

digest №7

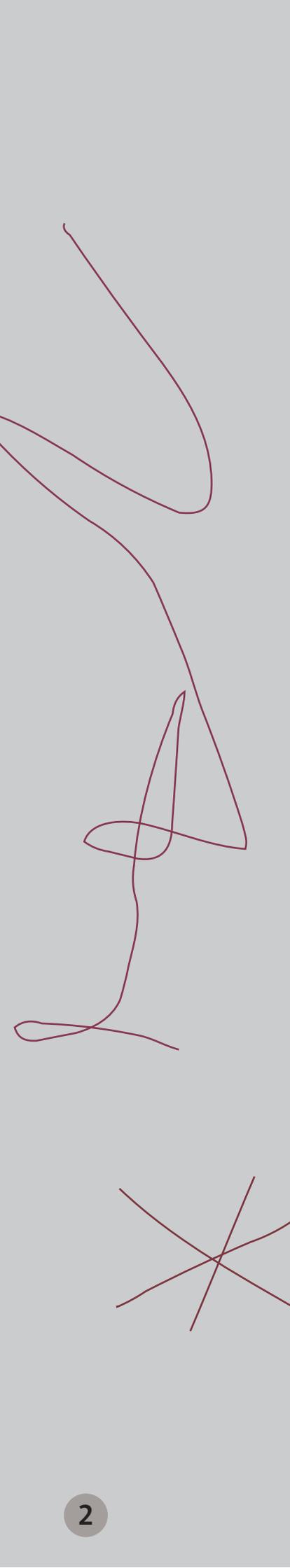
Prepared by the  
Eastern Ukrainian Center  
for Civil Initiatives (EUCCI)

# *Violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine:*

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



Russian military in the area of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.  
Video screenshot. Source: CNN



**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.

# 1

## Premeditated murder and torture of the civilian population.

During August 2022, there were regular reports of suspicion in absentia of Russian military servicemen in violation of the laws and customs of war, combined with premeditated murder. According to the observations of EUCCI, the number of such reports increases every month. This may indicate that Ukrainian law enforcement agencies are able to identify an increasing number of Russian military personnel involved in war crimes against the civilian population, as well as collect evidence sufficient to inform such persons of suspicion of committing specific acts. The exhumation of the bodies of people whose deaths occurred during the occupation of the Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions continued. At the same time, the issue of premeditated murders and torture of people in the temporarily occupied territories and places where active hostilities had been continuing (certain areas of Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions) still remains open.

**On 15 August** a detailed report of the journalists of the "Important Stories" (Vazhnyye Istorii) publications about extra-judicial executions and robberies of the civilian population in the village of Andriyivka (Bucha district, Kyiv region) was published. The journalists visited the village and spoke with local residents. The report tells about how 13 bodies of local residents with bullet wounds were found after the de-occupation of the municipality. About 40 people are still missing obscurely.<sup>1</sup>



Residents of the village of Andriyivka killed during the occupation of the municipality. Photo source: "Important stories"

<sup>1</sup> <https://storage.googleapis.com/istories/investigations/2022/08/15/komandir-dal-prikaz-v-raskhod-ikh/index.html>

Journalists have managed to communicate with relatives of almost all the victims and recreated the circumstances of the death of some people. For example, local resident **Igor Yermakov** was taken by the Russian military for interrogation right from home. Subsequently, his wife found his body in the middle of the village with obvious signs of physical violence, his hands tied behind his back and his head shot through.

We remind that on July 17, the publication "Slidstvo.Info" published its own investigation of the murder of **Igor Yermakov**. Journalists have found, that **Daniil Frolkin**, a military serviceman of the 64th motorized rifle brigade of the armed forces of the Russian Federation could be involved in the murder of the resident of the village Igor Yermakov. He was identified from the photo by another villager who witnessed the murder. He pointed out that it was this military man who shot Igor Yermakov in the head, at the moment when the latter stood on his knees.<sup>2</sup>



Russian military personnel who have photographed themselves on a stolen phone in the village of Andriyivka: Daniil Frolkin, Dmitry Danilov, Ruslan Glotov, Ivan Shepelenko. Photo source: "Important stories"

Journalists of the "Important Stories" publication claim that they have telephoned **Daniil Frolkin** and he admitted his involvement in the murder and robbery of the civilian population of the village. The report contains a video of this conversation with the military servicemen.<sup>3</sup>

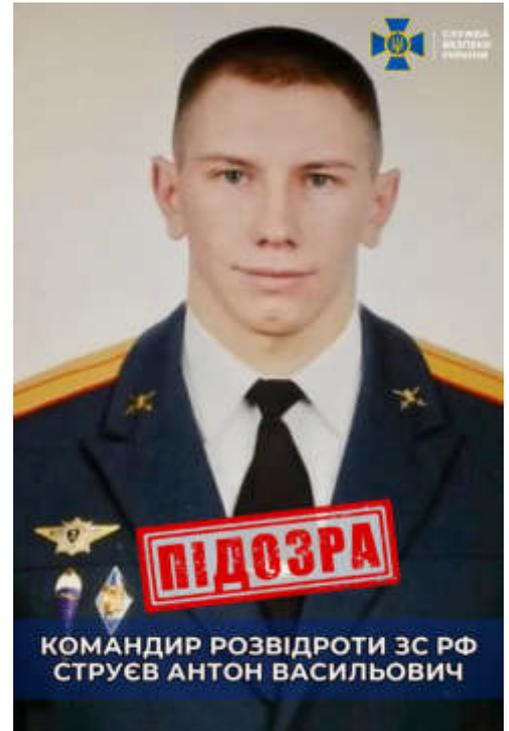
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.slidstvo.info/news/znajshly-vbyvtsyu-za-selfi-rosijskyj-okupant-zalyshyv-dokazy-zlochyniv-u-vkradenomu-telefoni/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://storage.googleapis.com/istories/investigations/2022/08/15/komandir-dal-prikaz-v-raskhod-ikh/index.html>

## Other individual examples:

### On 10 August

it became known that the senior lieutenant, commander of the motorized rifle company of the 15th "peacekeeping" brigade of the 2nd guards combined arms army of the armed forces of the Russian Federation **Anton Struyev** (call sign "Berkut"), who was already suspected of ill-treatment of the civilian population, was notified in absentia of a new suspicion - issuing the order for ill-treatment of the civilian population (Part 1 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). According to the investigation data: in March 2022, the suspect, in the village of Zavorychy (Brovary district, Kyiv region), together with other military personnel, conducted an illegal interrogation of a local resident in one of the houses. At that time, a local resident was driving a scooter past the household. In compliance with the suspect's order, the military servicemen opened fire on him with automatic weapons, as a result of which the victim was injured.<sup>4</sup> In addition, in the morning of 22.03.2022, "after one of the tough interrogations, Berkut's subordinates took aim at a local resident who accidentally happened to be nearby. At the moment when the civilian turned his back to them, Struyev ordered to shoot at him." The military servicemen left the man to die, however, he has survived after being seriously wounded.<sup>5</sup>



Anton Struyev, senior lieutenant of the Russian armed forces. Photo source: Security Service of Ukraine (SSU)

**On 12 August** the body of **Oleg Konchakovsky**, born in 1964, was found in the forest near the side of the Blystavytsa – Zdyzhivka road, a civilian who was shot during the occupation of the territory of the Bucha district of the Kyiv region. According to the Bucha City Council, his daughter was taken to the territory of Belarus by the Russian military on 28.02.2022.<sup>6</sup>



### On 14 August

"Ukrayinska Pravda. Life" publication, published an article describing, in particular, the circumstances of the murder of a married couple in the village of Vysokopillya in the occupied Kherson region. While referring to the source, the journalists write that on June 1, the Russian military broke into the yard of the **family Lanevych**: 52-year-old Sergiy and his 50-year-old wife Svitlana. It is not known what they were talking about, however, as a result, the military shot the couple at the point-blank range in front of Svitlana's terrified mother.<sup>7</sup>

Sergiy and Svitlana Lanevych, photo from the family archive. Photo source: "Ukrayinska Pravda. Life"

<sup>4</sup> [https://kobl.gp.gov.ua/ua/news.html?\\_m=publications&\\_c=view&\\_t=rec&id=317663](https://kobl.gp.gov.ua/ua/news.html?_m=publications&_c=view&_t=rec&id=317663)

<sup>5</sup> <https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-perekhopyla-yak-viiskovyj-rf-nakazav-rozstriliaty-tsyvilnykh-i-znaishla-cholovika-yakyi-vyzyhv-audio>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/bucharada.gov.ua/posts/pfbid02VQRuLY34S2ozPXuVU8PgYRQmDo7ivL4cxGDD2aMG4ENr27DPXyWAuPaf8CnFaEAL>

<sup>7</sup> <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/08/14/249995/>

**On 15 August** the body of a 58-year-old resident of the Bucha district was found (the man's name is not quoted). According to the police, his car on the highway between the villages of Zdvizhivka and Blystavytsa was shelled by the Russian military in late February, when the man and his family were trying to evacuate from the occupied area. The man's elder 17-year-old son and his wife have died along with him. The five-year-old daughter was hit in the head with a bullet, but the child was miraculously rescued by the doctors. Back in the early April, the bodies of two members of this family were found, and on August 15, the police found the third body.<sup>8</sup>



The police are examining the body of a 58-year-old resident of the Kyiv region. Photo source: Andriy Nebytov, police of the Kyiv region

## On 23 August

it became known that investigators of the State Bureau of Investigation have notified a suspicion to two servicemen of the 37th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army of the Eastern Military District of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (military unit 69647, the village of Kyakhta, Buryatia). According to the investigation, the military have terrorized and abused the civilian population of the villages of Borodyanka and Makarov (Kyiv region) during the occupation of these settlements, in particular, they used torture, ill-treatment and other types of violence.<sup>9</sup>



Russian military personnel suspected of abusing the civilian population. Photo source: the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/andrii\\_nebytov/336?fbclid=IwAR3xM6NTXjuR5zMZPMoUTuglkwrp2NcvYxDyZdYScx8zgXex8V6vL2WSMM](https://t.me/andrii_nebytov/336?fbclid=IwAR3xM6NTXjuR5zMZPMoUTuglkwrp2NcvYxDyZdYScx8zgXex8V6vL2WSMM)

<sup>9</sup> <https://dbr.gov.ua/news/dbr-povidomilo-pro-pidozru-vijskovosluzhbovcyam-rf-yaki-terorizovali-civilne-naselennya-v-borodyanci-ta-makarovi>

## On 25 August

**the married couple of Pavlenko** were found dead in the cellar of their own house in the temporarily occupied village of Arkhangel'ske (Kherson region). The man and the woman were probably killed in the evening of 23 August. The incident was reported by the "Center for Investigative Journalism" with a reference to the information from residents of the village. The man was shot in the head. The Pavlenko married couple were engaged in small scale farming and the Russian military broke into their home at least three times.<sup>10</sup>



Pavlenko married couple, Kherson region.  
Photo Source: "Center for Investigative Journalism"

**On 26 August** it became known that Ukrainian law enforcement officers have informed the senior lieutenant of the 5th Separate Guards Tank Brigade of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation about suspicion of violating the laws and customs of war, combined with premeditated murder in absentia. According to the investigation: in March of 2022, five Russian servicemen in a vehicle with the letter "V" and the inscription "tank special forces RUS" arrived at the territory of the enterprise near the village of Mriya (Bucha district, Kyiv region). The owner and a security guard of this enterprise came out to them unarmed. After having made sure that these people did not pose any threat to them, the military allowed them to leave, but as soon as they moved a few meters away, the suspect, along with an unidentified serviceman, insidiously opened fire with automatic weapons. The men died from their injuries. After that, the military entered the premises of the enterprise and stole valuables, while having loaded the loot into the vehicle. The events were recorded by video surveillance cameras.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://investigator.org.ua/ua/news-2/246076/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/vbivstvo-postrilami-u-spinu-dvox-mirnix-meskanciv-bilya-s-mriya-na-kiyvshhini-povidomleno-pro-pidozru-viiskovomu-ff>

Russian military personnel in the territory of a private enterprise. Photo source: the Office of the General Prosecutor



## On 29 August

it became known that the Security Service of Ukraine identified the commander of the group of the Special Rapid Response Unit "Akhmat" of the Department of the Federal Service of the National Guard Troops of the Russian Federation for the Chechen Republic, who, according to the Ukrainian Security Service, killed five civilians in the Bucha District of the Kyiv region. A suspicion of violating the laws and customs of the war, combined with a premeditated murder was announced to the police major **Isnaur Musayev**. According to the investigators, the first victim of the Russian major was a 57-year-old local resident who had the carelessness to leave his own yard. First, the suspect forced the elderly man to kneel, and then shot him in the back of the head with a pistol. The body of the deceased was dragged by the servicemen to the house of another local resident, who was also shot in the head. The next victims were a married couple who were also brought to their knees and shot, as well as a 67-year-old woman who was shot in the temple.<sup>12</sup>



Major of the Russian police Isnaur Musaev.  
Photo source: Security Service of Ukraine (SSU)

<sup>12</sup> <https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-zibrala-dokazovu-bazu-na-shche-odnoho-kadyrivtsia-yakyi-ubyv-5kh-tsyvilnykh-u-buchi>

## Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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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)).



## 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 a 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.

Compared to the month of July, the overall situation with shelling in August did not change significantly. At the end of August 2022, absolutely all of the territory of Ukraine was at risk of missile and bomb attacks. In most municipalities, the air-raid alarm sounds several times a day.

The trend of shelling of the municipalities in the border regions of Ukraine that were previously de-occupied (Chernihiv and Sumy regions) from the territory of the Russian Federation has preserved.

During August 2022, indiscriminate artillery attacks as well as rocket and bomb attacks continued to be launched on the municipalities where active hostilities continued nearby (the cities of Bakhmut and Slovyansk, Donetsk region, others), as well as those municipalities located in the rear of Ukrainian troops (the cities of Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Nikopol and others).

For example, according to the Mykolaiv Regional Military Administration (as of 02.08.22), in general, at least 1,435 civilians were injured, of which at least 403 people died in the region starting from 24.02.2022.<sup>13</sup>

A significantly larger number of dead was reported in in the Kharkiv region. "*I must state that more than 1,000 civilians have already been killed and twice as many injured in Kharkiv City and the region. Among those killed were 50 children. The youngest victim of the aggressor is a 5-month-old baby*", - said the Head of the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office Oleksandr Filchakov at the meeting on 7 August with the member of Bundestag Marcus Faber.<sup>14</sup>

In Kharkiv, on 17 August, a missile hit a three-story apartment building in the street of Akhiezer in Saltovskiy district. **19 persons** were killed. Search operations and cleanup of the debris have lasted for six days.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/08/2/7361511/>

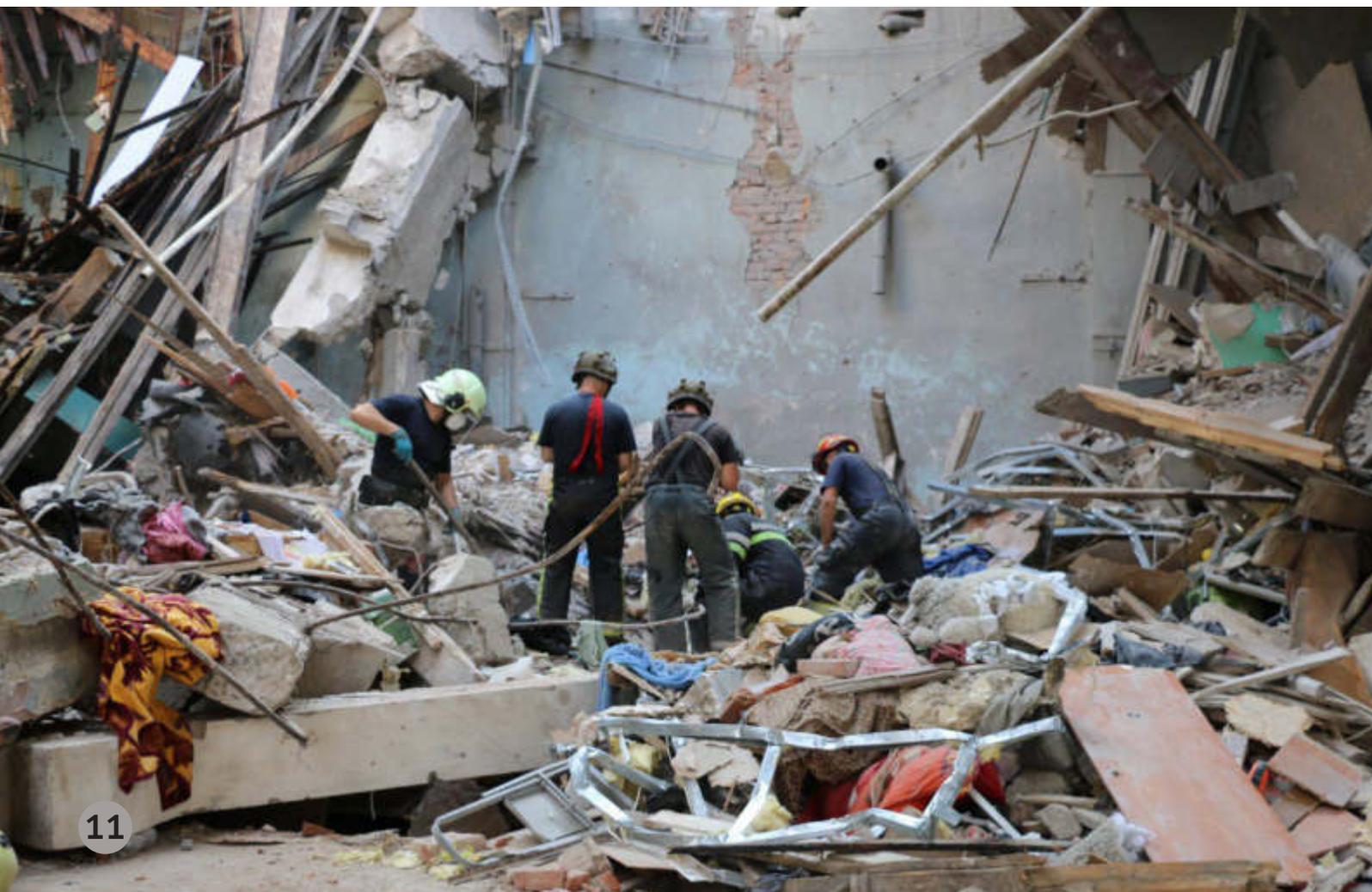
<sup>14</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/prokuraturokharkiv/posts/pfbid032pGdEo3gckpawie4CyHqFZkvQnXHYPu55gBwtjYCKDFZRRzKSEqFsLskyMUFK7UFL>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3555782-udar-po-tripoverhivci-u-harkovi-posukovi-roboti-zaverseni-kilkist-zertv-zrosla-do-19.html>



House in Kharkiv after the missile strike. Photo source: the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kharkiv region (MD SESU)

Search operations at the site of the destroyed house in Kharkiv City. Photo source: State Emergency Service of Ukraine



On the Independence Day of Ukraine (24 August), as a result of a missile strike on the village of Chapline and the railway station of the same name (Dnipropetrovsk region), **25** persons were killed, in particular, two children. 31 people were injured.<sup>16</sup>



Consequences of a missile strike on the village of Chaplino. Photo source: Ukrpravda

Desnyansky District Court of the City of Chernihiv, by a verdict of 08 August, has convicted a serviceman of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, the tank gun operator **Mikhail Kulikov** to 10 years in prison for shooting a from a tank cannon at a high-rise building in Chernihiv on 26 February. The court found the serviceman guilty of violating the laws and customs of war.<sup>17</sup>

The house in Chernihiv, which was fired at by the tanker M. Kulikov. Photo source: "Suspilne. Chernihiv"



<sup>16</sup> [https://t.me/zalizni\\_zminy/906](https://t.me/zalizni_zminy/906)

<sup>17</sup> <https://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/105614689>

At least **118** civilians died from war factors in the territory of Donetsk region during **August 2022**, and at least **264** 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 (government-controlled territory) from **01 to 31 August** (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](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda)):

Date	Dead:	Wounded:
1 August	3	3
2 August	4	7
3 August	3	5
4 August	7	9
5 August	5	14
6 August	5	8
7 August	5	17
8 August	3	19
9 August	2	6
10 August	11	8
11 August	7	14
12 August	5	35
13 August	2	10
14 August	3	13
15 August	1	2
16 August	2	7
17 August	3	6
18 August	5	10
19 August	7	13
20 August	4	2
21 August	2	-
22 August	1	7
23 August	1	2
24 August	3	1
25 August	2	6
26 August	2	12
27 August	1	3
28 August	8	7
29 August	2	4
30 August	4	2
31 August	5	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>264</b>

Information on the number of dead and wounded civilians in the territory of the Donetsk region (government-controlled territory) from **01 to 31 August 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](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda)):

Municipality:	Dead:	Wounded:
<i>Cities and towns</i>		
Slovyansk	1	-
Bakhmut	31	68
Krasnohorivka	7	4
Soledar	11	11
Avdiyivka	8	28
Kramatorsk	2	13
Toretsk	7	10
Kurakhove	3	5
Siversk	1	6
Maryinka	8	12
Kostyantynivka	3	3
Chasiv Yar	1	6
Selidove	1	1
Vuhledar	-	7
Bilytske	-	1
Zalizne	-	1
<b>Total, for cities and towns</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>176</b>
<i>Villages/townships</i>		
Novomykolayivka	-	1
Orlivka	-	1
Zaitseve	1	3
Kodema	1	2
New York	-	4
Shevchenko	2	-
Bakhmutske	-	3
Solovyove	-	1
Opytne	2	3
Pervomaiske	2	6
Velyka Novosilka	-	10
Blagodatne	1	-
Georgiyivka	4	5
Maksymylyanivka	-	5
Maidan	-	1
Novoselivka Persha	1	1
Ocheretine	1	-
Klischiyivka	2	1
Zvanivka	-	1
Odradivka	-	1

Municipality:	Dead:	Wounded:
Yakovlivka	-	1
Pavlivka	-	2
Lastochkine	-	2
Elizavetivka	-	1
Novomykhailivka	-	2
Opytne (Avdiyivka territorial community)	-	1
Opytne (Bakhmut territorial community)	-	1
Kostyantynivka	-	1
Pyvdenne	-	2
Netailove	1	5
Kurakhivka	1	-
Druzhba	2	4
Zelenopilya	2	3
Pivnichne	3	1
Ivanivka	-	1
Paraskoviyivka	1	-
Vremivka	-	2
Svyato-Pokrovske	-	1
Mykolayivka	1	1
Raigorodok	2	-
Tetyanivka	1	1
Shcherbynivka	-	1
Rozdolne	2	3
Korsunivka	1	-
Mayorsk	-	2
<b>Total, for villages/townships</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>87</b>

**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 the Donetsk region has declined insignificantly compared to the previous month. So, in July, the number of dead and wounded was 135 and 308 people, accordingly, and in August, 118 dead and 264 wounded, which is 17 (6.7%) and 44 (7.7%) people less than in the previous month. At the same time, this does not indicate a decrease in the intensity of hostilities and the number of missile and bomb attacks, however, is probably primarily due to a gradual decrease in the total number of civilians in the region, because in the recent months, while fleeing from the consequences of the war, people have been massively leaving for the other regions of Ukraine.

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 and municipalities. So, according to the declared data, 84 and 176 people were killed and injured in cities and towns in August, respectively. Instead, in villages and municipalities, the number of victims was 34 killed and 87 wounded. Consequently, 42.3% more people died in cities and towns than in villages and municipalities. As for the wounded, in cities and towns their number was

33.8% more than in villages and municipalities. Probably, such figures are associated, 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 missile and bomb attacks), 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 there arrives late or does not reach at all. Due to this, the actual numbers of deaths and injuries of civilians may be different.

Most of the victims in August were among the residents of the city of Bakhmut, 31 dead and 68 injured.

In general, during the summer of 2022 (June-August), at least **339** civilians were killed and no less than **785** people were injured in the Donetsk region:

June: 86 dead and 213 injured;

July: 135 dead and 308 injured;

August: 118 dead and 264 injured.

## For reference:

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in the period from February 24, 2022 until **21 August 2022**, 13,477 civilian casualties were registered: **5587** killed (2,161 men, 1,490 women, 149 girls and 175 boys, as well as 38 children and 1,574 adults, whose gender is still unknown) and **7890** 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 verification.<sup>18</sup>

## Other individual examples:

**On 03 August** a missile strike, probably with the use of the C-300 anti-aircraft missile system (modified for strikes on ground targets), was launched on the city of Mykolaiv. A supermarket was destroyed, high-rise buildings, a pharmacy and several shops were damaged. Two hits were reported on the territory of an equestrian sports school.<sup>19</sup> On **04 August**, two powerful explosions occurred in the city. It was reported that two districts of the city came under fire. Residential buildings were damaged.<sup>20</sup> On **05 August**, the Korabelnyi district of the city was shelled by artillery. At least 21 people were reported injured, including one child. At least one person was killed.<sup>21</sup> On **17 August**, a missile strike destroyed the building of one of the local universities.<sup>22</sup> In general, during August 2022, the city was subjected to almost daily missile attacks and/or artillery attacks.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/ru/news/2022/08/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-22-august-2022>

<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/senkevichonline/1925>

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/senkevichonline/1933>

<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/kt20220224/1502>

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/senkevichonline/2099>



Consequences of the missile strike on Mykolaiv, 03.08.2022.  
Video screenshot. Source: Senkevych Online



University building in Mykolaiv after the missile strike, 17.08.2022.  
Photo source: "Senkevych Online"

**On 04 August** the city of Toretsk (Donetsk region) came under fire. One of the shells hit near a public transport stop. Eight people were killed and four injured (including three children).



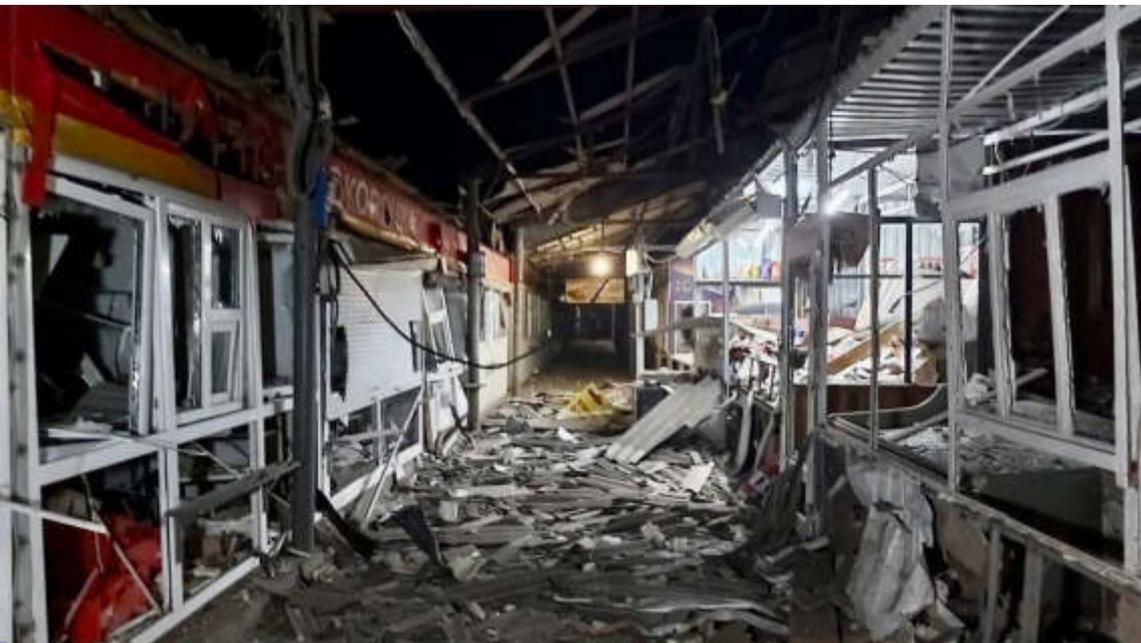
Dead in Toretsk, 04.08.2022.  
Photo source: Pavlo Kyrylenko



Damaged apartment building in Toretsk,  
04.08.2022. Photo source: Pavlo Kyrylenko

## On 04 August

at night, residential areas of the city of Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region) were shelled by artillery. About 60 "Grad" MLRS rockets were fired at the city. Low-rise residential buildings were destroyed. No fatalities or injuries were reported.<sup>23</sup> The city sustained a similar strike from rocket artillery on **16 August**. At least four people were injured on that day. On **22 August**, 42 rockets hit the residential areas of the city. At least four people were injured. A kindergarten building, shops, pharmacies, markets, the courthouse and the bus station were damaged. Two residential buildings were completely destroyed and about 50 more were damaged.<sup>24</sup> At least one person was killed and at least four others were injured from the shelling of the city on **28 August**.<sup>25</sup> On **31 August**, another shelling of the city damaged 12 high-rise buildings, several shops and pharmacies, a college, a children's and youth sports school and a cultural and sports facility. At least one person was injured.<sup>26</sup> In general, in August 2022, the city was subjected to artillery attacks almost daily. According to some reports, at least part of the shelling of the city is carried out from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) deployed by the Russian military in the area of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (the city of Nikopol is located on the opposite bank of the Dnipro River from the nuclear power plant).<sup>27</sup>



Consequences of the artillery shelling of Nikopol, 22.08.2022. Photo source: Valentyn Reznichenko / Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration (the Regional Military Administration)



<sup>23</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/08/4/7361792/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1625>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1713>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1724>

<sup>27</sup> [https://t.me/energoatom\\_ua/8174](https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8174)



Consequences of the artillery shelling of Nikopol, 31.08.2022.  
Photo source: Valentyn Reznichenko / Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration (the Regional Military Administration)

## On 07 August

the territories of Bilopilska, Esmanska, Novoslobidska and Seredyno-Budska communities of the Sumy region, as well as Semenivska and Gorodnyanska communities of the Chernihiv region came under fire.<sup>28</sup> On **18 August**, the territories of the Bilopilska, Krasnopilska and Miropilska communities of the Sumy region were under fire. About 100 hits were recorded.<sup>29</sup> Similar attacks were recorded on other days of August.



Yard of a private house in Sumy region after shelling, 18.08.2022.  
Photo source: Dmytro Zhivitsky / Sumy Regional Military Administration

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/DPSUkraine/posts/pfbid0BxNukDygdGCiSgSVq49NKiGBHMgVBKdHcc7dJXegtzTB2SFC5v1WbJc8b55q869fl>

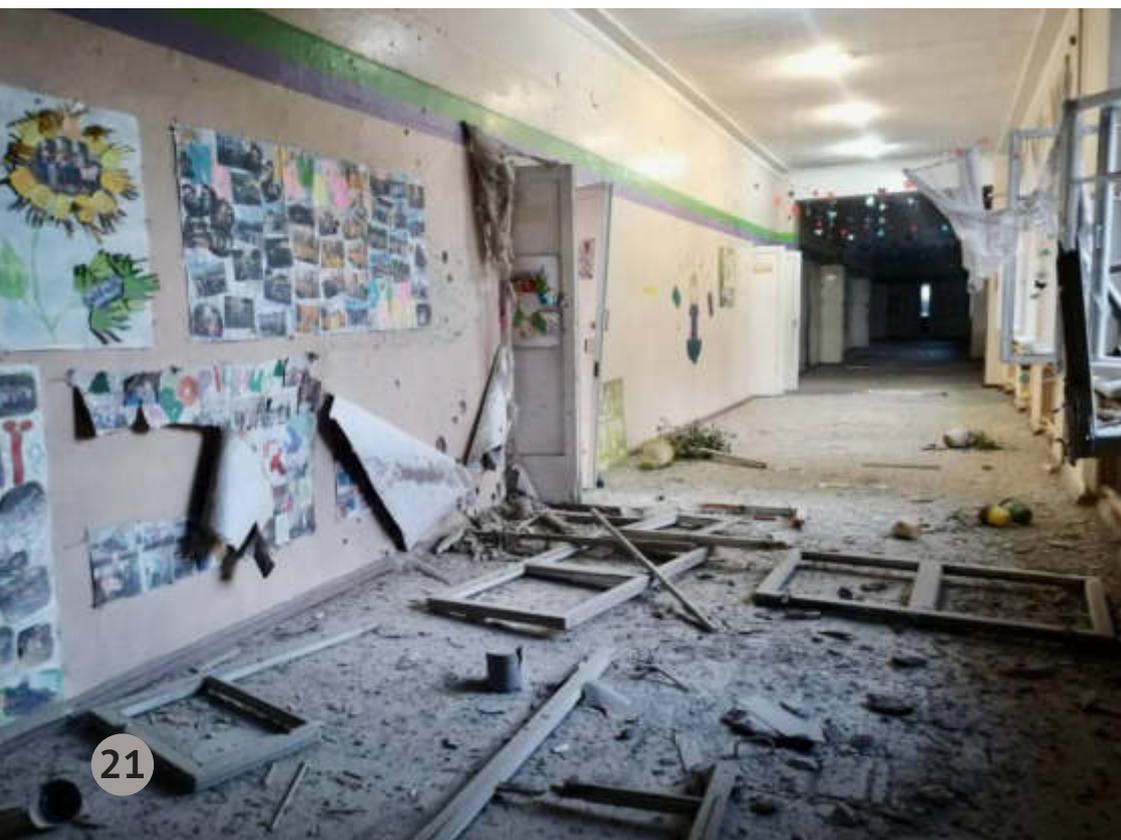
<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/4012>

**On 10 August** rocket artillery was fired at the city of Bakhmut (Donetsk region). At least six people were killed and three were injured. Residential buildings were damaged.<sup>30</sup> During August 2022, the city was subjected to almost daily artillery shelling as well as rocket and bomb attacks.



Bakhmut after artillery shelling, 10.08.2022. Screenshot of the video. Source: Donetsk Regional State Administration.

**On 10 August** the territory of the Nikopol district of the Dnipropetrovsk region, in particular, the town of Marganets and the Myrivska community, was under fire. 13 people were reported dead and 11 injured.<sup>31</sup>



Consequences of the shelling of the town of Marganets, 10.08.2022. Photo source: Valentyn Reznichenko / Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration (the Regional Military Administration)

<sup>30</sup> [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/4495?single](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4495?single)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/08/10/7362599/>

## On 12 August

the city of Kramatorsk (Donetsk region) was shelled once again. For certain, two civilians were reported dead and 13 injured. At least 20 low-rise residential buildings were damaged.<sup>32</sup> On **19 August**, a number of educational institutions located in the city center were subjected to artillery strikes: Kramatorsk Professional College of Technology and Design and Donbas State Machine-Building Academy. No fatalities or injuries were reported.<sup>33</sup> During August, the city was shelled almost daily. On **22 August**, a missile strike destroyed a school in the city of Kostyantynivka, neighboring to Kramatorsk.<sup>34</sup>



The building of the educational institution in Kramatorsk after artillery shelling, 19.08.2022. Photo source: Kramatorsk City Council



School building in Kostyantynivka after shelling, 22.08.2022. Photo source: Pavlo Kyrylenko / Donetsk Regional State Administration (Regional Military Administration)

## For reference:

since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, 594 educational institutions in the Donetsk region have been damaged or destroyed, including 263 schools.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>32</sup> [https://t.me/kramatorsk\\_rada/5283](https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/5283)

<sup>33</sup> [https://t.me/kramatorsk\\_rada/5511](https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/5511)

<sup>34</sup> [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/4599](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4599)

<sup>35</sup> [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/4599](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4599)

## On 13 August

at night, the city of Kharkiv was shelled (center, Nemyshlyansky and Slobidsky districts). The college building, communications of critical infrastructure, glazing of several residential buildings, etc., were damaged. No fatalities or injuries were reported.<sup>36</sup> Shelling of Kharkiv on **30 August** claimed the lives of at least four people. Another 11 people were injured. A number of houses and cars, a kindergarten and a recreation park were damaged.<sup>37</sup> During August 2022, attacks on Kharkiv with varying degrees of intensity occurred almost daily.



Consequences of the shelling of Kharkiv, 13.08.2022.  
Photo source: Igor Terekhov

<sup>36</sup> [https://t.me/ihor\\_terekhov/404](https://t.me/ihor_terekhov/404)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/pgo.gov.ua/posts/pfbid0VsxirL4QVKvfbAmAiKoaFD6kjegdCAVLutho5EQPD6ioEtBdGtDQ2E1bZWRrvDiol>

Consequences of the shelling of Kharkiv, 30.08.2022. Photo source: the Office of the General Prosecutor



ХАРКІВСЬКА  
ОБЛАСНА  
ПРОКУРАТУРА

**On 17 August** the resort village of Zatoka in the Odessa region was hit by a missile strike. 7 buildings of the recreation center were destroyed and 15 country-type houses were damaged. Four people were injured.<sup>38</sup> It was reported that the strike was carried out by 2 missiles of X-22 type from Tu-22 aircraft from the Black Sea area.<sup>39</sup>



Low-rise houses in the village of Zatoka after the missile strike, 17.08.2022. Photo source: Operational Command "South"



Recreation center in the village of Zatoka after a missile strike, 17.08.2022. Photo source: Operational Command "South"

<sup>38</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/okPivden/posts/pfbid02uSVwT14n7Bydz78NpxvZKq4USaP FtjFJXgGCHgs6pbaDEcota4fGBk9q5AxrTFUkl?\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZWlx3dvwSc1jLorGwzo\\_uBW-\\_Kfeo58ToxMM5EKA4sOB2UunPh8R7ghz-UfglQJiWmFaAEJLdW3aMBsR7aOgCf16lWqktBQ YE-5PXOVpCyEyloQF-D5mu80OpSnacXsyowmsm3QZ3kBtH14RoxXBBLxovxjEY5siWJQ3yIW Hn-ZeTuqsFO2lyrT6EDIQTejxi8&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/okPivden/posts/pfbid02uSVwT14n7Bydz78NpxvZKq4USaP FtjFJXgGCHgs6pbaDEcota4fGBk9q5AxrTFUkl?_cft__[0]=AZWlx3dvwSc1jLorGwzo_uBW-_Kfeo58ToxMM5EKA4sOB2UunPh8R7ghz-UfglQJiWmFaAEJLdW3aMBsR7aOgCf16lWqktBQ YE-5PXOVpCyEyloQF-D5mu80OpSnacXsyowmsm3QZ3kBtH14RoxXBBLxovxjEY5siWJQ3yIW Hn-ZeTuqsFO2lyrT6EDIQTejxi8&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R)

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/kt20220224/1587>

**On 20 August** the city of Voznesensk (Mykolaiv region) was shelled. A five-story apartment building and private households were destroyed. At least 12 people were injured, including three children. Two children were in a serious condition.<sup>40</sup>



Residential building in Voznesensk after the shelling, 20.08.2022.  
Photo source: Vitaliy Kim / Mykolaiv Regional State Administration

**On 25 August** the city of Orikhiv (Zaporizhzhya region) sustained an artillery shelling. A 17-year-old boy was killed and another person was injured. Low-rise houses were destroyed.<sup>41</sup> On **28 August**, the shelling of the city from rocket and barrel artillery lasted for 14 hours. At least three people were injured, two of them children.<sup>42</sup>

**On 27 August** with a missile strike on the city of Zaporizhzhya (Zaporizhzhya region), a boarding school was destroyed.<sup>43</sup> As a result of a missile attack on the city at the night of **28 August**, 9 high-rise buildings and 40 low-rise buildings were damaged. The number of dead and injured in both cases was not reported.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> <https://war.obozrevatel.com/ukr/okupanti-udarili-po-voznescensku-vluchili-v-bagatopoverhivku-zmi-povidomlyayut-pro-zagiblih-foto-i-video.htm>

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/starukhofficial/3607>

<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/starukhofficial/3650>

<sup>43</sup> [https://t.me/zoda\\_gov\\_ua/12214](https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/12214)

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/anatoliikurtiev/posts/pfbidosAag2FhTsDQnyy4VVsfCqnbpexCdb14DU1c3fxSeVH1JinnWM2rZtfYD61Y5UdRil>

## For reference:

According to the data of the Office of the General Prosecutor, that need to be clarified, as of **31 August** (since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine), at least **379** children were killed and another **735** were injured.<sup>45</sup>

## 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.

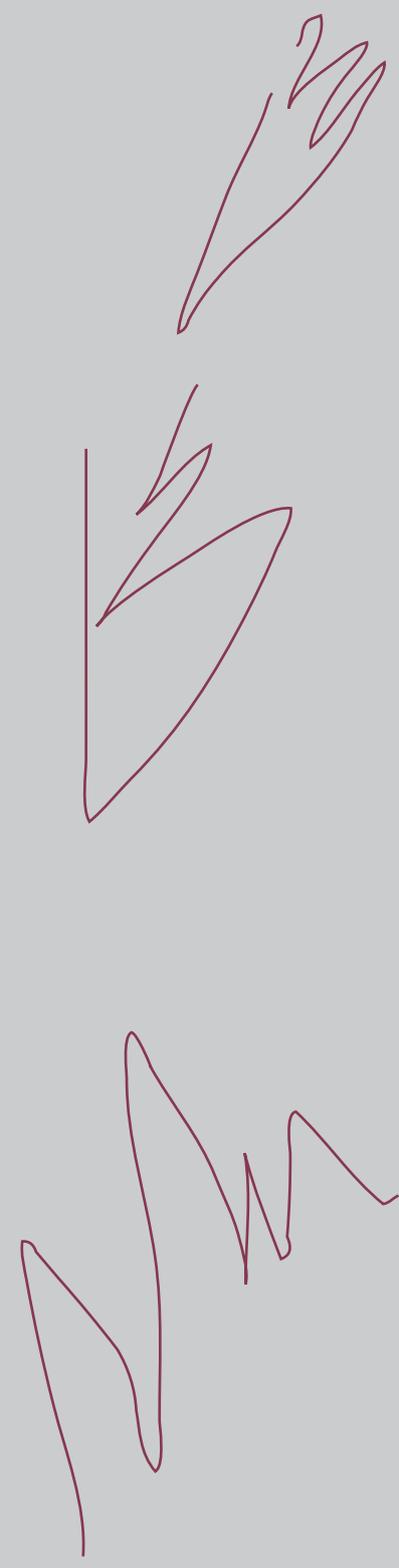
Preventive measures during an attack provide, in particular, but not exclusively, that the person who plans an attack or decides on its implementation, must do everything practically possible to make sure that the objects of the attack are neither civilians nor civilian objects and are not subject to 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).

<sup>45</sup> [https://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/news\\_details/informaciya-za-danimi-derzhavnogo-portalu-rozshuku-ditej-diti-vijni-stanom-na-31-serpnya-2022-roku](https://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/news_details/informaciya-za-danimi-derzhavnogo-portalu-rozshuku-ditej-diti-vijni-stanom-na-31-serpnya-2022-roku)



# 3

## Threat to high-risk structures and installations.

During August of 2022, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continued to threaten safe operation of the nuclear installations of Ukraine by their actions. The European Union has condemned Russia's military activities from the territory around the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant<sup>46</sup> and the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for the demilitarization of the power plant.<sup>47</sup>

The Insider, citing its own sources, writes that there are about 500 Russian soldiers and military equipment in the territory of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, including armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft guns and equipment for radiochemical reconnaissance, and the area around the power plant was mined by Russian troops. Near the village of Vodyane, the closest one to the nuclear power plant, "Grad" batteries are located, and Russian soldiers store mines and ammunition in close proximity to the power units, under overpasses, and part of the ammunition even inside the power unit.<sup>48</sup>

On 2 August, a convoy of military trucks entered the territory of the nuclear power plant. They stopped between the first and second power units and after a while part of the convoy one vehicle at a time began to enter the territory of the engine room of the first power unit through the cargo gate. **The Insider** released a fragment of the video with the movement of trucks<sup>49</sup>.

Russian military trucks in the territory of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, 02.08.2022. Photo source: The Insider



<sup>46</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2022/08/6/7144558/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2022/08/18/7145204/>

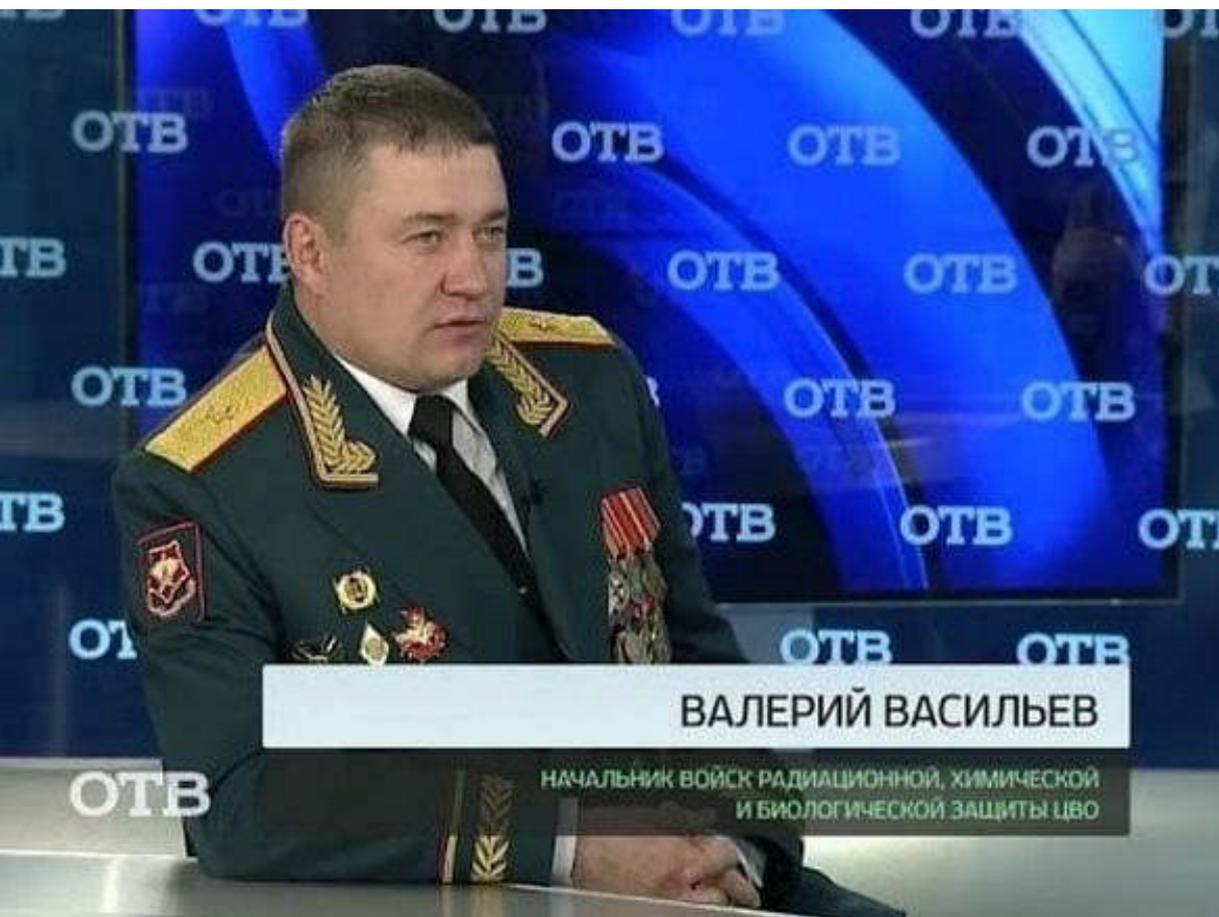
<sup>48</sup> <https://theins.ru/news/253865>

<sup>49</sup> <https://theins.ru/news/253865>

As of 21 August, the Russian Federation kept and strengthened its military presence at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, and Russian armored personnel carriers were located within 60 meters from the Reactor No. 5.<sup>50</sup>

*"Russian forces could use the wider area around the nuclear power plant, in particular, the nearby city of Enerгодar, for recreation of the military, while taking advantage of the protected status of the nuclear power plant, in order to reduce the risk of night strikes by the Ukrainian armed forces on military equipment and personnel,"*- wrote the publication "Europeyska Pravda" with a reference to British intelligence data.<sup>51</sup>

In August 2022, a speech to Russian soldiers allegedly by the head of the radiation, chemical and biological protection troops of the Russian Armed Forces, major-general **Valeriy Vasilyev**, was disseminated in the information space, who, according to some sources, leads the Russian garrison at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant: *"As you know, we have mined all important objects of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. And we don't hide this from the enemy. We have warned them. The enemy knows that the station will either belong to Russians, or to nobody. We are prepared for the consequences of this step. And you, the liberation warriors, must understand that there is no other way. And if there is the harshest order, we must fulfill it with honor!"*<sup>52</sup>



General Valery Vasilyev.  
Photo source: UNN

The reputable American organization Institute for the Study of War (ISW) considers this message unreliable which only distracts from the real risks of Russia's militarization of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, which may include mining the plant and almost certainly include dangerous storage of military weapons near nuclear reactors and nuclear waste storage facilities.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2022/08/25/7145546/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2022/08/5/7144486/>

<sup>52</sup> [https://t.me/energoatom\\_ua/8729](https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8729)

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-august-8>

## Other individual examples:

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- On 05 August** during the day, the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant was shelled twice from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS). As a result of the attack, emergency protection was activated at one of the power units, and one of the three operating power units was turned off. The nitrogen-oxygen station and the combined auxiliary building were damaged. The operator of the plant "Energoatom" has reported that there is still a risk of hydrogen leakage and spraying of radioactive substances, as well as a high danger of fire.<sup>54</sup>
- On 06 August** the site of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant was subjected to rocket attacks. The rockets hit directly next to the station's dry spent nuclear fuel storage facility. One employee of the plant received shrapnel wounds. About 800 square meters of glazing surfaces of the plant buildings were damaged.<sup>55</sup>
- On 11 August** about five shells hit the area of the Commandant's Office of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, near the welding site and the storage of radiation sources. Dry grass caught fire.. Subsequently, about five more shells hit the area of the fire station, which is located near the nuclear power plant.
- On 15 August** another shelling of the territory of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant was reported. As a result of the attack, emergency protection was activated at one of the power units. During the shelling, the nitrogen-oxygen station, the combined auxiliary building, and the pumping station of domestic wastewater were seriously damaged. An open 750 kV power distribution system (ODS-750) was damaged. The fire station was also shelled.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>54</sup> [https://t.me/energoatom\\_ua/8683](https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8683)

<sup>55</sup> [https://t.me/energoatom\\_ua/8708](https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8708)

<sup>56</sup> [https://t.me/energoatom\\_ua/8925](https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8925)

## Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

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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 well known that Ukrainian nuclear power plants have always been purely civilian facilities and have never been military objects. There were also no Ukrainian military objects near the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. The consequences of conducting military operations near the plant, damage to its infrastructure, turning the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant into a military base of the Russian Federation, launching missiles over the territory of the nuclear power plant, 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)).



# 4

## 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 the previous Digests<sup>57</sup> which have not ceased to exist, we note that in August 2022, the Ministry for Environment of Ukraine in its weekly reports noted the following (quoted selectively):

- more than 30% of the territory of Ukraine is now considered potentially contaminated with various ammunition and explosive devices.<sup>58</sup> About 200 thousand square kilometers, almost a third of the territory of Ukraine, need landmine clearance. Forests are one of the ecosystems most vulnerable to mining. The detonation of landmines leads to forest fires. Landmines are often encountered by wild animals. While being confused and frightened, they leave the territory and massively migrate;<sup>59</sup>



Illustrative photo. Photo source: the Society of Foresters of Ukraine

- due to the war, the Ukrainian environment may be populated by invasive plant species (ambrosia, Sosnovskiy hogweed, white acacia or Robinia). Any destruction of native species leads to an increase in the number of alien species;<sup>60</sup>
- as a result of shelling, "chemical burns" occur on the ground. An explosion is a chemical reaction in which not 100% of the charge has time to react and then gets into the soil. The mixture found around the explosion site contains a wide range of chemicals, including heavy metals. They accumulate in the environment and lead to various harmful consequences, in particular, mutations. For example, from one projectile of such a type as "Grad", up to 0.5 kg of sulfur can remain in the crater. In fact, on the same day it becomes sulfuric acid. The soil is burned, and the small organisms that form and maintain the soil are burned in the acid;<sup>61</sup>

<sup>57</sup> <https://totalaction.org.ua/war-news/203>

<sup>58</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39518.html>

<sup>59</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39582.html>

<sup>60</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39518.html>

<sup>61</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39518.html>

- due to the military aggression, water supply and sanitation facilities in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv regions were significantly damaged;<sup>62</sup>
- military operations are the cause of forest fires. For example, on 11 August, due to the fighting, a pine forest caught fire in the Novokakhovskiy forestry department and Oleshkiivskiy forestry and hunting farm of the Kherson region. 100 hectares of pine forest caught fire near the village of Kardashynka,<sup>63</sup>



Illustrative photo. Photo source: the State Agency for Forestry Resources of Ukraine

- the future fate of the "Kamyanska Sich" National Nature Park in the Kherson region is alarming. The park has areas of unique steppe vegetation. At the same time, in numerous gullies with their vegetation and springs of fresh water, the occupation forces set up temporary camps for their troops and hide equipment. Trees from the surrounding forests, which should be protected, are cut down for firewood for cooking and to strengthen their fortifications.<sup>64</sup>

"Kamyanska Sich" National Nature Park. Illustrative photo. Photo source: Wikipedia



<sup>62</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39518.html>

<sup>63</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39582.html>

<sup>64</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39582.html>

According to the Minister of Environmental Protection and natural resources of Ukraine Ruslan Strelets, the estimated amount of damage caused to Ukraine by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation is more than **962 billion UAH**.<sup>65</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

**in 6 months since the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine began**

> **2000** cases of environmental damage recorded

min **2,9** hectares of Ukraine's forests affected by war

UAH bln  
**962** estimated losses, including:

UAH bln  
**138**  
damage to soil

UAH bln  
**823**  
damage from air pollution

**20%** of protected areas in Ukraine are under threat

Harm to the natural environment of Ukraine. Source: Ministry for Environment of Ukraine

<sup>65</sup> <https://mepr.gov.ua/news/39680.html>

## Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

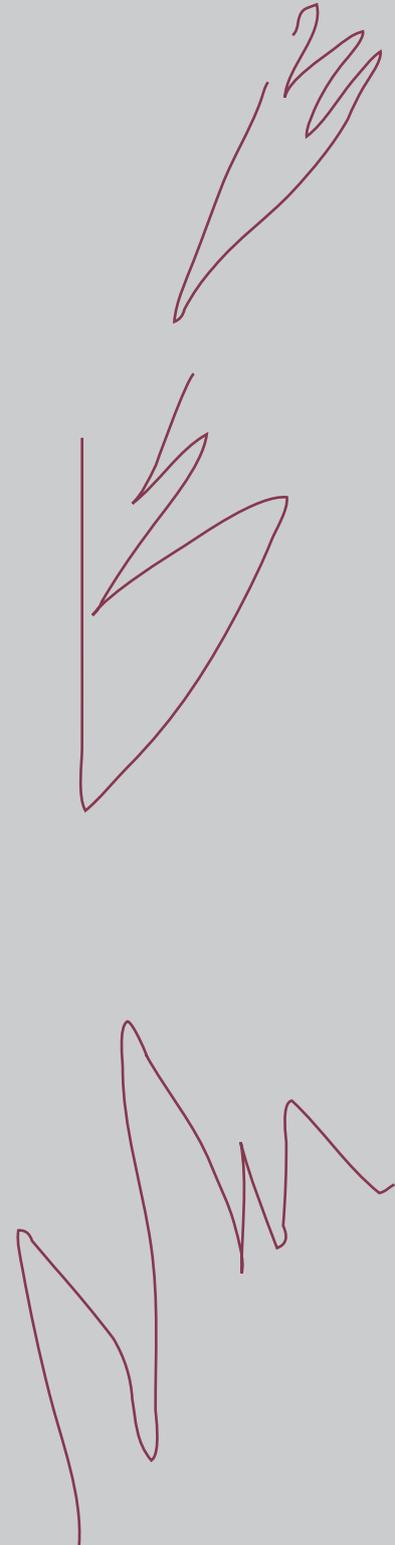
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When conducting military operations, care must be taken to protect natural environment from widespread, long-term and serious damage. Such protection includes a prohibition of use of methods or means of warfare that are intended to cause or are expected 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)).

At this stage of the war, it is too early to speak of "widespread, long-term and serious harm", as it is understood in the practice of application of the relevant IHL norms. At the same time, according to the EUCCI, it is quite obvious that the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation do not take all practically possible *precautions* to avoid such potential harm. Further disregard of the above-mentioned norms of IHL will inevitably lead to the harm mentioned above.



## 5

## Seizure and looting of property.

The trend of seizing and looting property in the occupied territories did not change in August 2022. Numerous reports of property seizures and looting continue to be received from the temporarily occupied territories. Many of these reports are difficult to verify from multiple sources, but the veracity of most of them is beyond reasonable doubt. The range of the types of property that becomes an object of encroachment is rather 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, goods and property complexes of hypermarkets, etc.).

The law enforcement agencies of Ukraine periodically publish reports on the results of the investigation of such crimes. For example, on **16 August** the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) announced the identification of military personnel of the military unit 6720 of the federal service of the National Guard troops of the Russian Federation, who "collected trophies", computer and household appliances, jewelry, gadgets, clothing, etc., from February 24 to March 31, 2022 in the territory of at that time temporarily occupied Bucha (Kiev region), and subsequently sent stolen property to relatives in postal parcels from the Belarus city of Mozyr. All persons involved in criminal proceedings were notified of the suspicion (presumably in absentia) of committing a crime under Part 1 of the Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (violation of the laws and customs of war).<sup>66</sup>



СЛУЖБА БЕЗПЕКИ УКРАЇНИ

**ЗА МАТЕРІАЛАМИ СБУ ПОВІДОМЛЕНО ПРО ПІДОЗРУ ЩЕ 8 МАРОДЕРАМ З АРМІЇ РФ, ЯКІ ГРАБУВАЛИ УКРАЇНЦІВ У БУЧІ**



**ВАЛІЄВ Г.М.**  
військовий армії рф



**ДМИТРИЄВ О.М.**  
військовий армії рф



**ІВАНІСОВ С.А.**  
військовий розгвардії



**КОВАЛЕНКО С.С.**  
військовий розгвардії



**ПЕТРИЧЕНКО В.О.**  
військовий розгвардії



**ПІКАЛОВ О.Ф.**  
військовий розгвардії



**СЕМЕНОВ І.І.**  
військовий розгвардії



**ШУЛАЙКІН М.М.**  
військовий розгвардії

Russian soldiers suspected of looting property in the occupied territory. Photo source: Security Service of Ukraine (SSU)

<sup>66</sup> <https://t.me/SBUkr/4844>

## Other individual examples:

**On 02 August** in the temporarily occupied city of Kherson (Kherson region), six armed Russian soldiers broke into the premises of a large manufacturer of construction materials. The military evicted all employees, took away the keys to the premises and blocked the company's activities. On the same day, in the suburbs of Kherson, the military seized an agricultural base and stole two tractors, a "Kamaz" truck with a trailer and other expensive agricultural machinery. The names of businesses and other details of crimes are not disclosed.<sup>67</sup>

**On 05 August** the occupation authorities, represented by the "State committee of defense of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)", issued the Resolution No. 182 "On certain issues of special registration of vehicles...". The essence of this decision is that persons who operate a transportation vehicle, but do not have the title documents for it, can put this vehicle on the so-called "special register" until 31.12.2022 and receive temporary documents from the occupation authorities confirming the right to use it.<sup>68</sup> In the territory controlled by Ukraine, such a decision was qualified by many as an attempt to legalize property stolen by combatants from the civilian population in the occupied territories.<sup>69</sup> Such statements look justified, since the "decision" occurred during the occupation of new Ukrainian territories and this "mechanism" can be used by both legal owners (residents of the occupied territories) who had lost documents for their cars as a result of military operations (it is considered that under the conditions of military operations, the loss of a car occurs much more often than the loss of documents for it), but also by persons who illegally took possession of other people's vehicles.



Illustrative photo. Photo source: Mariupol City Council

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/khersonpolice.official/posts/pfbid0FsCqnX5LyRRvDBw3aVNpLeQGYdooYhcmzJxcvb4CVTCuvT23G978fYnpTRJUDJTAL>

<sup>68</sup> <http://npa.dnronline.su/2022-08-10/postanovlenie-gosudarstvennogo-komiteta-oporony-dnr-182-ot-05-08-2022-g-o-nekotoryh-voprosah-osobogo-ucheta-avtomobilej-avtobusov-a-takzhe-samohodnyh-mashin-skonstruirovannyh-na-shassi-avtomobilej-mo.html>

<sup>69</sup> [https://t.me/mariupolrada/10599?fbclid=IwAR2b53n\\_KmNalkqAzPp5MLVKIc6AB3SfHPxJt877rTnlVShnTm8kKrR5\\_yU](https://t.me/mariupolrada/10599?fbclid=IwAR2b53n_KmNalkqAzPp5MLVKIc6AB3SfHPxJt877rTnlVShnTm8kKrR5_yU)

**On 12 August** the interview of Dmytro Skornyakov, general director of the Ukrainian agricultural holding company HarvEast, was published. The top manager said that the occupation authorities stole at least 200 thousand tons of grains from the company in the occupied territories in eastern Ukraine. Of those, 50 thousand tons were stolen from grain elevators in the occupied villages of Mangush and Nikolske (Donetsk region), and the remaining about 150 thousand tons were crops from the company's fields in the temporarily occupied territories.<sup>70</sup>

**On 21 August** the Russian news agency "Interfax" reported on the decision of the "Government of the Kherson region" to recognize enterprises that were allegedly abandoned by their owners as "unattended". The report quotes the "prime-minister" Sergiy Yeliseyev that "unattended" enterprises will be transferred first onto the books of the "state property fund of the Kherson region", and then under "external management" to those who are "willing to do so" and "will be considered worthy to manage these enterprises". The conditions for maintaining control over assets for Ukrainian owners are quoted as the obligation to pass "re-registration with the tax office" and "opening the accounts" (probably in a local "bank").<sup>71</sup> Such actions can be a hidden form of confiscation and subsequent misappropriation of the property of Ukrainian companies.

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-12/major-ukraine-grower-says-russia-stole-200-000-tons-of-its-crops?srnd=premium-europe&leadSource=uverify%20wall>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.interfax.ru/world/857580>

## Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

IHL regulations prohibit robbery. It is allowed to confiscate movable public property in an 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).



## 6

## Mistreatment of the dead bodies.

In the end of August, a fragment of the video showing a Russian nationalist **Igor Mangushev** during the event of a "stand-up on a military theme" disparagingly demonstrating a human skull began to spread in social networks. According to him, this was the skull of a Ukrainian soldier who died at "Azovstal" in Mariupol (Donetsk region). Mangushev's speech was accompanied by an explanation of whom and what for is his country at the war with. In the end of the video, he pronounces a phrase from which one can understand that he personally took part in the murder of the person whose skull he demonstrates.<sup>72</sup>

Link to the video: [https://amp.censor.net/ru/news/3363608/v\\_rossii\\_propagandist\\_mangushev\\_vyshel\\_na\\_stsenu\\_s\\_cherepom\\_yakoby\\_zaschitnika\\_azovstali\\_video\\_18](https://amp.censor.net/ru/news/3363608/v_rossii_propagandist_mangushev_vyshel_na_stsenu_s_cherepom_yakoby_zaschitnika_azovstali_video_18)

From a fragment of the video, it is not clear where and when did this event take place, how many people were present at it, and whom this "audience" consists of. It is also not known for certain whether this skull really belongs to a Ukrainian military. At the same time, one can see that the event takes place in some public premises (a nightclub, a restaurant, etc.), and given the personality of the speaker and the theme of the speech, there is no reason to doubt that this is not a dummy in his hands, but indeed a real human skull. On the internet, one can find information that Igor Mangushev allegedly took part in the fighting in eastern Ukraine, but it is not known for certain whether he is now part of the armed forces of the Russian Federation.<sup>73</sup>



Russian Igor Mangushev demonstrates a human skull during a public event. Video screenshot. Source: Censor.Net

<sup>72</sup> [https://amp.censor.net/ru/news/3363608/v\\_rossii\\_propagandist\\_mangushev\\_vyshel\\_na\\_stsenu\\_s\\_cherepom\\_yakoby\\_zaschitnika\\_azovstali\\_video\\_18](https://amp.censor.net/ru/news/3363608/v_rossii_propagandist_mangushev_vyshel_na_stsenu_s_cherepom_yakoby_zaschitnika_azovstali_video_18)

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/ukraine-russia-war-mangushev/32010950.html>

Certain pro-Russian internet resources regularly publish photos and videos of disdainful treatment of the bodies of dead Ukrainian soldiers. As an example, we can quote the Telegram channel "384 OMRP SpN" (possibly "384 separate naval reconnaissance point of special purpose", military unit No. 00800, part of the 1st army corps of the DPR")

Link to the channel: [https://t.me/morskaya\\_pehota\\_384](https://t.me/morskaya_pehota_384)

According to EUCCI, such a disdainful demonstration of the bodies (fragments of bodies) of dead combatants for clearly propaganda purposes, not caused by neither military nor humanitarian necessity, is offensive and constitutes a mistreatment on the bodies, and therefore is a violation of the laws and customs of war.

## Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

### **Regarding dead civilians.**

The remains of persons who have died for reasons related to occupation or in detention resulting from occupation or hostilities and those of persons not nationals of the country in which they have died as a result of hostilities shall be respected, and the gravesites of all such persons shall be respected, maintained and marked as provided for in Article 130 of the Fourth Convention, where their remains or gravesites would not receive more favorable consideration under the Conventions and this Protocol. (Additional Protocol I and to the Geneva Conventions, Article 34).

Article 130 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that the detention authorities shall ensure that internees who died during internment shall be buried with respect and, if possible, according to the rituals of the religion to which they belonged, and that their graves shall be respected, properly cleaned and marked so that they can always be identified. Deceased internees shall be buried in individual graves, except in cases where circumstances that cannot be avoided require the use of common graves. Bodies can be cremated only for categorical reasons of hygiene, in accordance with the religion of the deceased or according to his clear desire for this action. In the case of cremation, its fact will be stated and the reasons will be provided in the death certificate of the deceased. The ashes shall be kept safe by the detaining authorities, and transferred as soon as possible to close relatives at their request.

### **Regarding dead combatants.**

Article 17 of the First Geneva Convention states that bodies shall be cremated only whenever necessary, in accordance with mandatory hygiene requirements or for reasons related to the religion of the deceased. In the case of cremation, its circumstances and causes shall be described in detail in the death certificate or certified list of deceased persons. The Parties must ensure that the dead are honorably interred, if possible, according to the rites of the religion to which the deceased belonged. They must ensure respect for the graves, group them, if possible, according to nationality, and maintain and mark them so that they can always be found.

### **General note.**

International humanitarian law *forbids mistreatment of the bodies of the dead*. The dead shall be honorably interred and their graves shall be respected and properly maintained (Customary IHL, norms 113, 115).

The parties to the conflict shall do everything possible to facilitate the return of the remains of the deceased at the request of the party to which they belong, or at the request of relatives of the deceased. Personal items belonging to the deceased are also subject to return. In order to identify the remains of the deceased, each party to the conflict must register all available information before burial and indicate the location of graves (Customary IHL, norms 114, 116).

Mistreatment of the bodies of the deceased constitutes an "encroachment on human dignity" (also applicable to the deceased) within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and therefore constitutes a war crime (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (b) (XXI)).

# 7

## Illegal detentions and deprivation of freedom of civilians.

During August 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.

### Individual examples:

**On 02 August** the Russian military detained and took the director of the Gavrylivka School of the Kalanchak community **Tatiana Tkachenko** (Kherson region) to an unknown destination.<sup>74</sup>

**On 03 August** the chairman of the Gornostayivka community (Kherson region) **Dmytro Lyakhno** was detained and taken to an unknown destination by the armed military from his home. It is reported that before that he was severely beaten. The Kakhovka city territorial community presumes that the Head of the community refused to cooperate with the occupation authorities, for which he was deprived of freedom. Along with the Head of the community, a volunteer **Oleksandr Slisarenko** was also detained.<sup>75</sup>



Chairman of the Gornostayivka community Dmytro Lyakhno.  
Photo source: Kakhovka city territorial community

<sup>74</sup> <https://pivdenukraine.com.ua/2022/08/03/rosijski-vijskovi-vikrali-direktorku-shkoli-na-xersonshhini/>

<sup>75</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02Uob2SJEr3jm8bNEFJL6SyFaZdZafsAxnLGJXprfJhgjfrgidJgS4Vf6ygPHUosZXl&id=100064772648646](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02Uob2SJEr3jm8bNEFJL6SyFaZdZafsAxnLGJXprfJhgjfrgidJgS4Vf6ygPHUosZXl&id=100064772648646)



## On 04 August

the blogger **Igor Kotelevych** was detained in occupied **Kherson**. For the last five months the man was engaged in volunteer activities.<sup>76</sup>

Kherson blogger Igor Kotelevych. Photo source: "Most"

## On 5 August

the Russian military detained and took the Head of the Zelenyi Pid rural community of the Kakhovka district **Olena Peleshok** (Kherson region) to an unknown destination. Along with the woman, the driver of the village council was also detained, but later he was released.<sup>77</sup>



Head of the Zelenyi Pid community Elena Peleshok.  
Photo source: Kakhovka city territorial community



## On 10 August

unknown persons who introduced themselves as employees of the "city administration" detained in his own house and then took the director of Malokakhovka and Korobky rural municipal enterprises of the Kakhovka city territorial community (Kherson region) **Oleksandr Chistyakov** to an unknown destination.<sup>78</sup>

Director of the municipal enterprises Oleksandr Chistyakov.  
Photo source: Kakhovka city territorial community

<sup>76</sup> [https://most.ks.ua/news/url/u\\_hersoni\\_vikrali\\_vidomogo\\_blogera\\_i\\_volontera\\_igorja\\_kotelevicha](https://most.ks.ua/news/url/u_hersoni_vikrali_vidomogo_blogera_i_volontera_igorja_kotelevicha)

<sup>77</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02Bij17xordYnJTzvamJwk2Lp7z7mPDCvZ7QvyuF8Ku6aJ2F8g6xHc1xQxbeY7ni8l&id=100064772648646](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02Bij17xordYnJTzvamJwk2Lp7z7mPDCvZ7QvyuF8Ku6aJ2F8g6xHc1xQxbeY7ni8l&id=100064772648646)

<sup>78</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02wTa8wnryeGKfYQFsGimvPgRQxkQgHyWfkWdR1P3AAhZH3TEJdZ2MnjU25frETDGxl&id=100064772648646](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02wTa8wnryeGKfYQFsGimvPgRQxkQgHyWfkWdR1P3AAhZH3TEJdZ2MnjU25frETDGxl&id=100064772648646)



Family doctor Artem Fartushny.  
Photo source: Irena Lepen on Facebook

## On 15 August

it became known that the Russian military in the area of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant (Kherson region), probably when crossing the checkpoint, stopped the car of a family doctor **Artem Fartushny**, detained the man and took him to an unknown destination.<sup>79</sup>

## On 16 August

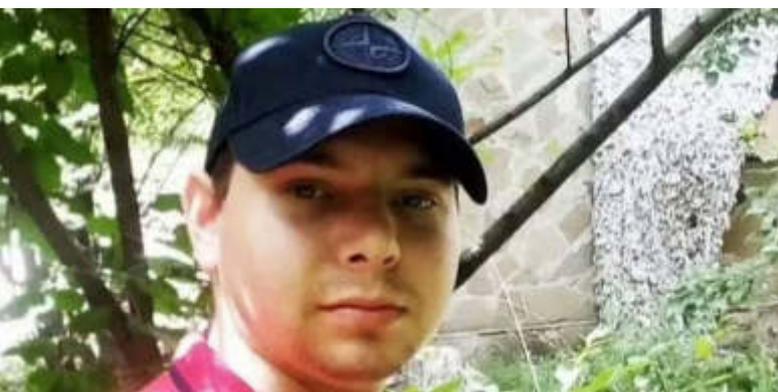
the Head of the Verkhniy Rogachyk community (Kherson region) **Svitlana Korotun** was detained in her own home. Presumably the woman was taken to occupied Kakhovka.<sup>80</sup>

## On 18 August

when crossing the checkpoint near the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant (Kherson region), the Russian military detained **Mykola Gerus** (a civilian). The man tried to leave for the territory controlled by Ukraine to receive medical care. According to his wife, earlier the military took the man's brother from his own home and severely beat him.<sup>81</sup>



Mykola Gerus.  
Photo Source: "Vgory, Kherson. News" in Telegram



## On 21 August

in the temporarily occupied village of Shevchenko of the Khrestivka community (Kherson region), the Russian military detained a 23-year-old man **Vadym Babayev**. The man was severely beaten and taken to an unknown destination.<sup>82</sup>

Vadym Babayev. Photo source: "Most"

At the time of preparation of this publication, the further fate of the detainees was not reported.

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/100008084135219/posts/pfbid029iK4GjwK4jgshoQYXpTbZTj2QEKRLFExXRuF7nLavBTkmajGTRgmbmyHc5nQG3kDL/>

<sup>80</sup> <https://t.me/SobolevskiyYurii/195>

<sup>81</sup> <https://t.me/vgorunews/8188>

<sup>82</sup> [https://most.ks.ua/news/url/rosijski\\_okupanti\\_vikrali\\_zhitelja\\_hrestivskoj\\_gromadi\\_vadima\\_babajeva](https://most.ks.ua/news/url/rosijski_okupanti_vikrali_zhitelja_hrestivskoj_gromadi_vadima_babajeva)

## 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 by the Rome Statute of the ICC (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](https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1534328816_LNR_B_engl.compressed.pdf)

*War without rules*

[https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1522852942\\_gon\\_eng\\_web.pdf](https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1522852942_gon_eng_web.pdf)

*Surviving hell*

[https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1522853480\\_SURVIVING\\_HELL\\_eng\\_web.pdf](https://totalaction.org.ua/public/upload/book/1522853480_SURVIVING_HELL_eng_web.pdf)

## The attempt to convict Ukrainian prisoners of war.

During August 2022, the mass-media actively spread information about the intention of the Russian Federation to hold an "international tribunal" over Ukrainian prisoners of war. The occupation authorities allegedly planned to hold one of the "first" such "tribunals" by the end of the summer in occupied Mariupol (Donetsk region).<sup>83</sup> For this purpose, metal cages for keeping people began to be built in the premises of the local philharmonic hall.<sup>84</sup> For what exactly "crimes" Ukrainian prisoners of war were going to be tried, it is not yet known for certain.



Concert hall of the Mariupol chamber philharmonic society before the occupation of the city. Photo Source: Google.Maps



Metal cage on the stage of the Mariupol chamber philharmonic society. Photo source: Focus

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned such actions and has reminded that the IHL prohibits the formation of courts exclusively for the conviction of prisoners of war, and the deliberate deprivation of a prisoner of war of the right to a free and proper trial is equated to a war crime.<sup>85</sup>

The US State Department made a statement about the illegitimacy of the "tribunal" and the right of all Ukrainian servicemen to the status of prisoners of war.<sup>86</sup>

The Embassy of Germany to Ukraine expressed its concern on this matter<sup>87</sup> as well as governments/diplomatic institutions of a number of other civilized countries of the world.

As of the end of August 2022, information about further actions to hold an "international tribunal" has so far disappeared from the public domain.

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTYcUyz8moQ>

<sup>84</sup> <https://focus.ua/uk/ukraine/525215-tribunal-v-mariupole-kogo-rossiya-hochet-posadit-v-kletki>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/ru/press-briefing-notes/2022/08/reports-possible-trials-ukrainian-prisoners-wars>

<sup>86</sup> <https://ua.usembassy.gov/uk/the-kremlins-illegitimate-tribunals-in-mariupol/>

<sup>87</sup> <https://twitter.com/GermanyinUA/status/1562389684046778368>

## Why this constitutes a violation of IHL:

Any combatant who has been captured while he or she complies with the conditions set out in Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention or articles 43, 44, PP. 1-3 and 5-7, Additional Protocol I, is entitled to a **prisoner of war status**.<sup>88</sup>

Persons with the status of prisoners of war have the immunity of participants in military operations and cannot be brought to justice *for participation in military operations or for carrying out lawful military actions during an armed conflict*, even if such actions would otherwise have been considered an offence under domestic law.<sup>89</sup>

Prisoners of war (POW) shall always be treated humanely. They must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity (third Geneva Convention, Article 13). This obligation is incumbent on the Detaining Power. However, media outlets should reflect on their coverage of trials of POWs to ensure that such coverage does not expose POWs to public curiosity or lead to their being publicly humiliated.<sup>90</sup>

Despite the inadmissibility of their prosecution only for participating in hostilities on behalf of one of the parties to the conflict, prisoners of war can be brought to justice if they violate the criminal legislation of the state holding the prisoner. In addition, they shall be held accountable if they commit serious violations of the Geneva Conventions or other war crimes.<sup>91</sup>

Any classic criminal offence that is not a permitted act of war and falls within the criminal law of the Detaining State may constitute grounds for the initiation of criminal proceedings by that state. However, it is generally considered that these acts should be regarded as criminal in the country of origin, and those, in particular political, crimes that are punishable in the state holding the POW but are not in the state of origin of the POW cannot become grounds for prosecution.<sup>92</sup>

Thus, according to EUCCI, the politicized recognition of the Ukrainian Special Operations Detachment "Azov", which is an official unit of the National Guard of Ukraine, or other legitimate Ukrainian military formations, as "*a terrorist organization*" by the Russian Federation based on its internal legal system, shall not in itself be grounds for prosecuting POW from such legitimate military formations.

In addition, the "international tribunal" established by the occupation authorities through the self-proclaimed "Republic" is unlikely to meet the criteria of an impartial and appropriately established court that adheres to the generally recognized principles of a fair trial.

Intentional deprivation of a prisoner of war of the right to a fair and normal trial is a war crime within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the ICC (ICC Statute, Article 8 (2) (a) (vi)).

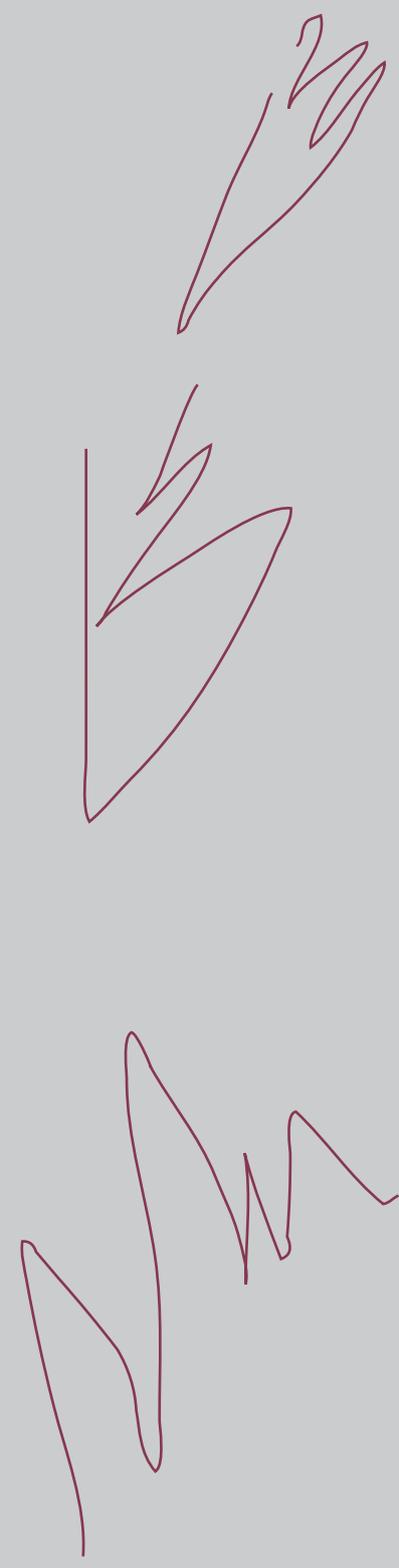
<sup>88</sup> <https://www.icrc.org/ru/doc/resources/documents/publication/eric-david-principles.htm>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/ru/press-briefing-notes/2022/08/reports-possible-trials-ukrainian-prisoners-wars>

<sup>90</sup> <https://blogs.icrc.org/ua/2022/08/17/5680/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://blogs.icrc.org/ua/2022/08/17/5680/>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.icrc.org/ru/doc/resources/documents/publication/eric-david-principles.htm>



## 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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