



Truth Hounds Analytical Report for 2 and 3 March 2022

Evidence of extreme war crimes as a result of Russian military aggression.

About us

The non-governmental organisation Truth Hounds has been documenting international crimes committed by all actors during the armed conflict in and occupation of parts of Ukrainian territory since 2014. During this period we have made submissions to the International Criminal Court, and provided analytical reports to the national investigative authorities, including the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

Our team continues to document war crimes during the current invasion. Truth Hounds documenters are working in several cities affected by the invasion across central, northern, eastern, and southern Ukraine. We also maintain a wide network of monitors on the ground, who provide up-to-date information.

This analytical brief is primarily based on open sources, which have been verified by our analysts. We do not publish the exact addresses or locations of the attacks, as hostilities in many such places remain ongoing and the precise locations may be utilized to gain military advantage.

Executive summary

On 2 and 3 the Russian authorities intensified attacks on the civilian population in some Ukrainian cities, destroying entire districts. Russian forces carried out heavy shelling, inflicting extensive damage on the civilian population of Ukraine in Kyiv, Chernihiv and Kharkiv oblasts. As a result of the shelling, rocket attacks and air strikes, at least 400 people were killed, including children. During these attacks, Russian forces committed a number of serious war crimes which include: **(1) Deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian objects; (2) Attacks causing serious widespread, long-lasting and serious damage to the environment; (3) Indiscriminate attacks on civilians; (4) Perfidy; (5) Improper use of protective emblems.**

Attacks on civilians and civilian objects

On 2 and 3 March Truth Hounds recorded a number of targeted attacks against civilians from open sources, including attacks using high-precision weapons. These attacks killed at least one hundred civilians; and new fewer than three hundred civilians were injured.



According to the State Emergency Service (SES), at least 34 civilians were killed in Kharkiv and 285 people were injured in air strikes on 2 March on Kharkiv, Izyum, Yakovlivka and Khoroshevo. The State Emergency Service stated that ten children were among the injured.

On 2 March, at approximately 8:00 a.m., the Russian army launched an airstrike on a residential area in the village of Gorenka, Kyiv region. Witnesses say they heard the roar of aircraft followed by explosions.

On 3 March, Russian troops launched a missile strike on a multi-story residential area in Chernihiv City Centre. The moment the first missile hit a house was recorded by resident's car camera. Forty-seven people were killed as a result of the bombing in Chernihiv on 3 March: 38 men and nine women.

An attack that caused a serious widespread and long-term damage to the environment

On 2 and 3 March, the Russian army caused irreparable damage to the environment in Ukraine when they fired and blew up a fuel depot containing 5,000 cubic meters of fuel in the Chernihiv region.

Indiscriminate attacks on civilians

Despite the Truth Hounds announcement not to distinguish between cases of intentional attacks on civilians and civilian objects and indiscriminate attacks, some recent attacks deserve to be recorded in a separate category – this refers to the use of indiscriminate weapons in urban warfare. Regardless of the presence of or proximity to military facilities, the use of indiscriminate weapons in urban areas can be considered as an indiscriminate attack that disproportionately harms the civilian population.

Perfidy

Truth Hounds received information that Russian army forces have stolen second-hand clothing from shops stores and disguised themselves as civilians.

Improper use of protective emblems

Truth Hounds monitors report that Russians are using protective emblems, including the Red Cross emblem, to transport weapons and ammunition.



Introduction

According to reports published by Truth Hounds in recent days, it is increasingly difficult to distinguish between deliberate attacks on civilian objects and indiscriminate attacks that cause excessive civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian objects, due primarily to Russian strategy in the armed conflict and the intensification of artillery fire. The nature of the attacks and their proportionality will be examined in more detail later on. At this stage, this report will focus on recording the facts of hits on civilian objects without attempting to qualify them.

It is also difficult at this stage to accurately determine the type of weapons being used. Without direct access to the impact sites, it is sometimes difficult to establish beyond reasonable doubt the type of weapon used to attack civilian targets. This determination will take place after access to the impact sites or after additional consultations with military experts.

Deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian objects

On 3 March, the media reported the shelling of a hospital in Vasylivka, Zaporizhia Oblast in southeast Ukraine. ¹ An analysis of open-source information and reports from officials confirmed this information and the fact that the shelling took place on 1 March. According to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, the surgical and sanitary departments of the hospital were shelled. ² Staff and patients took refuge in the shelter. The shelling damaged the roof and interior of the hospital building. Posts on social networks contained footage filmed by local residents and showed the damage caused by the shelling.³

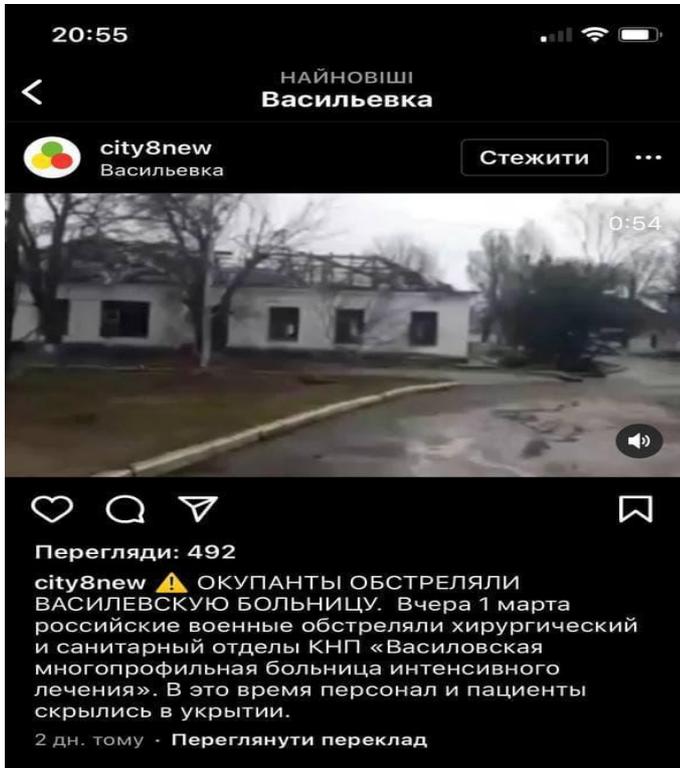
¹ "Russian invaders fired on the hospital in Vasylivka: there are casualties", 3.03.22 at 17:44, available at: <https://bykvu.com/ua/bukvy/rosiiski-zaharbnyky-obstrily-likarniu-u-vasylivtsi-ie-zahybli/>

² "Operational information: Zaporizhzhia region", 2.03.22 at 09:01, available at: [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=325505766275836&id=100064492458177#_="](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=325505766275836&id=100064492458177#_=)

³ "OCCUPIERS SHOT AT VASILEV HOSPITAL", 2.03.22, available at: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CamCtJ4FSoc/>

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Screenshot from Instagram user city8new, 2 March 2022

Another Instagram photo demonstrates damage caused by the shelling of Vasylivka that day and the remains of ammunition, which was presumably fired on the hospital. Judging by the photo, this is a 122-mm projectile for barrel artillery.⁴

⁴"The hospital in Vasylivka was opened", 1.03.22, available at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CakInYiL52n/>



According to the State Emergency Service in Kharkiv, at least 34 civilians were killed and 285 were injured in air strikes on Kharkiv, Izyum, Yakovlivka and Khoroshevo on 2 March. The injured included ten children, according to the SES. ⁵

On the night of 3 to 4 March, Russian troops carried out an air attack on the town of Izyum in the Kharkiv region. As a result of shelling, eight people died during the night, including one child. ⁶ According to information from Stepan Maselsky, the Head of the Izyum Regional State Administration, nine people were killed, including two children. ⁷ There is information about one injured person, but the exact number is being specified. A premises of a former evening school was damaged, the police office was set on fire and multi-storey buildings

⁵"No title", Public Kharkiv, 03.03.2022, 11:44, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8623>

⁶"No title", Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office, 03.03.2022, 23:19, available at: https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/2968

⁷"No title", Public Kharkiv, 03.03.2022, 14:19, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8637>

in the city center were damaged. ⁸The number of damaged and destroyed buildings is still being counted.⁹



The aftermath of the air strike on the city of Izyum, Kharkiv region, 3 March 2022.

⁸ "Raisins in Kharkiv region hit: there are dead ", Youtube, 03.03.2022, available at: <https://youtu.be/vugoQjKfYtM>

⁹ "Raisins in Kharkiv region hit by air: there are dead", Social News, 03.03.2022, 02:15, available at: <https://suspilne.media/213154-izum-na-harkivsini-zaznav-aviaudaru-e-zagibli/>



Consequences of the air strike on the police station in Izium, Kharkiv region, 3 March 2022.

As a result of the shelling of buildings in the center of Kharkiv on the morning of 2 March, four people were killed and 15 injured. Russian aircraft began bombing the centre of the city at 8:10 a.m. The Kharkiv regional police report that the tank school, the University of the Air Force, and the administrative building of the Regional National Police Department were hit by rockets. According to preliminary data, one civilian was killed, and three policemen and 15 people were injured.¹⁰

¹⁰“No title”, Public Kharkiv, 02.03.2022, 18:06, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8548?single>

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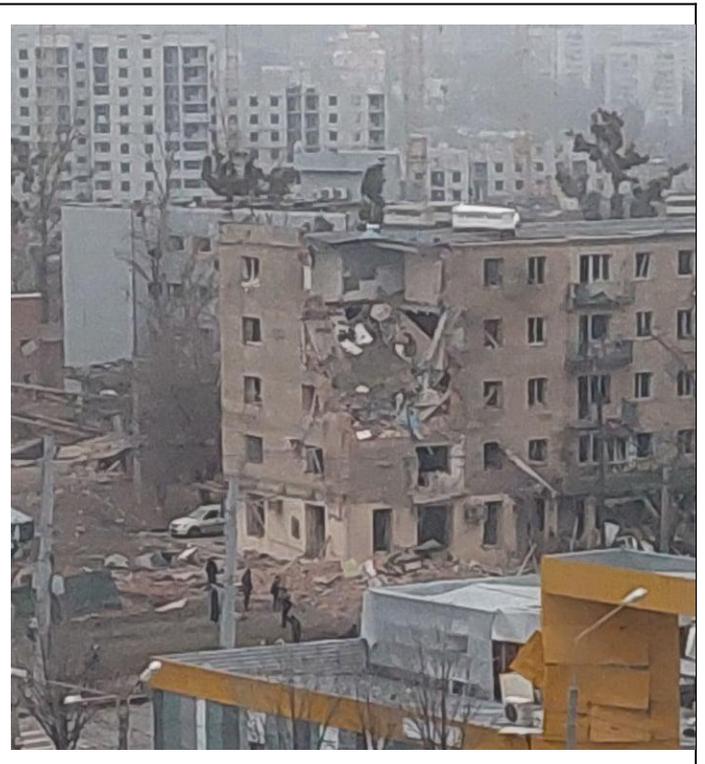


The center of Kharkiv after the morning air strikes on 2 March 2022.

Artillery shelling of residential areas on Kholodna Gora, Pivnichna Saltivka,¹¹ Horizont,¹² Oleksiyivka, Industrialnyi District and other districts of Kharkiv continued, dozens of houses and apartments were damaged, and the number of victims is being clarified. The largest residential area of the city, Pivnichna Saltivka microdistrict, was the hardest hit. In total, about 40 apartment buildings were on fire, according to the State Emergency Service. Rescuers also reported five people killed. Accurate data on victims of the shelling are being established¹³.



Horizont district in Kharkiv on 2 March March.



Destruction in the area of Kholodna Gora, Kharkiv, 2

¹¹“No title”, Typical Kharkiv, March 2, 2022,

¹²“No title”, ТРУХА ⚡ Харьков + Украина , 02.03.2022, 07:26, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/27362>

¹³ The shelling of Kharkiv during a day: details of the rescue operation on the "Northern Saltovka". News Live, 04.03.2022, 11:40, available at:

<https://novyny.live/kharkov/obstrely-kharkova-za-sutki-podrobnosti-spatelnoi-operatsii-na-severnoi-saltovke-41663.html>



Industrial district of Kharkiv after the shelling on 2 March, 2022.

On the night of 2 March, Kharkiv Tank School came under an attack, and its buildings were engulfed in flames.¹⁴ According to preliminary information six shells flew into the building of the cadet corps. The three-storey educational building was damaged, and three damaged cars were found near the building. During the air strike two people died and nine people were injured. . As of 3 March, shells continue to explode on the grounds of the institution.¹⁵

In the afternoon of 2 March, a school in the Saltivka District of Kharkiv was damaged by attacks from Russian troops. As a result of the shelling, one wall of the school (by the gym) was damaged, and sustained a huge hole. . In addition, almost all the windows of the school gym are smashed to pieces. No victims were reported.¹⁶

¹⁴“No title”, XC_Харків, 02.03.2022, 22:25, available at: <https://t.me/c/1347456995/39339>

¹⁵“No title”, Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office, 02.03.2022, 16:17, available at: https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/2948

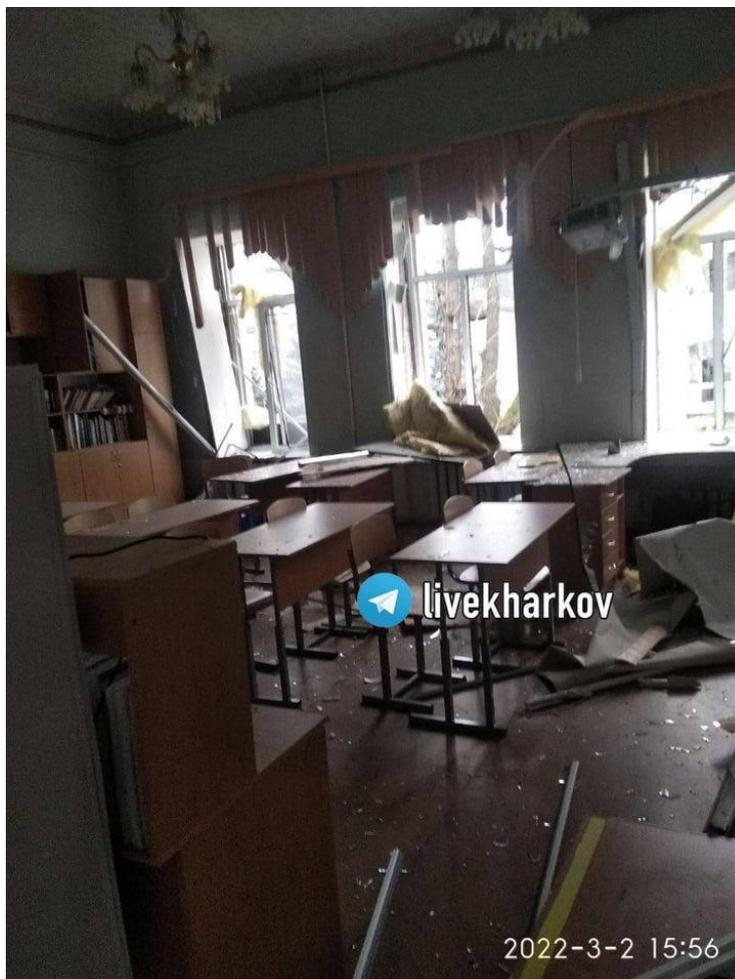
¹⁶ <https://tsn.ua/ato/zamist-doshki-velichezna-dira-u-harkovi-rosiya-vdarila-po-shkoli-foto-1994542.html>

Another attack was on the Korolenko School , for children with visual impairments. At the time of the shelling, the children were in the school canteen. The windows of the school were blown out and the was left without light and water. The head teacher of the school got a head injury. ¹⁷



Consequences of the shelling of the school, Saltivka district, Kharkiv, 2 March 2022.

¹⁷"No title", Public Kharkiv, 02.03.2022, 21:46, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8569>



Destruction in the classroom of the Korolenko school , where children with visual impairments study, Kharkiv, 2 March 2022.

On the night of 3 March Russian aircraft raided the village of Yakovlivka, Merefa community, Kharkiv region. At least 35 private homes were damaged in the attack, some of which were destroyed.¹⁸ According to the Merefa community Head, Veniamin Sitov, four people were killed as a result of the bombings - the bodies of two people were found among the rubble.¹⁹

Three churches of the Kharkiv Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate were damaged during the shelling in Kharkiv on 2 March. Windows and stained-glass windows were broken in the church of John the Myrrh-bearer as a result of an explosion near the National Police station, and the dome and interior of the church were damaged. The people in the temple at the time of the explosion were not injured. The Uspenskyi (Assumption) Cathedral was damaged by an explosion near the Kharkiv City Council. The windows and stained-glass windows in the cathedral were broken, the interior and religious

¹⁸“No title”, Public Kharkiv, 03.03.2022, 09:49, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8612>

¹⁹“No title”, Public Kharkiv, 03.03.2022, 11:35, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8622>

objects including icons, were damaged. St. Anthony's University Church in Kharkiv was also damaged by the explosion: all the windows were smashed and it sustained damage to the interior. No one was injured.²⁰

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on 2 March, the Russian army launched another attack on civilians, striking a residential area of Chernihiv in the east of the city. The shelling destroyed the City Police department and Chernihiv District Hospital was severely damaged – its roof was completely torn off and all the windows were broken. One person was killed at the hospital and five were injured.²¹ Some people have been transferred to other facilities or to other medical institutions. Dozens of nearby houses sustained damage to windows, doors, broken roofs, and walls and administrative buildings, including the Police Department, were severely damaged.

This area is densely built up with residential high-rises. University buildings are also located in this area.²²



The Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs which was destroyed after shelling, Chernihiv. 2 March 2022

²⁰“No title”, Public Kharkiv, 02.03.2022, 21:06, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8564>

²¹Public Chernihiv, 02.03.22 at 15:58, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnechernihiv/6568>

²²Operational Command North, 02.03.2022 at 16:00, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/504269096420560/posts/2089702094543911/?sfnsn=mo>

<https://www.facebook.com/100064801354213/posts/32736779433265/?sfnsn=mo>

The photo above shows a tank near the building of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The tank either belonged to the Ukrainian Armed Forces or was seized as a trophy.²³



Chernihiv District Hospital was damaged as a result of a missile strike by the Russian Federation on 2 March 3, Chernihiv,

On 3 March at 12:17 p.m. Russian troops launched a missile strike on a high-rise residential area in Chernihiv city centre. The moment the first missile hit one of the houses was recorded by a car recorder

²³Public Chernihiv, 3.03.22 at 08:13, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnechernihiv/6606>

in a resident's car.²⁴ As a result of the bombing 47 people were killed: 38 men and nine women. Eighteen people were rescued.²⁵

At least ten multi-storey buildings were damaged: broken windows, damaged walls and ceilings.²⁶ The pharmacy and the hospital were damaged. There are several schools and kindergartens nearby.

The third rocket hit between multi-storey residential buildings²⁷.



²⁴"The moment of a missile hit from a Russian plane in residential buildings" Facebook Sergey Minin, 03.03.2022 at 12:20, available at:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1118342715597665&id=100022658406947

²⁵"Shocking footage from Chernihiv", Top_news, 03.03.2022 at 21:02, available at:

https://t.me/top_news_war

²⁶Yaroslav Yachnyi Facebook, 03.03.2022, available at:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=5585262108167371&id=100000509118619&sfnsn=mo

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=5586053884754860&id=100000509118619

²⁷Facebook Alexander Barzhak, 03.03.2022 available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/100000537502522/posts/5423386137689249/>



Significant destruction of civilian multi-storey buildings in Chernihiv as a result of Russian air strikes. 3 March 2022

At 12:15 p.m., Russian aircraft also attacked two schools ²⁸ and private homes ²⁹ in the Stara Podusivka area of Chernihiv. There were children in one of the school buildings. Nine people were injured.



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School destroyed as a result of a missile strike in Chernihiv on 3 March, 2022

²⁸"How so ????" Facebook катерина Мозгова, 03.03.2022 at 12:54, available at: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1139583403458100&id=100022193521310

²⁹Facebook News of Chernihiv region (Anatoliiy Rudenko), 03.03.2022, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/newch.news/permalink/3154492648167625/?sfnsn=mo&ref=share>

³⁰"Instagram tanitacocaine", 03.03.2022 at 12:54, available at: <https://t.me/lachen77/4258>

"As a result of the bombings in Chernihiv on 3 March 47 people were killed: 38 men and nine women."

On the night of 1 to 2 March, the Russian Armed Forces continued mass shelling of Mariupol. As of 8:00 a.m. on 2 March 2022, the head of the Donetsk Regional (Oblast) State Administration Pavlo Kyrylenko announced the death of three civilians. The shelling affected housing infrastructure, a maternity hospital and a school.³¹ The Donetsk Regional State Administration also reported shelling of Toretsk - one shell hit the yard of a residential building.³²



Photo of the damage caused by a shell which hit a residential building in Mariupol.

The city of Lysychansk was shelled on the morning of 2 March. Three residential buildings were targeted.³³ As a result of the shelling a fire broke out in a small shopping centre, and the Russian Armed Forces targeted the Lysychansk brewery. The shelling was carried out with MLRS "Grad". That same morning, the nearby city of Severodonetsk was shelled again and as a result four residential buildings and a

³¹Pavlo Kirilenko, Facebook, 2.03.22 at 8:29, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pavlokyrylenko.donoda/posts/497406025275290>

³²Pavlo Kyrylenko / Donetsk Regional State Administration, Telegram, 2.03.22 at 16:52, available at:

https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/2471

³³Sergey Gaidai, Facebook, 2.03.22 at 10:25, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/133052652567460>

kindergarten were damaged. A residential area in Popasna was also shelled. Information about the victims is being clarified.³⁴



Photo of "Hail" in the yard of residential buildings, Lysychansk.

On 2 March at approximately 8:00 a.m., the village of Gorenka , Kyiv region, was the target of an airstrike by the Russian army which hit civilian housing. Locals say they heard the roar of the aircraft before the crash, followed by explosions.³⁵ The air strike was a high-precision attack, so there was no doubt that this was a targeted attack on the civilian population. There is no information about the victims.

In Okhtyrka, Sumy region, on 3 March 2022, Russian aircraft attacked a local thermal power plant. The attack occurred at 5:00 -5:10 p.m. local time. At least two people were killed in the attack on critical infrastructure. Another was injured. The air strike was a high-precision attack, so it is clear that this was a targeted attack on the civilian population.

Attacks that caused widespread, long-term and serious damage to the environment

In Chernihiv on 2 March , at 8:10 a.m. a projectile hit a tank full of oil products and the grounds of the oil depot. As a result, tanks holding 5,000 cubic meters of fuel were set on fire. Twenty-five fire fighters were involved in putting out the fire (as well as nine specialized vehicles. Rescuers were forced to take

³⁴SES of Ukraine, Facebook, 2.03.22 at 13:12, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/MNS.GOV.UA/posts/324626789705217>

³⁵No title, Instagram, 3.03.22, available at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CapMGcHoYzN/>

precautions to protect other tanks from the fire.³⁶ According to a Chernihiv resident, the damaged tank burned all day. The release of oil combustion products as a result of attacks on oil depots causes significant damage to the health of the civilian population and can cause widespread, long-term and serious damage to the environment.



Fire of oil products storage in Chernihiv, 2 March 2022

Although not an attack in the sense of international humanitarian law, the situation in the Kherson region in the village of Chornobaivka deserves special attention as the region is threatened by a large-scale environmental disaster that will affect hundreds of thousands of people. The local poultry farm currently has about three million chickens, which, due to Russian military action are not able to get food, and the large number of poultry means that they cannot be slaughtered quickly,³⁷ A biologist interviewed by Truth Hounds says that if such a large mass of organic matter (decaying products) from dead birds gets into groundwater, it will be impossible to drink the water for years to come, both in that region and possibly in neighbouring regions as well.

³⁶SES of Ukraine, 03.03.22 at 09:32, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/MNS.GOV.UA/posts/325211489646747>

³⁷"Due to the actions of the Russian occupiers Kherson region is under threat of environmental catastrophe", Ukrlandfarming, 02.03.2022 available at: <https://www.ulf.com.ua/ua/press-centre/news/02032022/>



Indiscriminate attacks on civilians

Despite the announcement not to distinguish between cases of deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian objects and indiscriminate attacks, some recent attacks deserve to be listed in a separate category. This involves the use of indiscriminate weapons in the fighting in the city. Regardless of the presence of or proximity to military facilities, the use of indiscriminate weapons in urban areas can be considered to be an indiscriminate attack that disproportionately harms the civilian population.

Perfidy

According to the governor of Sumy region, in the city of Trostyanets, Sumy, Russian soldiers stole clothing from the local second-hand clothing store, disguised themselves as civilians and in this way attacked local civilians. The exact number of victims cannot be determined, but the governor said that there were hundreds of victims who had been attacked by the Russian Armed Forces.³⁸

Improper use of distinctive emblems

This video³⁹ was published on 3 March 2022. The video shows a military car ZiL marked with a "Z" emblem and a red cross in a white circle. The vehicle is attached to a tank truck with a "Z" emblem and a "FLAMMABLE" sign. In the video, a Ukrainian-speaking person shows armbands with inscriptions of positions in the medical unit. Then he shows the contents of the ZiL car, which contains at least eight wooden boxes of shells for the artillery system. International humanitarian law provides special protection for medical transport and institutions. Due to such special protection, the requirements for non-use of medical vehicles for military purposes are very clear. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court calls the misuse of the protective emblem of the Red Cross as a separate crime. Undoubtedly, a truck with bearing the Red Cross sign to transport shells is an improper use of the emblem.

³⁸No title, Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Head of Sumy Regional State Administration, 2.03.22 at 8:29, available at: <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyi/685>

³⁹"Russian occupiers use medical vehicles to transport ammunition", Novinach, 3.03.22 at 22:56, available at: <https://t.me/novinach/17867>



Appearance and contents of a car marked with a red cross, 3 March , 2022.

Conclusion

During the first eight days of the conflict, we have monitored the patterns of behaviour of the Russian Armed Forces. They are carrying out air and missile strikes on dense urban areas and other non-military targets. In cases when military targets are located next to civilian objects and infrastructure, we have recorded unreasonably high damage to civilian objects which were not likely to give the Russian Armed Forces significant military superiority. Protected objects like hospitals, schools and universities are being attacked by the Russian Armed Forces as well as cultural property and valuables.

These patterns should be taken into account when determining the intent of attacks on civilian objects and civilians.