the EU summit, the Ukrpravda wrote.⁶⁶

Renowned Russian propagandist **Margarita Simonyan** while speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum of 2022 (15-18 June), noted that there is a joke now allegedly popular in Russian society: *"All our hope is for hunger. That's what it means. This means that now there will be a famine, and they will lift sanctions and be friends with us, because they will understand that it is impossible not to be friends with us."*⁶⁷



Josep Borrel. Photo source: Wikipedia



Margarita Simonyan. Photo: Getty Images. Source: TSN

⁶⁵ <https://www.euointegration.com.ua/news/2022/06/20/7141605/>

⁶⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/24/7354342/>

⁶⁷ <https://tsn.ua/ru/lady/news/obschestvo/vsya-nasha-nadezhda-na-golod-propagandistka-simonyan-rasskazala-o-lyudoedskih-nastroeniyah-v-rossii-2092990.html>

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

It is prohibited to use hunger among the civilian population as a method of warfare, and to attack, destroy, remove or render unusable objects necessary for the survival of the civilian population, such as food supplies, agricultural areas that produce food, crops, livestock, structures to provide drinking water and supplies of the latter, as well as irrigation facilities specifically for the purpose of preventing them from being used by the civilian population or an opposing party as a means of maintaining existence, regardless of motives, as if for the purpose of causing hunger among civilians, forcing them to leave or for any other reason. The parties to the conflict should allow and facilitate the rapid and unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, provided that such assistance is impartial, is carried out without discrimination and is subject to control by the parties to the conflict (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, Article 54, IHL, norms 53-56).

The deliberate commission of acts exposing civilians to hunger as a way of waging war by depriving them of items necessary for survival, including intentionally creating obstacles to aid, as provided for in the Geneva Conventions, is a war crime within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC Statute, Article 8).



8

Illegal detentions and deprivation of liberty of civilians.

During June 2022, the practice of illegal arrests by the Russian military (military personnel of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, Rosgvardiya, FSB, etc.) and keeping civilian population of the occupied territories in places of detention has continued. As before, illegal deprivation of freedom of people is carried out everywhere and is obviously part of the plan or policy of the Russian Federation in relation to certain segments of the civilian population of the occupied territories (journalists, public activists and bloggers, volunteers, entrepreneurs, heads of various enterprises and institutions, participants of peaceful protests and other persons who do not support occupation).

Individual examples:

On 03 June, the Russian military conducted searches at the department of agronomy of the Kherson State Agricultural and Economic University (in the city of Kherson) and detained the dean of the department **Ivan Mrynskiy**. The motives of the detention are unknown.⁶⁸



Ivan Mrynskiy. Photo source: MOST

⁶⁸ https://most.ks.ua/news/url/u_hersoni_rosijski_okupanti_vikrali_naukovtsja_ivana_mrinskogo

On 8 June,

the Russian military in the village of Chornobaivka (Kherson region), arrested **Sergey Chernousov**, teacher of physical culture of the Chornobaivka Lyceum, member of the Chornobaivka Village Council in his own house. The motives of the detention are unknown.⁶⁹

Serhiy Chernousov. Photo source: "Chornobaivka News"



On 9 June,

the Russian military in the occupied city of Prymorsk (Zaporizhzhya region) arrested the 18-year-old student **Artur Yaroshevskiy**, chairman of the Student Council of Nogaisk Professional College. The military seized all computer equipment from the Yaroshevskiy's house. The reason for the detention was called as the need to "conduct a preventive conversation". According to a member of the Student Council, the Yaroshevskiy was known for his active civic position. The whereabouts of the young man are unknown.⁷⁰

Artur Yaroshevskiy. Photo source: Suspilne News



On 18 June,

the Russian military in the occupied city of Melitopol (Zaporizhzhya region) detained **Valentyn Zhuravlev**, pastor of the Protestant Church "Source of Life". The man, together with the followers of the church, held a daily prayer for peace and the end of the war on the city's Victory square. On June 23, it became known that the man was released from captivity.⁷¹

Valentyn Zhuravlev. Photo source: RIA Melitopol



⁶⁹ <https://t.me/chernobaevka/2143>

⁷⁰ <https://suspilne.media/249136-prijsli-dodomu-ta-vilucili-vsu-tehniku-u-primorsku-okupanti-vikrali-18-ricnogo-golovu-studradi-nogajskogo-koledzu/>

⁷¹ <http://surl.li/cgcnm>

On 23 June, it became known that the Russian military probably detained in the city of Kherson the 51-year-old **Oleh Khudyakov**, former head of the service of public security of the Main Directorate of the National Police in Kherson region. Subsequently, the man was released, however, after his release, he has committed a suicide. It is assumed that the motive for suicide was probably the detention and the pressure that was exerted on the man during his detention.⁷²



Oleh Khudyakov. Photo source: Telegraph

On June 27, the Crimean Tatar Resource Center reported that on 20 June, the Russian military detained about 30 civilians in the village of Novooleksiyivka (Kherson region). On 21 June, about 22-24 people were detained in the neighboring municipalities of Rykove and Schastlyvtseve. Most of the detainees are representatives of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people. It is alleged that some detainees are being taken to the territory of the occupied Crimea for further detention in the Simferopol pre-trial detention center.⁷³

⁷² <https://telegraf.com.ua/ukr/obshhestvo/2022-06-23/5708551-ne-khotiv-buti-zradnikom-ekschinovnik-natspolitsii-vchiniv-samogubstvo-pislya-polonu-zmi>

⁷³ <https://ctrcenter.org/uk/news/7848-u-genicheskomu-rajoni-okupanti-zatrimali-blizko-50-krimskih-tatar>

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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

Enforced disappearance and arbitrary deprivation of freedom (Customary IHL, norms 98, 99) directed against civilians are prohibited.

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

Unlawful deprivation of freedom, hostage-taking and some other related acts are also considered a war crime in the sense of the Rome Statute (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (a) (vii), (viii)).

For reference:

The practice of illegal arrests and detentions in places of detention of civilians, in particular journalists in connection with their professional activities, has been widespread since 2014, that is, since the very beginning of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, as EUCCI and other human rights organizations have repeatedly reported in their publications, research and other materials.

See, for example:

Imprisoned in the "LPR Government" Building

https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1534328816_LNR_B_engl.compressed.pdf

War Without Rules: Gender-Based Violence in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine

https://jfp.org.ua/system/reports/files/110/en/gon_eng_220818_web.pdf

Surviving Hell

https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1522853480_SURVIVING_HELL_eng_web.pdf

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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