

digest №6

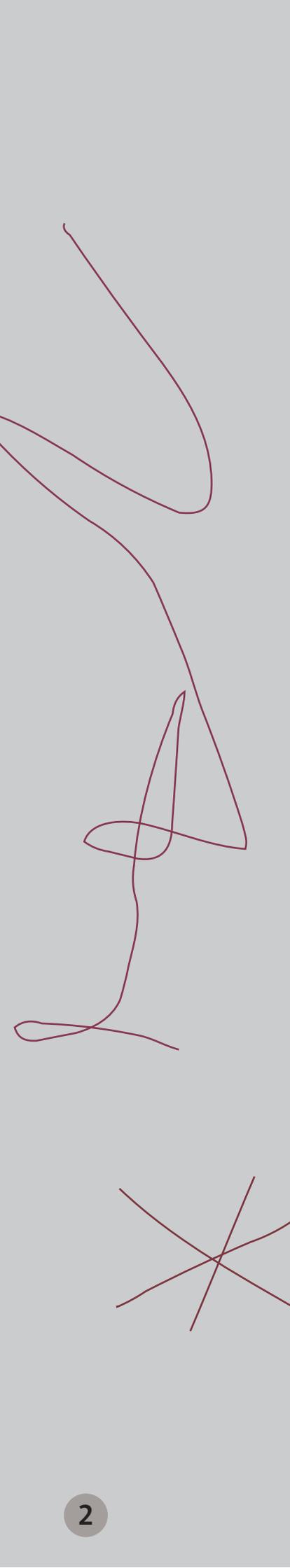
Prepared by the
Eastern Ukrainian Center
for Civil Initiatives (EUCCI)

Violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine:

digest of events for the period
from 1 July to 31 July, 2022.



A bombed residential district in Mariupol.
Photo: Mariupol City Council



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 the proposed 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 the rights of the civilian population, and in some cases, combatants (prisoners of war). We will try to explain why certain acts should be considered a violation of IHL.

Premeditated murder and torture of the civilian population.

Search and exhumation of the bodies of people whose deaths occurred during occupation continued in the de-occupied municipalities of Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions during July of 2022. EUCCI once again notes that every month the number of reports about the discovery of new corpses declines. Presumably, this is due to the gradual completion of the process of examination the places of location of the occupation forces.

According to the Head of the Main Department of the National Police in Kyiv region Andriy Nebytov, as of 31 Jul, **1348** bodies of local residents were found in Kyiv region, 300 people are considered missing obscurely, 216 bodies remain unidentified¹.

"One of the last mass graves, where the bodies of 7 people were found near the location of their (Russian military, editorial) positions. All of them were killed by a shot in the head, but before that they were shot in the knees: in one or even in both. And some of them had their hands tied", Andriy Nebytov is quoted by the Interfax-Ukraine news agency².

We remind, that as of 20 June, it was known about 1,332 corpses found in the territory of the Kyiv region³, as of 18 May, about 1288⁴, and as of 22 April about 1084 corpses⁵.

At the same time, the dimension of premeditated murders 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 presumes 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.

¹ <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/849672.html>

² <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/849672.html>

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/>

Individual examples:

On 03 July, the diver of the hydraulic workshop of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant **Andriy Goncharuk** died. According to the mayor of the city of Energodar Dmytro Orlov, the man was tortured by the Russian military, forcing him to dive into the spray cooling pond of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. With multiple injuries and in a coma, he was taken to a local hospital, but the injuries were fatal⁶.

On 12 July, in the area of the village of Blystavytsa (Bucha district, Kyiv region), the police found a male body. It is claimed that the body was located in the woods near dugouts and trenches abandoned by the Russian military. The man, whose name is not quoted, became already the seventh dead civilian, whose body was found in the area of this municipality⁷.



The police are exhuming the body near the village of Blystavytsa in the Kyiv region. Photo source: the Police of Kyiv region

⁶ <https://t.me/orlovdmytroEn/640>

⁷ https://www.facebook.com/pol.kyivregion/posts/pfbidoZordnPg3jmry1WVHi_r5bkrZMBjz6kQUXwx7uK9PqddRaEQDPrG2U2dRg1EiqHnUBL

On 15 July,

in the woods near the village of Zdvyzhivka (Bucha district, Kyiv region), local residents found a grave with a homemade cross, which was located 30 meters from the abandoned positions of the military. The police note that the male buried in the grave was approximately 47 years old, he was dressed in civilian clothes, and the positions belonged to the Russian military. The man's identity is being investigated⁸.



Grave of an unidentified man near the village of Zdvyzhivka. Photo source: Bucha District Police Department

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/IrpinPolice/posts/pfbidogzpcCeXmw6LJXMxXVDxbGajK1TR52L8ZbRm1HPC1FUjvC1LuerwzX7wgXxCfLzwQL>

On 17 July,

the publication "Slidstvo.Info" published its own investigation of the murder of a resident of the village of Andriyivka (Bucha district, Kyiv region), which occurred during the occupation of this municipality in March 2022. Journalists found, that a serviceman of the 64th Motorized Rifle Brigade of the armed forces of the Russian Federation **Daniil Frolkin** could be involved in the murder of the resident of the village **Ihor Yermakov**. Along with other servicemen, he took away the mobile phone from local residents and used it, in particular, took selfies and shared photos with other servicemen. Before escaping from the village, Frolkin had left the phone while having deleted the photos taken on it, however, the owner managed to restore the deleted photos containing the face of the military man. Subsequently, another resident of the village named Vasyl (the last name is not quoted), who witnessed the murder, has recognized Daniil Frolkin in the photo. He pointed out that it was this military man who shot Ihor Yermakov in the head, at the moment the latter stood on his knees. It is reported that the Office of the General Prosecutor has already declared a suspicion to the serviceman of committing this crime⁹.



Russian serviceman Daniil Frolkin.
Photo source: "Slidstvo.Info"



Ihor Yermakov, resident of the village of Andriyivka, with his wife.
Photo source: "Slidstvo.Info"

⁹ <https://www.slidstvo.info/news/znajshly-vbyvtsyu-za-selfi-rosijskyj-okupant-zalyshyv-dokazy-zlochyniv-u-vkradenomu-telefoni/>

On 29 July,

the panel of judges of the Kyiv Court of Appeals, partially satisfied the appeal of the defense filed in the interests of the Russian serviceman **Vadim Shishimarin**. The Court of Appeals changed the verdict of the court of the first instance in terms of the penalty imposed while replacing life sentence with a 15-year term of imprisonment¹⁰. The verdict of the court of the first instance and the decision of the Court of Appeals were not made public yet. We would like to remind that the commander of the section of "Kantemyrivska Division", sergeant Vadim Shishimarin, was found guilty by the court of the first instance of premeditated murder (shot in the head) of the civilian and unarmed 62-year-old Alexander Shelipov, who was riding a bicycle on the side of the road. This verdict was the first such sentence approved against a Russian army serviceman after the full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022.



Russian military serviceman Vadim Shishimarin. Photo source: Maxim Polishchuk, Graty

¹⁰ <https://www.kas.gov.ua/?p=29869>

On 31 July,

the police found the body of a man tortured by the military in the Bucha district of the Kyiv region. The body was found in a wood line near the village of Nove Zalissyia. It is claimed that abandoned positions of the Russian military were located nearby. The man's hands were tied with a rope attached through an iron shackle of a tow cable. The same cable was wrapped around the neck of the deceased. The name of the deceased male is not quoted¹¹.



The police are exhuming the body near the village of Nove Zalissyia in the Kyiv region. Photo source: the Police of Kyiv region

¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/pol.kyivregion/posts/pfbid0VzPUTnnRKM7VGvRZruenC6KZzc2Vz4qtDqRwdLZpQK6fLq5gnVnY8EjhUVqojU48l>

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

Premeditated murder, torture and sexual violence against combatants.

On 28 July,

two video records of torture and subsequent premeditated murder of a Ukrainian prisoner of war appeared on the Internet (in pro-Kremlin public pages) (the name of this person is probably known to the Ukrainian side, but is not publicly quoted). It is shown in one video that genitals of a still-alive man are cut off with a stationery knife. The bound man tries to resist, but the combatants hold him tightly and kick him with their feet¹². Some time after the torture, a man is dispassionately shot in the head, which is shown in another video¹³.

Advisor to the Head of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Ukraine Anton Gerashchenko claimed that the main perpetrator of the crime may be the Russian serviceman Vitaly Arosharov, born in 1983, a resident of the Republic of Kalmykia (Russia)¹⁴. At the same time, according to the investigation of Bellingcat and The Insider, which look more thorough, the events took place on the territory of the "Pryvillya" sanatorium (Luhansk region), and a Tuvinian **Ochur-Suge Mongush**, born in 1993 probably took part in the torture and murder¹⁵.



Russian Ochur-Suge Mongush might have been involved in the torture and murder of a Ukrainian prisoner of war.
Photo Source: The Insider

It is fully likely that this case is far from being the only such crime committed against prisoners of war.

¹² <https://t.me/xoxol200/5312>

¹³ <https://web.telegram.org/k/#@xoxol200>

¹⁴ https://t.me/Pravda_Gerashchenko/34255

¹⁵ <https://theins.ru/politika/253767>

On 29 July,

the death of at least 53 and injury of 75 Ukrainian prisoners of war were recorded, who were held in the territory of the former Volnovakha Penitentiary Institution No 120 (village Olenivka/Molodizhne, Donetsk region), converted by the occupation forces into a prisoner-of-war camp. The Russian authorities have declared that the barrack with Ukrainian prisoners of war was shelled on 28 July by Ukrainian artillery (using the American M142 HIMARS rocket artillery system)¹⁶. At the same time, according to the Office of the President of Ukraine, there was a classic "operation under a someone else's flag" («false flag operation"): prisoners of war were deliberately killed while staging an artillery attack of Ukrainian artillery¹⁷.

It is stated in the report of the American organization "Institute for the study of war" (ISW), with the reference to the sources of data, that no traces of the HIMARS rocket system were found at the site¹⁸.

It seems that only an official international independent investigation can provide an answer to the question of those responsible for this tragedy.



A prisoner-of-war camp in occupied Olenivka. One can see the damaged barrack building on this photo. Photo source: Maxar



Prisoner of war barracks from the inside after the explosion. Screenshot of the video. Source: TSN

¹⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/29/7360828/>

¹⁷ https://t.me/M_Podolyak/97

¹⁸ <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-august-1>

Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

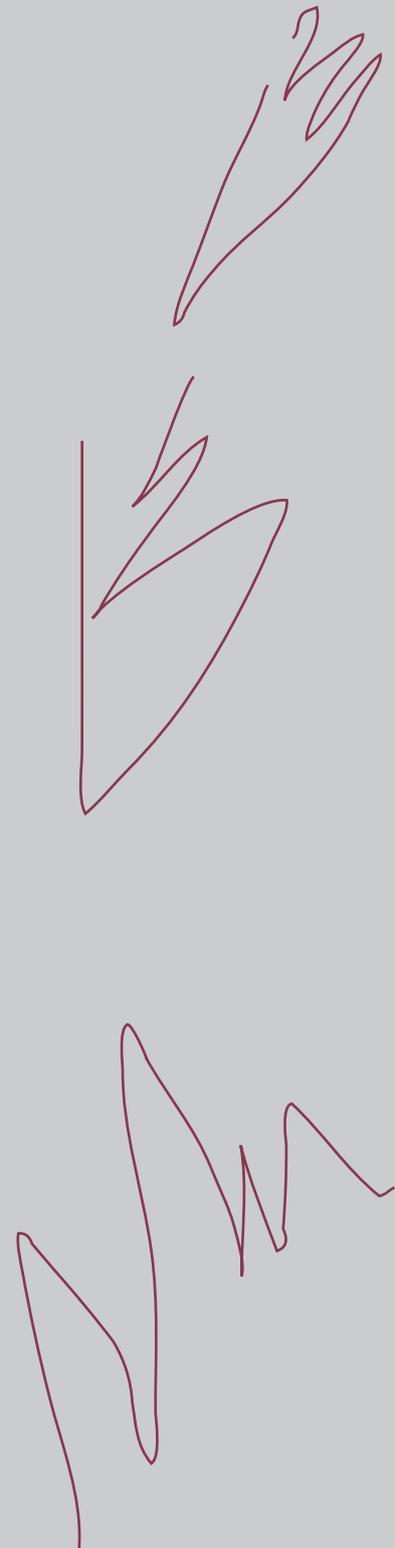
Persons who do not actively participate in the military operations, in particular those members of the armed forces who have laid down their weapons, as well as those who have stopped participating in military operations due to illness, injury, detention or for any other reason, shall be treated humanely in all circumstances, without any discrimination. For this purpose, it is forbidden to commit such acts against the above-mentioned persons as violence against life and personality (all types of murder), causing injuries, ill-treatment and torture, abuse of human dignity (degrading and humiliating treatment). Any unlawful act or omission by the detaining power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited, and will be regarded as a serious breach of the Geneva Conventions. Prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity (Third Geneva Convention, Articles 3, 13).

Prisoners of war shall be evacuated, as soon as possible after their capture, to camps situated in an area *far enough* from the combat zone for them to be out of danger. Only those prisoners of war who, owing to wounds or sickness, would run greater risks by being evacuated than by remaining where they are, may be temporarily kept back in a danger zone (Third Geneva Convention, Article 19).

Murder, torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, abuse of human dignity, injury, rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited by the norms of customary IHL (customary IHL, norms 89, 90, 92, 93 and others).

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) (a), (g)).

Premeditated murder, in particular the murder or wounding of a combatant who has laid down his arms or has no means of protection, surrendered unconditionally, torture, intentional infliction of severe suffering or serious bodily harm or harm to health, rape and other types of sexual violence are considered in the understanding of the Rome Statute also as *war crimes* (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (b) (vi), (xxii)).



3

Sexual violence against the civilian population.

On 23 July,

special representative of the UN Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict situations **Pramila Patten** said in a video message to the participants of the Second Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen: "Since 24 February, the UN has received over 150 allegations of sexual violence committed against women, children and men. This is rape at gunpoint in the presence of family members as a consequence of the attack on Ukraine by Russian troops", the special representative is quoted by Ukrinform¹⁹.

In an interview to "Voice of America" (22.06.22), Pramila Patten told that only a few days after the invasion, the first reports of sexual violence began to appear. According to the data that was verified by the UN, as of 03.06.2022, the organization registered 124 cases of sexual violence, however, the process of verification continues. The special representative has noted that the number of such crimes is underestimated, and victims do not want to report them because of stigma, shame or fear of revenge: when it comes to sexual violence, there is an unwillingness to talk. For each reported case, there are at least 20 cases that are not reported. In the interview, she gave some examples of sexual violence. In particular, her attention was drawn to the case when an 11-year-old boy was raped in front of his parents. With a reference to the materials of the Ukrainian Office of the General Prosecutor, she also recalled gang rapes in the basements of buildings in Mariupol²⁰.



Special representative of the UN Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict Pramila Patten. Video screenshot. Source: Voice Of America

¹⁹ <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3535533-oon-rozgladae-ponad-150-zvernenn-sodo-skoenih-rosianami-zgvaltuvan-pid-cas-vijni-v-ukraini.html>

²⁰ <https://ukrainian.voanews.com/a/pramila-patten-interview/6627987.html>

As of 31 July, the National Police of Ukraine investigated 21 criminal proceedings following facts of sexual violence by *Russian military personnel*. The largest number of facts of sexual violence were recorded by the police in the Kyiv region, Sumy region, Chernihiv region. Some cases of sexual violence are handled by the Office of the General Prosecutor and the Security Service of Ukraine²¹. There are no reports if there were any facts of sexual violence by *Ukrainian military* after the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation and whether any of such facts are being investigated by law enforcement.

²¹ <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/31/249807/>

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)).

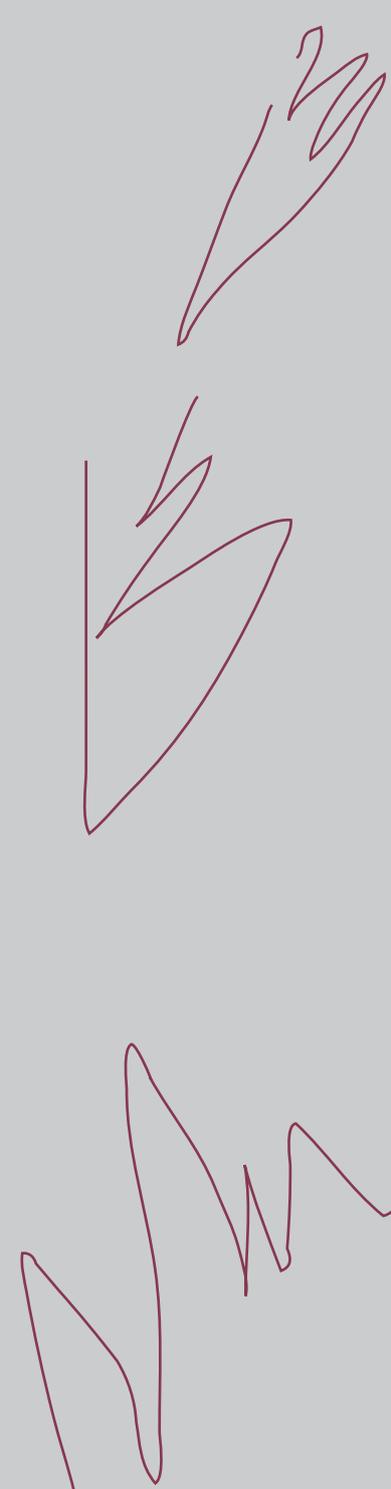
In addition, the Rome Statute treats, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment as war crimes and encroachments on human dignity, (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (XXI)).

For reference:

Sexual violence in situations of armed conflicts, 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 (GBV) 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)



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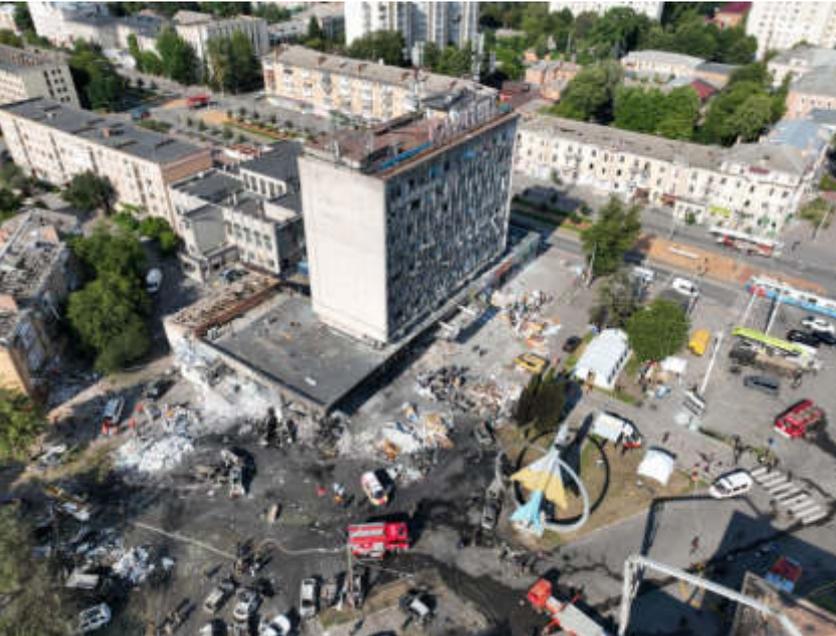
Deliberate attacks on civilian population and civilian objects. Attacks of indiscriminate nature. Failure to comply with the principle of proportionality in an attack.

From the very beginning of the 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 civilian population 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 Bakhmut and Slovyansk of Donetsk region), still were subject to indiscriminate artillery attacks and missile and bomb attacks, as well as those municipalities located in the rear of Ukrainian troops (for example, the cities of Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Vinnytsia and others). The shellings of the municipalities, in the border regions of Ukraine that were previously de-occupied by Ukrainian armed forces (Chernihiv and Sumy regions) are not stopped. At the end of July 2022, absolutely all of the territory of Ukraine was at risk of missile and bomb attacks.

On 14 July,

the country was shocked by the missile attack at the center of the densely populated central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia (Vinnytsia region). The population of this city, located in the deep rear of the Ukrainian troops, is almost 400 thousand people. As a result of the missile strike, at least **26 people** have died, in particular **three children** (a 4-year-old girl and boys aged 7 and 8), **202 persons** were injured and **8 people** are considered missing. Numerous office and residential buildings were destroyed and damaged. According to information posted in public sources, at least 20 of the dead had no relation to any kind of military formations²². The Russian Defense Ministry has tried to convince that the strike was launched on the garrison House of Officers, where at that time the command of the Ukrainian Air Force was holding a meeting with representatives of foreign suppliers of weapons. The Russian Defense Ministry claims that the participants of the meeting were destroyed²³.



Consequences of the missile strike on Vinnytsia on 14.07.2022.
Photo source: Wikipedia



Consequences of the missile strike on Vinnytsia on 14.07.2022.
Photo source: Wikipedia



The body of 4-year-old Lisa Dmytrieva, who died as a result of the missile strike on Vinnytsia, 14.07.2022. The video with Lisa was shown in the US Congress on 20.07.2022²⁴.
Photo source: Wikipedia

²² https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A0%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B9_%D1%83%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%80_%D0%BF%D0%BE_%D0%92%D1%96%D0%BD%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D1%96_14_%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BF%D0%BD%D1%8F_2022_%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BA%D1%83#cite_note-63

²³ https://t.me/rian_ru/171217?fbclid=IwAR1oVexCpFRmEmJD71dz2P2Vq_q4VRYSVZIkQtKpMWSgIgiRl7RJuAEmcKU

²⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-62242512>

On 15 July, the central part of the city of Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk region) was hit by a missile strike. At least four people were killed and 16 injured²⁵.

At least **135** civilians died from war-related factors in the territory of Donetsk region during **July 2022**, and at least **308** were injured. These data include cases of death/injury that occurred only in the territory controlled by Ukraine. Reliable data from the temporarily occupied territories are not available.

Approximate information on the number of dead and wounded civilians in the territory of the Donetsk region (controlled territory) from **01 to 31 July** (information is provided according to the daily message of the Chairman of the Donetsk Regional State Administration/Regional Military Administration in Telegram https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda):

Date:	Dead:	Wounded:
1 July	4	12
2 July	4	5
3 July	9	25
4 July	2	4
5 July	5	21
6 July	7	2
7 July	6	21
8 July	5	8
9 July	3	23
10 July	16	2
11 July	9	2
12 July	4	8
13 July	3	5
14 July	3	7
15 July	7	14
16 July	3	12
17 July	2	10
18 July	1	2
19 July	5	16
20 July	1	5
21 July	5	10
22 July	-	9
23 July	2	2
24 July	-	8
25 July	3	8
26 July	1	1
27 July	5	8
28 July	8	19
29 July	6	15
30 July	3	8
31 July	3	16
Total:	135	308

²⁵ https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A0%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B9_%D1%83%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%80_%D0%BF%D0%BE_%D0%94%D0%BD%D1%96%D0%BF%D1%80%D1%83#cite_note-unian-5

Information on the number of dead and wounded civilians in the territory of the Donetsk region (controlled territory) from **01 to 31 July by municipalities** (information is provided according to the daily message of the Chairman of the Donetsk Regional State Administration/Regional Military Administration in Telegram https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda):

Municipality:	Dead:	Wounded:
<i>Cities and towns</i>		
Slovyansk	14	45
Bakhmut	10	47
Krasnohorivka	5	16
Soledar	5	13
Dobropillya	-	2
Avdiyivka	16	15
Kramatorsk	5	22
Toretsk	6	8
Kurakhove	1	1
Siversk	10	12
Maryinka	3	7
Kostyantynivka	2	23
Chasiv Yar	26	4
Pokrovsk	1	7
Total, for cities and towns	104	222
<i>Villages</i>		
Tonenke	-	2
Novomykolayivka	1	3
Orlivka	3	3
Khrestyshche	-	2
Zaitseve	2	6
Pivnichne	-	2
Pervomaiske	1	2
Antonivka	-	1
Kodema	1	1
Bogoyavlenka	-	2
Pokrovske	1	-
Semigirya	1	-
Pereyizne	1	4
Lastochkine	-	3
Adamivka	-	1
New York	1	3
Mykolayivka	1	2
Ivangrad	1	
Ostrivske	1	1
Hirnyk	2	5
Verkhnyokamyanske	-	3
Zakitne	1	
Udachne	2	7
Zhuravka	-	1
Novyi Donbas	1	1
Yahidne	-	4

Municipality:	Dead:	Wounded:
Novooleksandrivka	-	1
Krasnopillya	2	-
Petrivka	-	1
Pavlivka	1	5
Pyvdenne	-	2
Bylbasivka	-	2
Galytsynivka	-	1
Georgiyivka	-	2
Memryk	-	1
Umanske	-	1
Kurdiuvivka	1	3
Kermenchik	1	
Ivanivske	-	2
Opytne	-	1
Vodiane	1	-
Riznykivka	2	-
Maidan	1	-
Novozhelanne	-	2
Maksymilyanivka	-	1
Shcherbynivka	-	1
Total for villages	30	85
Total number (cities/towns + villages):	134	307

Note: All the data quoted is preliminary (indicative), may contain inaccuracies, and requires verification (clarification).

The number of dead and wounded among the civilian population of Donetsk region has increased significantly compared to the previous month. In June, the number of dead and wounded was 86 and 213 people, respectively, and in July it rose already to 135 dead and 308 wounded, which is 49 people (22.1 %) and 95 people (18.2 %) higher than in June. This probably indicates, first of all, an increase in the intensity of hostilities in the region and growing dehumanization of the armed conflict.

As in the previous month, the number of established cases of deaths and injuries of civilians in cities and towns is higher than in villages. According to the announced data, 104 and 222 people were killed and injured in cities and towns in July, respectively. Instead, in villages, the number of victims was 30 killed and 85 wounded. Consequently, 55.2% more people died in cities and towns than in villages. As for the wounded, in cities and towns their number was 44.6% more than in villages. Probably, such figures are connected, on the one hand, with a larger concentration of people per unit of the area in cities and towns (this factor entails greater losses during artillery strikes), and on the other hand, with better availability of information about cities and towns. Small municipalities of Donbas are mostly completely or partially isolated due to intense fighting, and information from these areas arrives late or does not reach at all. Due to this, the actual numbers of deaths and injuries of civilians may be different.

For reference:

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in the period from 04 hours 00 minutes 24 February until midnight **03 July 2022**, **11152 victims** were registered among the civilian population of Ukraine: **4,889 killed** (1,862 men, 1,264 women, 137 girls and 157 boys, as well as 41 children and 1,355 adults, whose gender is still unknown) and **6,263 wounded**. OHCHR has noted that the majority of reported deaths or injuries were caused by strikes of explosive weapons with a long striking range (including shelling with the use of heavy artillery and MLRS (Multiple launch rocket systems), as well as missile and aviation strikes), and it believes that the actual numbers are much higher because information is received late from places where intense fighting continues and requires verification²⁶.

Individual examples:

On 01 July, the village of Sergiyivka in the Bilgorod-Dnistrovskiy district of **Odessa region** was hit by a missile strike. One of the missiles has hit a 9-story residential building and another one has hit the building of a recreation center²⁷. 22 people were killed and at least 39 people were injured²⁸.



Remains of a 9-storey residential building in the Odessa region after a missile strike, 01.07.22. Photo source: State Emergency Service of Ukraine

²⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/ru/news/2022/07/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-4-july-2022>

²⁷ https://t.me/dsns_telegram/8061

²⁸ https://t.me/Bratchuk_Sergey/15195

On 03 July, an artillery strike was launched on the **city of Slovyansk** (Donetsk region). At least six people were killed and 15 injured²⁹. On **05 July**, a similar artillery strike on the city claimed the lives of at least two people. Seven people were injured³⁰.



Fire in the Central Marketplace of Slovyansk after shelling, 05.07.2022.
Photo source: Pavlo Kyrylenko / Donetsk Regional State Administration (Regional Military Administration)

On 04 July, communities at the border with Russia were subjected to artillery and missile strikes in **Sumy region**. On that day, a school building in the Esman community was destroyed. Four people were injured. An outbuilding and power grids in the territory of the Novoslobidska community were destroyed by mortar fire. The territory of the Bilopilka community was also shelled. At least two people were reported injured³¹. In general, in July, the territories of certain communities of the Sumy region were shelled almost daily.



Building of the basic school in the Esman community after the shelling, 04.07.2022.
Photo source: Dmytro Zhivitsky / Sumy Regional Military Administration

²⁹ https://susplne.media/256524-vtorgnenna-rosii-v-ukrainu-den-130-tekstovij-onlajn/?anchor=live_1656850428&utm_source=copylink&utm_medium=ps&fbclid=IwAR3E5JCHR0MitcF1u2ynXIV5gtSBAHdjZJv-MsNWRC3t6J75Zp5FMY8s4A

³⁰ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/3919

³¹ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/2946?fbclid=IwAR2BkEXQoV9QxPGn14rE7sj-oDP6GzfE26fovAe1bFoHgBNZ1FeMqYYMjux4>

On 05 July, one of the communities of **Khmelnyskyi region** was hit by a missile strike (western Ukraine). It is alleged that the target of the strike was a water tower that provides water to the community. At least one person was injured. No fatalities were reported³².

On 07 July, a missile strike was launched on the **city of Kramatorsk** (Donetsk region). At least one person was reported dead and six injured. At least six buildings were damaged, including a hotel and a high-rise residential building³³. On **19 July** a similar attack on the central part of the city killed one person³⁴. On **21 July**, the building of one of the city's schools came under fire. Rescuers have removed the bodies of three victims from the rubble³⁵.



Consequences of the missile strike on Kramatorsk, 07.07.2022. Video screenshot. Video source: Pavlo Kyrlylenko / Donetsk Regional State Administration (Regional Military Administration)

³² <https://t.me/khmelnyskaODA/621>

³³ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/3949?fbclid=IwAR3_gOn-qqhi_pHx9Co5zah6O_KXkK9wUxbM7VXgFONTXmSgTBqsdHhx4ko

³⁴ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4171

³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/DSNSDon/posts/pfbid02VsPjGmuUPjQTTGWnDRbDLqKkxhUAA8Ggz1XaF171twZ8K7zdxWPn6t6WJzeNtDhGl>



Consequences of the missile strike on Kramatorsk, 19.07.2022.
Photo source: Pavlo Kyrylenko / Donetsk Regional State Administration (Regional Military Administration)



Destroyed school building in Kramatorsk, 22.07.2022.
Photo source: the Main Department of the State Emergency Service in the Donetsk region

On 07 July,

artillery fire using multiple launch rocket systems was launched at **the city of Kharkiv** (Kharkiv region). At least three civilians were killed and five others were injured³⁶. On **11 July**, six people were killed and 31 people were injured by shelling, including two children aged 4 and 16 in the city. Among the dead was also a minor: a 17-year-old boy died along with his father. Low-rise households, a shopping center and a tire shop came under fire³⁷. On **20 July**, as a result of the shelling of a residential area of the city, three people were killed. Among the dead was a 13-year-old boy³⁸. At least two people were injured. All the victims stayed near a public transport stop³⁹. On **21 July**, one of the densely populated areas of Kharkiv came under fire again. At least four people were killed and up to 25 injured⁴⁰. In general, in the month of July, Kharkiv was almost daily subjected to artillery attacks.



The remains of a car in which the deceased 17-year-old boy and his father were probably staying. Kharkiv, 11.07.22.
Photo source: the Office of the General Prosecutor

³⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/7/7356881/>

³⁷ https://t.me/pgo_gov_ua/4794?fbclid=IwAR37O-y-juT0oAWBfF5b0bfbFo8t8dsXaaDDyTDSWgZJlU8xiaUDVZfeLqg

³⁸ <https://t.me/synegubov/3703>

³⁹ https://t.me/dsns_telegram/8464

⁴⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/22/7359530/>



Consequences of the artillery shelling of Kharkiv, 20.07.22. Photo source: State Emergency Service of Ukraine

On 09 July, a missile strike destroyed a five-story building in **the city of Chasiv Yar** (Donetsk region). It was reported that 48 people were killed, including a 9-year-old boy. Nine more people were rescued. The search and rescue operation, which involved 323 people, has lasted for 5 days⁴¹. The Russian Ministry of Defense has tried to convince to have destroyed "more than 300 nationalists" with a missile strike on this building.

⁴¹ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4092

The destroyed five-story building, from the rubble of which the bodies of 48 people were removed. Chasiv Yar, 09.07.22. Photo source: Pavlo Kyrylenko / Donetsk Regional State Administration (Regional Military Administration)



Минобороны России
 ⚡ Сводка Министерства обороны Российской Федерации о ходе проведения специальной военной операции на территории Украины (11.07.2022 г.)

- ⚡ Высокоточными ракетами большой дальности морского базирования «Калибр» в районе населенного пункта Радужное Днепропетровской области уничтожены хранилища с боеприпасами для поставленных США Украине реактивных систем залпового огня «HIMARS», гаубиц M777, а также самоходных пушек 2С7 «Пион».
- ⚡ Высокоточным оружием наземного базирования в районе населенного пункта Часов Яр Донецкой Народной Республики уничтожен пункт временной дислокации 118-й бригады территориальной обороны ВСУ. В результате удара уничтожено более трёхсот националистов.
- ⚡ В результате точечных ударов ВКС России по пунктам дислокации националистических батальонов и иностранных наёмников в Основинском и Слободском районах Харьковской области уничтожено около 250-ти боевиков и до 25-ти единиц бронетанковой и автомобильной техники.
- Противник несет значительные потери на всех направлениях.
- Критическое положение в 25-ой отдельной воздушно-десантной бригаде ВСУ, действующей в районе Северска. Потери данного соединения за время боевых действий составляют более 70 процентов личного состава. Командование бригады целенаправленно вводит в заблуждение родственников погибших военнослужащих, оформляя их как пропавших без вести или дезертировавших.
- Вооруженные Силы Российской Федерации продолжают специальную военную операцию на Украине.
- ⚡ Высокоточным оружием ВКС России за сутки уничтожены: пункт управления 58-ой мотопехотной бригады в районе населенного пункта Артёмовск Донецкой Народной Республики, живая сила и военная техника ВСУ в 10-ти районах, в том числе националистического формирования

"The temporary deployment point of the 118th territorial defense brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine was destroyed by high precision ground-based weapons in the area of the municipality of Chasiv Yar of the People's Republic of Donetsk. More than three hundred nationalists were killed as a result of the strike".

Screenshot of the message of the Ministry of Defense of Russia in Telegram. Source: the Ministry of Defense of Russia in Telegram

On 12 July,

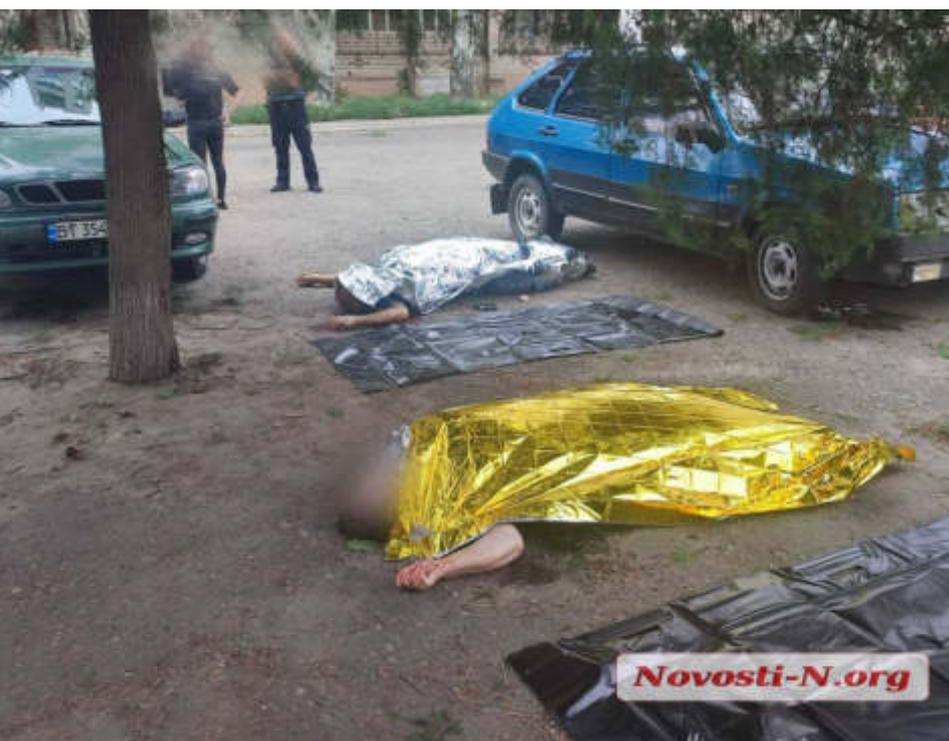
as a result of the shelling of the Huliaipole district of **Zaporizhzhya region**, about 20 civilian infrastructure facilities were damaged and more than 600 hectares of grain crops were destroyed. About another 800 hectares of the crops were destroyed by artillery in the fields of Mala Tokmachka, Orikhiv district. Civilians have received shrapnel wounds, however, the number of victims was not reported⁴².

On 12 July,

an attack was launched on the **city of Mykolaiv** (Mykolaiv region). The shells have hit the buildings of a medical facility and a residential area⁴³. At least 12 people were injured. On **14 July**, as a result of missile attacks on the city, the building of the "Mykolaiv" hotel was destroyed⁴⁴, two educational institutions, a transport infrastructure facility, and other buildings. At least one person was injured. No fatalities were reported⁴⁵. On **29 July**, as a result of the shelling of one of the residential areas of the city⁴⁶, at least five people were killed and 13 injured⁴⁷. People were killed near a public transport stop⁴⁸. During July, the city was subjected to artillery and missile attacks almost daily.



Consequences of shelling of Mykolaiv, 14.07.22. Photo source: Senkevych Online



Those who died near a public transport stop in Mykolaiv, 29.07.22. Photo source: News N

⁴² https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/stoprussia/vorog-prodovzhuje-nanositi-raketni-udari-po-naselenim-punktam-zaporizkogo-krayu-policziya-zbiraje-dokazi-vojennix-zlochiv/?fbclid=IwAR1cTYBS-Rcu85PJVOsxMmZT6er3CU6cFhYfmgSIUQo2SDV_EY58cw-DSwl

⁴³ <https://t.me/nikvesti/32289?single>

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/senkevichonline/1638>

⁴⁵ https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/1769?fbclid=IwARo6PX0nz6b55CnAevxesELQqBn61uCjCJr_wuU3ovdV3bNcYpolUA12nZY

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/1941>

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaoblrada/3306>

⁴⁸ https://novosti-n.org/ua/news/Obstril-Mykolayeva-killist-zagyblyh-zroslo-do-p-yaty-foto-video--247380?fbclid=IwAR3jMkw42g13RpdTbCxjwMljk7d6xnqd0JYA_gzdNFB1ogdyyG1omFw1bU#image-11

On 16 July,

an artillery attack was launched on residential areas of the **city of Nikopol** (Dnipropetrovsk region). 12 five-story buildings, a school and a vocational school building were damaged⁴⁹. Two people were killed and more persons were injured. There was a report that about 53 multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) missiles "BM 21 Grad" were fired at the city⁵⁰. The city was subjected to similar missile attacks **on July 18 and 20**. In the last of these two days, two people were killed, nine were injured, including four children (the smallest child is 3 years old)⁵². Artillery attacks on the city also took place on other days.



Consequences of the shelling of Nikopol, 16.07.22. Photo source: Valentyn Reznichenko / Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration



Consequences of the shelling of Toretsk, 22.07.2022. Photo source: State Emergency Service of Ukraine

On 18 July,

as a result of the shelling **of the town of Toretsk** (Donetsk region), at least six people were killed and two people were injured⁵³. At least two people were killed from a similar shelling of the town on **28 July**⁵⁴.

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1327>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1330>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1340>

⁵² <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1349>

⁵³ https://t.me/dsns_telegram/8415

⁵⁴ https://t.me/dsns_telegram/8612

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).

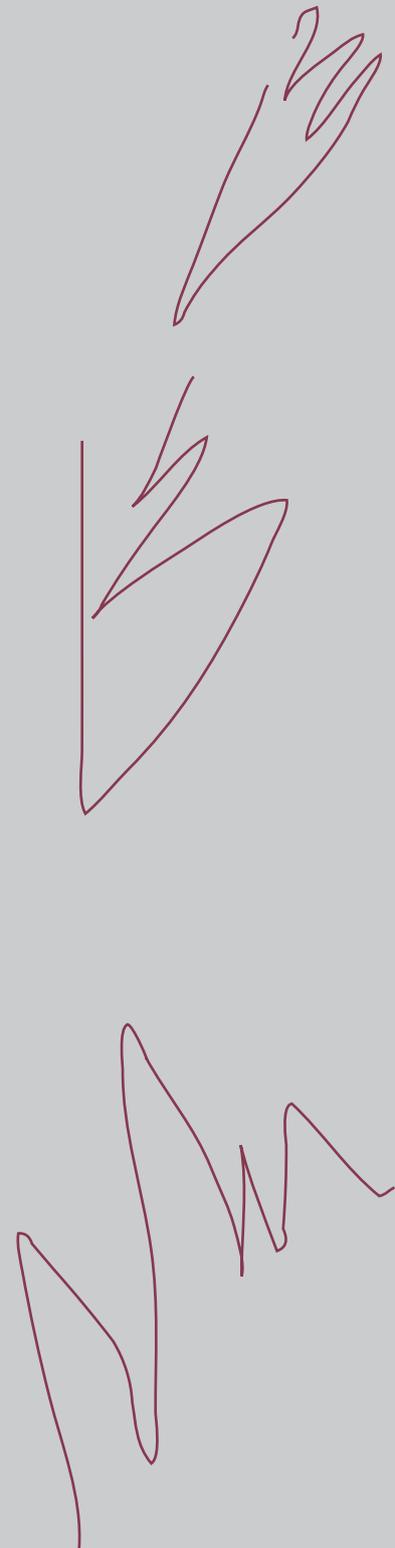
Protection of civilian objects is stopped when these objects begin to be used for military purposes.

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).



5

Threat to high-risk structures and installations.

During July 2022, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continued to threaten the safe operation of the nuclear installations of Ukraine by their actions.

There were about 500 armed Russian military personnel and heavy equipment in the territory of Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant⁵⁵.

On 22 July, the Ukrainian military attacked the positions of the Russian military near the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. *"While using a kamikaze drone, a tent camp and enemy equipment were attacked, in particular trucks with anti-aircraft guns and 'BM-21 Grad'. According to the reports, as a result of the attack, 3 occupants were killed, 12 were injured. The tent camp was destroyed by a fire that could not be extinguished for a long time",* the Main Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine has noted, with reference to the video of the strike⁵⁶.



A Ukrainian kamikaze drone strikes a tent camp of the Russian military near the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. Vide screenshot. Source: the Main Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine in YouTube

⁵⁵ <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/846291.html>

⁵⁶ https://t.me/DIUkraine/945?fbclid=IwARoSkiASq-nesXXlrvbWiXV_7OPWijovrtaMaZmPUz85uXPY3026WgJElgw

On 15 July,

the President of State Enterprise National Atomic Power Generating Company "Energoatom" Petro Kotin declared that the Russian military is taking *missile systems* into the territory of Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, from which they fire at the other bank of the Dnipro river, the city of Nikopol which is controlled by Ukraine⁵⁷.

On 21 July,

the State Enterprise National Atomic Power Generating Company "Energoatom" reported that the Russian military delivered at least 14 units of heavy military equipment with ammunition, weapons and explosives to the engine room of the 1st power unit of Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. Nuclear scientists claim that currently all this is very close to the equipment that ensures operation of the turbine power generator⁵⁸.

⁵⁷ <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/846291.html>

⁵⁸ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8306

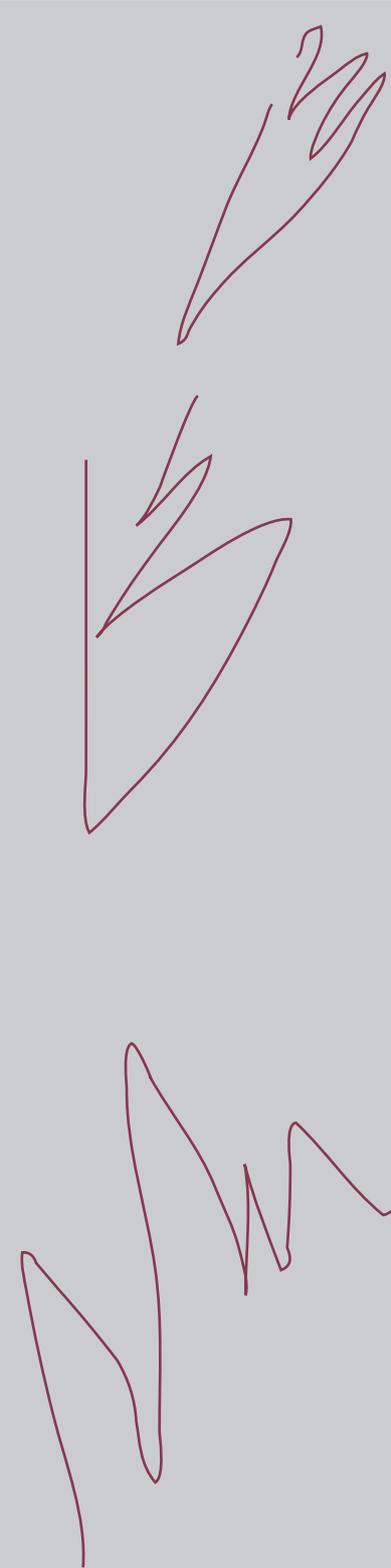
Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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, and there were no such facilities before. 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)).



6

Threat to the natural environment.

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

In addition to the threats and incidents described in our previous digests⁵⁹ which have not ceased to exist, we note that in July 2022, the Ministry for Environment of Ukraine in its weekly reports noted the following (quoted selectively):

- destroyed military equipment and ammunition, as well as missiles and aerial bombs that have exploded **pollute the soil and groundwater** with chemicals, including heavy metals⁶⁰. Ammunition shells are made of a cast-iron alloy, to which, sulfur and copper are added in addition to iron and carbon. If such fragments remain in the ground, over time they begin to oxidize, enter the cycle of environmental substances and *become included into food chains*⁶¹;
- as a result of fires due to fighting in the Luhansk region, 28 thousand hectares of forests, mainly coniferous ones, were damaged. **Forests** around the cities of Severodonetsk, Rubizhne and Kreminna were affected most. During the war, at least 70% of the forest stands of the Starokrasnyanskyi Forestry Department and at least 60% of the forest stands of the Boroventivskyi Forestry Department were damaged. The flora of the National Park "Kreminna Forests" was also significantly damaged⁶²;
- **water supply and sanitation facilities** in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv regions⁶³ were significantly damaged. The Russian invasion caused critical damage to the water infrastructure of Donbass. With reference to a Bellingcat study, the Ministry for Environment of Ukraine notes that the water supply system that provided drinking water to 4 million people has stopped functioning. The system of channels and pipelines was damaged as a result of months of shelling. In addition, water cannot flow without the electricity needed to operate pumps and filters. Power supply lines were destroyed, power plants were ruined by bombing. As a result, the entire region is cut off from basic utilities (electricity, water supply, sewerage)⁶⁴.

⁵⁹ <https://totalaction.org.ua/war-news/201>

⁶⁰ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39447.html>

⁶¹ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39440.html>

⁶² <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39447.html>

⁶³ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39447.html>

⁶⁴ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39440.html>

- the zoological reserve of national significance "**Snake Island**" in the Black Sea, has sustained a significant damage due to military operations. Before the war, the island was the most remote and probably the cleanest corner of Ukrainian land. On the territory of the Snake Island, biologists have identified 197 species of flowering plants, 71 species of lichens, 241 species of birds, 2 species of reptiles, 3 species of amphibians and over 300 species of invertebrates. Almost 70 species are listed in the Red List of Ukraine. In some years, up to 45% of the migratory bird fauna species of Ukraine and neighboring Eastern European countries took a rest on the island. The island has sustained substantial destructions during the occupation. Most of the area was burned out, and for the first time in the history, missiles and other highly toxic ammunition exploded on the Snake Island⁶⁵.



Snake Island. Illustrative photo. Source: the Ministry for Environment of Ukraine

- as a result of fires caused by military operations, a large area of forest was damaged (more than 9,000 hectares) in the territory of the **National Nature Park "Holy Mountains"**. Due to the shelling by Russian troops, the **National Nature Park "Biloberezhzhya Svyatoslava"** has sustained the greatest damage, in comparison with other objects of the protected areas of Mykolaiv region. According to the latest data, 1840 hectares have burned out in the Kinburn peninsula⁶⁶.

The Ministry for Environment believes that since the beginning of the full-scale war, the environment throughout Ukraine has been damaged at least for **204 billion UAH**⁶⁷.

⁶⁵ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39447.html>

⁶⁶ <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39440.html>

⁶⁷ <https://ecozagroza.gov.ua/?fbclid=IwAR3r38cnbG48KlCl1P1tktgllaKnj7UoPWkVt7fpd3pfR8VPIGzjoieEROA>

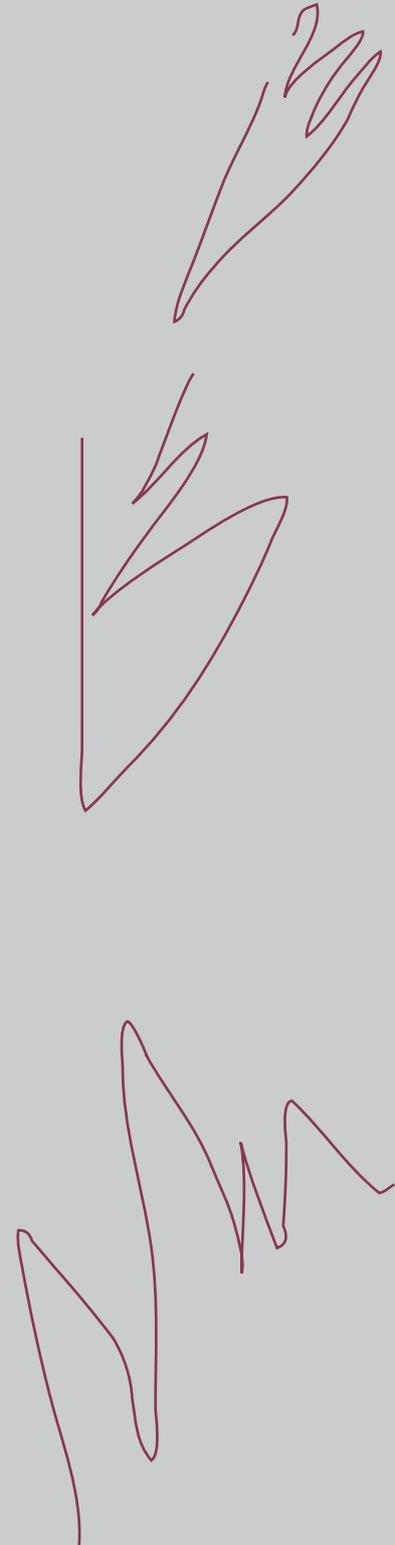
Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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)).

Probably, 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 already 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.



7

Seizure and looting of property.

The trend of seizing and looting property in the occupied territories, which arose from the very beginning of a full-scale invasion, did not change in July 2022. The range of types of property that becomes an object of encroachment is rather diverse, as it was before 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.).

Individual examples:

On 05 July, the occupation authorities declared the seizure of two vessels owned by the Liberian company "Smarta Shipping" and the Panamanian company "Blue Star", as "state property". Both vessels are located in occupied port of Mariupol (Donetsk region)⁶⁸.

On July 07, the National Police of Ukraine announced suspicion to a serviceman of the 104th Airborne Assault Regiment of the 76th Airborne Assault Division (military unit 32515) of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, who, according to the detectives, participated in the looting of property of residents of the previously occupied town of Irpin (Kyiv region). While being in one of the apartments, due to incompetence and ignorance, the military man accidentally took a photo of himself with a Polaroid camera. The photo left at the crime scene helped the police to identify the perpetrator⁶⁹.



The door of one of the looted apartments in Irpin. Source: the Ministry of Home Affairs of Ukraine



A Russian military serviceman suspected by the Ukrainian police of looting the property of Irpin residents. Source: the Ministry of Home Affairs of Ukraine

⁶⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-separatists-seize-two-foreign-ships-mariupol-letters-2022-07-05/>

⁶⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/100064369764525/posts/406169314872057>

On 08 July,

the occupation authorities, represented by the "State defense committee of the People's Republic of Donetsk", issued the Resolution No 153, by which the documents confirming the emergence, transfer or termination of the property rights of individuals to residential real estate located in the "liberated territories" were declared null and void, if such documents were certified by notaries of Ukraine after 19 February 2022 or by state or local government bodies of Ukraine from 11 May 2014 to 19 February 2022⁷⁰. Consequently, individuals who owned residential real estate on the basis of documents, in particular, issued by state authorities or local governments of Ukraine during the above-mentioned period, are deprived of ownership rights to their real estate.

On 18 July,

the occupation authorities, represented by the "State defense committee of the People's Republic of Donetsk", issued the Resolution No 156, by which real estate objects located in the occupied city of Donetsk (Donetsk region) at 23-A Roza Luksemburg street (probably fully or partially owned by the Private Joint Stock Company Donetskoblgaz) were forcibly seized into "state ownership"⁷¹. The resolution declares payment of a financial compensation to the owners of the seized real estate, however, the amount of such compensation was not specified in the Resolution. It has to be determined based on the results of an "independent assessment", which must be organized by the occupation authorities.



Nationalized "Donetskoblgaz" building at 23-a Roza Luksemburg Street. Center of the city of Donetsk Screenshot. Source: Google maps

On 21 July,

it became known about the looting by the occupation authorities of the property of a farm in the village of Bruskinske of the Velykooleksandrivska community of Kherson region (the name of the farm is not specified). Tractors, cars, a sowing vehicle, as well as 6 thousand liters of diesel fuel were stolen⁷².

⁷⁰ <https://www.0629.com.ua/news/3428493/okupanti-hocut-nacionalizuvati-majno-mariupolciv-foto>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/22349>

⁷² https://most.ks.ua/news/url/rosijski_okupanti_rozikrali_fermerske_gospodarstvo_u_velikooleksandrivskij_gromadi

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).



Illegal detentions and deprivation of liberty of civilians.

During July 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 continues to be carried out everywhere and is clearly part of a plan or policy for certain segments of the civilian population of the occupied territories.

"From the very beginning of the occupation, the Russian military has been hunting not only those who are in the Territorial Defense Forces and who, from the point of view of international humanitarian law, should be considered a prisoner of war in the event of captivity, but also mayors of cities, other employees of civilian administrations, police officers, as well as participants in anti-occupation protests, journalists and simply civilians who, according to the Russian military, may have some important information or oppose the occupation. According to information of numerous sources, the Russian military subsequently began detaining random people for no apparent reason. In addition, they purposefully detain local volunteers who deliver food, medicines to those who need it, as well as other basic necessities, that are now in acute shortage in Kherson", - Human Rights Watch, 29.07.2022⁷³.

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ТЕПЛОВ ОЛЕКСАНДР



● ВИКРАДЕНИЙ 05.07.2022

● ЦИВІЛЬНИЙ, ВОЛОНТЕР

● ТЕЛ.БЛИЗЬКИХ: +380970638241

Individual examples:

On 5 July,

volunteer **Oleksandr Teplov** was probably abducted in the occupied city of Melitopol of Zaporizhzhya region⁷⁴.

⁷³ <https://www.hrw.org/ru/news/2022/07/29/ukraine-torture-disappearances-occupied-south>

⁷⁴ https://t.me/vykradeni_melitopol/182

Oleksandr Teplov. Source: Telegram channel "Abducted residents of Melitopol"

On 6 July,

the Russian military probably arrested the local volunteer **Roman Baklazhov** in his own home in occupied Kherson. A phone, laptop computer and some other items were seized from the man's home⁷⁵.



Roman Baklazhov. Source: "Most" publication

On 7 July,

in the occupied city of Melitopol of Zaporizhzhya region, **Yaroslav Popenko**, head of the Department of Law of Melitopol State Pedagogical University and a volunteer, was probably abducted⁷⁶.

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ПОПЕНКО ЯРОСЛАВ



- ВИКРАДЕНИЙ 04.07.2022
- ЗАВІДУВАЧ КАФЕДРИ ПРАВА МДПУ, ВОЛОНТЕР
- ТЕЛ.БЛИЗЬКИХ: +380989546923

Yaroslav Popenko. Source: Telegram channel "Abducted residents of Melitopol"

⁷⁵ https://most.ks.ua/news/url/rosjjani_vikrali_hersonskogo_volontera

⁷⁶ https://t.me/vykradeni_melitopol/167

On 27 July,

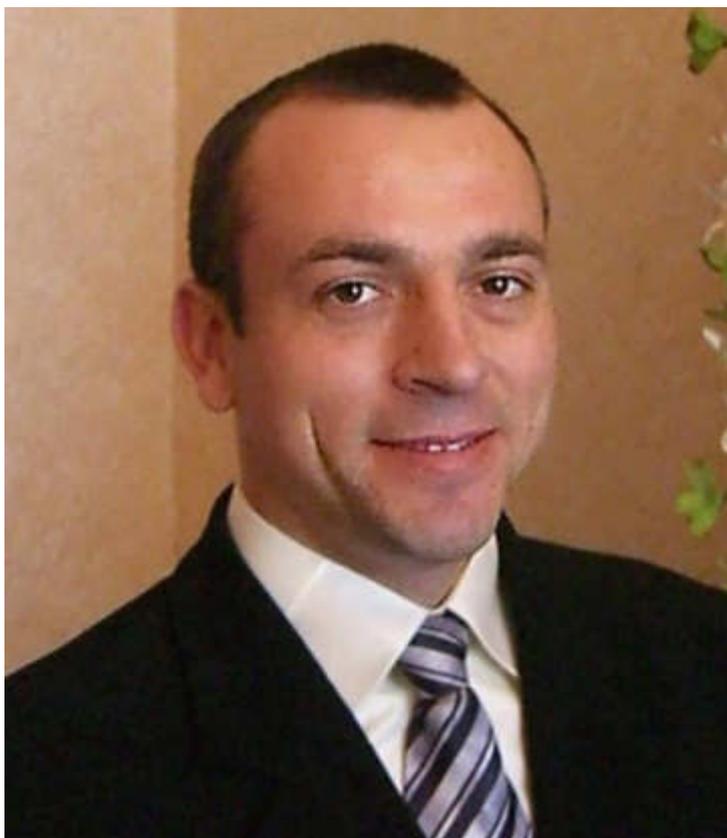
Russian military personnel in the occupied city of Nova Kakhovka of the Kherson region have detained **Mykola Shyrshyk**, an employee of the Nova Kakhovka City Hospital⁷⁷, at his workplace.



Mykola Shyrshyk. Source: Galyna Gdansk on Facebook

On 27 July,

the Russian military probably broke into the house of **Volodymyr Lifintsev** in the village Shevchenko of the Khrestivska community in Kherson region, director of the local Lyceum. The man was severely beaten and taken to an unknown destination. Another local resident was also detained along with him, **Volodymyr Kozachenko**. The whereabouts of both men is unknown⁷⁸.



Volodymyr Lifintsev. Source: Kakhovka city territorial community on Facebook

⁷⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=5897589596922032&set=a.657566634257714&type=3>

⁷⁸ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=420747943427624&id=100064772648646

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_ua.compressed.pdf

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)

Surviving hell

https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1526026398_SURVIVING_HELL_ua_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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