

Громадська організація «ТРУС ХАУНДС»
Київ, вул. Кожум'яцька 20-Г, офіс 5
Моб: +38 067 220 8486
info.hounds@gmail.com

Non-Governmental organization
«Truth Hounds»
Cell: +38 067 220 8486
info.hounds@gmail.com



Four days since the invasion

Russians continued to target civilians and started to loot the property on the occupied territories. This and other evidence of war crimes for the fourth day of the invasion period 00:00-23:59 of February 27 are presented by Truth Hounds.

The following crimes have taken place during this day: a) Intentional attacks on civilians and civilian objects, b) indiscriminate attacks that caused disproportionate military superiority in comparison to damage to civilians and civilian objects, c) attacks on medical staff and medical facilities, d) use of human shields and h) private property capture.

Executive summary

On February 27th, the following damages had taken place on the sovereign territory of Ukraine:

In *Nova Kakhovka* in the South of Ukraine, Russians shot an elderly man on a bicycle in the back. Also, Russians shot a civilian car carrying a family of four, killing one man, and injuring his two daughters and his wife.

In the city of *Berdiansk*, the Russians shot a local resident who refused to provide his mobile phone to the occupiers.

In *Chernihiv*, a rocket hit the building of the cinema in the central square of the city, where the Youth Center was located. The building suffered significant internal damage. Children's and adult dentistry, administrative buildings and multi-story residential buildings were destroyed, the city library was also damaged. Some 16 people were injured.

In Zhuravlivka district in northeastern *Kharkiv*, an artillery shell hit the house and 5 apartments and the roof of a house with an area of 400 sq.m. were set on fire. No available data about victims as of yet. As a result of an artillery attack with unidentified weapons, at least four private houses and cars were destroyed and damaged on the western outskirts of Kharkiv, in the village of Zalyutyne. There is no data about victims nor about nearby military facilities.

The town of *Izium* was heavily shelled, and in its district, a village of Kunie was hit, desstroying apartments, private houses, and cars. Some three people died during the shelling and 2 people were injured.

Sartana, a village near Mariupol, was shelled: Mariupol City Administration organized the evacuation of the elderly, women and children from the village.

In *Luhansk oblast*, the cities of Shchastya and Stanytsia Luhanska remain occupied by the troops of the Russian Federation, with the cut off communications, without food provision.

In *Donetsk oblast*, during the battle of Volnovakha, from the shelling by the so-called "DPR", all communications, housing estates, as well as the otolaryngology department of the hospital were damaged. Now, 11 injured residents must be assisted, communications must be restored, and food and water delivered.

Intentional attacks on civilians and civilian objects

Targeted attacks by Russian troops against civilians in the occupied area in the south of the Kherson region continue. In the morning of February 27, an elderly man on a bicycle was shot in the back in Nova Kakhovka¹.

At the infamous railway crossing in Nova Kakhovka, where civilians were previously attacked² Russians shot a civilian car carrying a family of four. The man died, his two daughters and his wife were injured³.

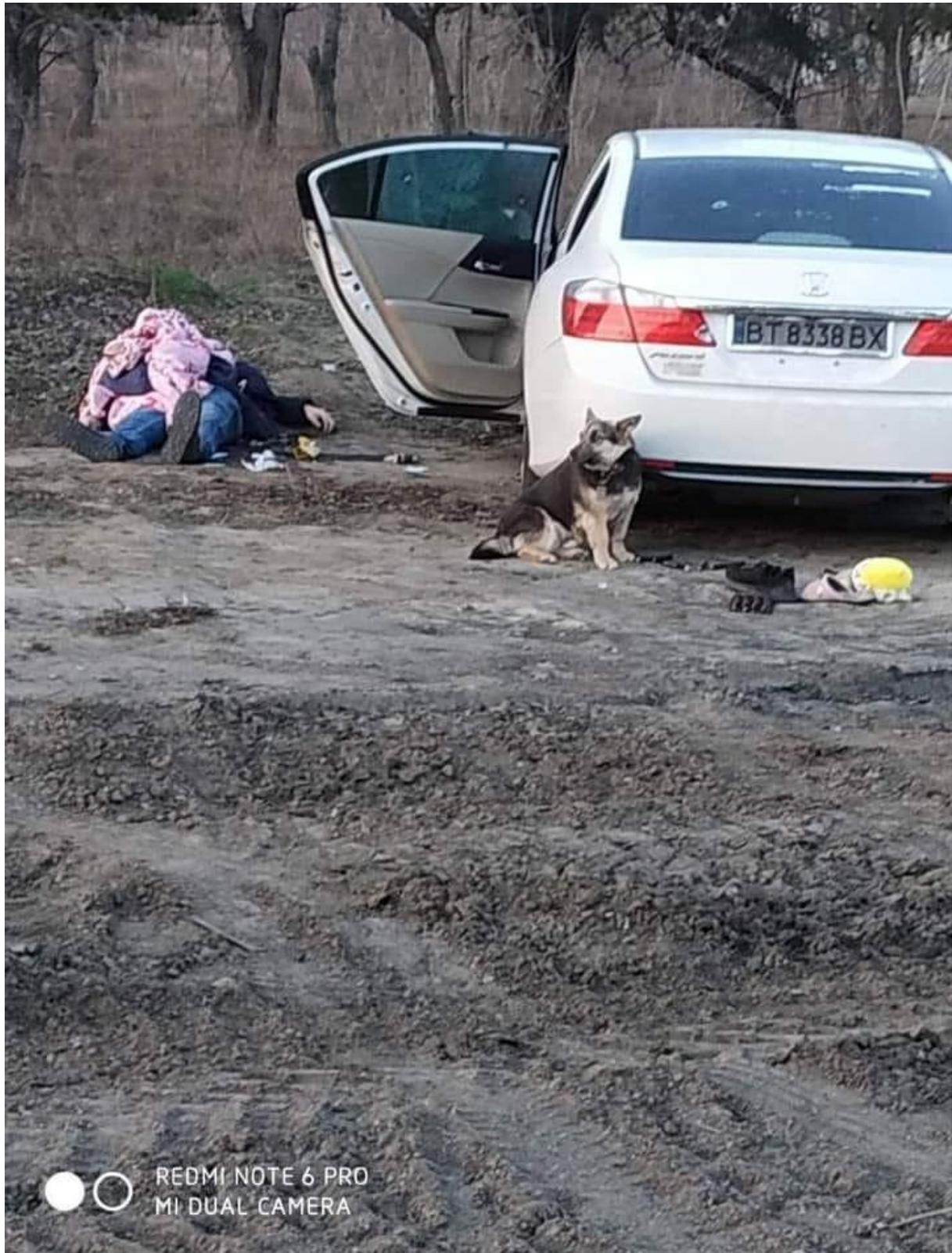
¹ “В Новой Каховке застрелили пенсионера. Возвращался на велосипеде с дачи, — сообщают местные СМИ”, Украина Online Новости Война Россия, 27.02.22 at 16:30, available at:

<https://t.me/UkraineOnline/19134>

² 46°44'47.1"N 33°23'35.0"E

³ “No title”, facebook, 27.02.22 at 20:24, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/tsyhipa/posts/5629532223740046>



The body of a man who was killed by the Russian military on February 27, 22 in Nova Kakhovka

In the city of Berdyansk, which was occupied by Russian troops without a fight on February 27⁴, the Russians shot a local resident who refused to provide his mobile phone to the occupiers⁵.

All these cases are obvious gross violations of international humanitarian law, namely the deliberate attack on protected (civilian) persons who did not take part in the armed conflict.

In Chernihiv, a rocket hit the building of the cinema in the central square of the city, where the Youth Center was located. Chernihiv Regional State Administration noted that it was a rocket attack⁶. As a result of the impact, the building suffered significant internal damage.



Results of the shelling of the cinema in Chernihiv, 27.02.2022.

⁴ “Срочное обращение исполняющего обязанности городского головы г. Бердянска Александра Свидло!”, 27.02.22 at 20:27, available at:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1873131029741637&id=100011342747545

⁵ “No title”, Бердянск Сейчас, 27.02.22 at 11:11, available at: <https://t.me/brdVP/82>

“СИТУАЦІЯ ЩОДО РОСІЙСЬКОГО ВТОРГНЕННЯ 28.02.2022 СТАНОМ НА 12:00”, 28.02.22 at 13:30, available at: <https://www.zoda.gov.ua/news/59562/situatsiya-shodo-rosiyskogo-vtorgnennya-28.02.2022-stanom-na-1200.html>

⁶ “У Чернігові ракета влучила у будівлю Молодіжного центру” Цензор.НЕТ, 27.02.22 at 21:57, available at: https://t.me/censor_net/8929

According to the Secretary of the Chernihiv City Council Oleksandr Lomako, the target of the artillery strike was the Chernihiv City Council. Instead, children's and adult dentistry, administrative buildings and multi-story residential buildings were destroyed⁷. The city library was also damaged⁸. According to the Strategic Communications and Information Security Center, 16 people were injured during the shelling on February 27 in Chernihiv⁹.



⁷ “No title”. Facebook, 27.02.22 at 14:48, available at: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=5292695967427668&id=10000619510894

⁸ “Центр мого міста” 27.02.22, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/100000402658829/posts/5050560871633951/?sfnsn=mo>

⁹ “No title”. Facebook, 27.02.22 at 20:10, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/StratcomCentreUA/posts/298392072360780>

Shell crater that hit near the city library, Chernihiv, 27.02.2022

Large-caliber artillery shelling of residential areas in the northern part of Kharkiv continues for the third day in a row. Shells hit the courtyards of multi-store buildings, near playgrounds or directly in the outbuildings of residents¹⁰.



Artillery shell hit near the playground, Saltivka district, Kharkiv, 27.02.2022.

On February 27, at 2:59 p.m., 101 received a report of a fire in a four-story apartment building in the Zhuravlivka district in northeastern Kharkiv. It is reported that an artillery shell hit the house. As a result of the hit, 5 apartments and the roof of a house with an area of 400 sq.m. were set on fire. There are no available data about victims.

¹⁰ No title. XC.Харьков, 27.02.22 at 09:49, available at: <https://t.me/c/1347456995/38976>.

As a result of an artillery attack with unidentified weapons, at least four private houses and cars were destroyed and damaged on the western outskirts of Kharkiv, in the village of Zalyutyne. There is neither no data about victims nor about nearby military facilities, too¹¹.



Consequences of artillery shelling of Zaliutyne district, Kharkiv, 27.02.2022.

Around Midnight on February 27, artillery shelling began in the town of Izyum. As a result of the shelling, apartments, private houses, and cars were destroyed and damaged. There is no information about the victims¹².

¹¹ No title. XC.Харьков. 27.02.22 at 12:18, available at: <https://t.me/c/1347456995/38991>

¹² "No title", Типичный Харьков, 27.02.22 at 23:48, available at: https://t.me/kharkiv_typical/13528



Consequences of the evening shelling of Iziium, February 27, 27.02.2022.

On February 27, the village of Kunie in the Iziium district appeared under shelling. Shells hit the center of the village, broked-down a school and a two-story house nearby. This incident was reported on February 27 on the Instagram page of the TV channel "Izyum TV"¹³. The information about victims was shared by the secretary of the Kunye village council. Three people died during the shelling - two died immediately, one died in hospital. 2 people were injured¹⁴.

¹³ "No title", Instagram, 27.02.22, available at:
https://www.instagram.com/tv/CaeiT0rjiND/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

¹⁴ "No title", Instagram, 27.02.22, available at:
https://www.instagram.com/p/CaemXRPN2so/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link



School in the village of Kunie, Kharkiv region, was affected by artillery shelling on February 27, 2022.

On February 27, Sartana, a village near Mariupol, was shelled again ¹⁵. There is no information about victims. Mariupol City Administration organized the evacuation of the elderly, women and children from the village. At 17:00 on the same day, the Mariupol City Council announced an attempt by the Russian sabotage-reconnaissance groups to fire on a bus escorted by a national police escorting residents of apartment buildings destroyed by Russian airstrikes on a residential area on Peremohy Avenue in the Left Bank. The mayor of Mariupol reported on operative reaction and destruction of sabotage-reconnaissance groups ¹⁶.

On February 27, the head of the Luhansk Regional State Administration Serhiy Haidai updated information on the situation in the cities of Shchastya and Stanytsia Luhanska. He reported that these settlements remain occupied by the troops of the

¹⁵ «Вадим Бойченко: «Мариуполь допоможе евакуювати жителів Сартани», Мариупольська міська рада, 27.02.2022, 09:57, available at: <https://t.me/mariupolrada/8546>

¹⁶ «На пост-мосту диверсійно-розвідувальна група росії намагалася атакувати автобуси з людьми», Мариуполь - офіційний сайт міської ради, 27.02.2022, 17:20, available at: <https://mariupolrada.gov.ua/news/na-post-mostu-diversijno-rozviduvalna-grupa-rosii-namagalasja-atakuvati-avtobusi-z-ljudmi>

Russian Federation, with the cut off communications, without food provision ¹⁷. It became known that during the battle of Volnovakha, from the shelling by the so-called "DPR", all communications, housing estates, as well as the otolaryngology department of the hospital were damaged. Now, 11 injured residents need to be assisted, communications restored, and food and water delivered.¹⁸



Volnovakha, otolaryngology department of the hospital, shelling results 26.02.2022.

Indiscriminate attacks that cause disproportionate military superiority in comparison to damage to civilians and civilian objects

The armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine is currently in an active phase. Truth Hounds therefore relies heavily on open-source information in this study. Documentators do not always have the reasonable doubt to establish the intent of attacks on civilian targets, in other words, it is not always possible to establish with

¹⁷ «Щастя та Станиця Луганська на межі гуманітарної катастрофи, - Сергій Гайдай», Facebook, 27.02.2022, 19:20, available at:

[https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/132382285967830?_cft_\[0\]=AZW60g8XM4Yq0iYOfFAw8SBRRbPi28WI9TJdPNXxR_vnKHFkTpEGP9AjFQea2NNuohOYw2IJ68w5Fm7y1LFh0pM1DN-J5QzULe71OZI1J4KYX60_fjkEIE8ULVDvAdScQ9Z7QoP-LsyQA54uf_qY6gH4&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/132382285967830?_cft_[0]=AZW60g8XM4Yq0iYOfFAw8SBRRbPi28WI9TJdPNXxR_vnKHFkTpEGP9AjFQea2NNuohOYw2IJ68w5Fm7y1LFh0pM1DN-J5QzULe71OZI1J4KYX60_fjkEIE8ULVDvAdScQ9Z7QoP-LsyQA54uf_qY6gH4&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R)

¹⁸ "No title", Facebook, 27.02.22 at 13:13, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/100005587749108/posts/1798885030307738/?d=n>

certainly the presence or absence of military targets near affected civilian targets. Even assuming that in the case of some of the shelling described above, legitimate military targets were located near civilian targets, the attacks still violated IHL, as they were indiscriminate. It is impossible to imagine a military target that would justify an attack that would cause the kind of destruction that Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and the towns and villages around these regional centers suffered during the day. Thus, while the targets of some of the attacks described in the previous section have not yet been identified, the shelling still violated IHL due to the disproportionate potential military advantage to civilians and civil objects.

Attacks on medical staff and medical facilities

A children's dental clinic was shelled in the center of Chernihiv ¹⁹²⁰ and adjacent buildings. Attacks against medical facilities are violating IHL as long as they are not used as military facilities. It is important that the presence of individual soldiers in a medical institution does not turn such an institution into a military target. Accordingly, the documented case is a war crime.

Use of human shields

Almost from the beginning of the day, information began to appear about attempts to use so-called human shields by the military of the Russian Federation. It was about covering up a military attack with buses carrying civilians, who were allegedly to be evacuated from a place where active hostilities were taking place.

The ban on the use of human shields is expressly prohibited by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol I and customary international law. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court calls for the use of civilians to cover up hostilities. It does not matter whether the civilians volunteered to be near the military or the military facility. What matters is the very fact that civilians are used as a protection from a potential attack on the military, military vehicles, and other military facilities.

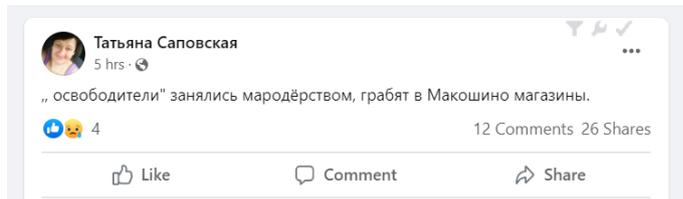
If the preliminary information from Bucha, Kyiv region, and Kherson is confirmed, the use of civilians by the armed forces of the Russian Federation should be considered a war crime.

Private property capture

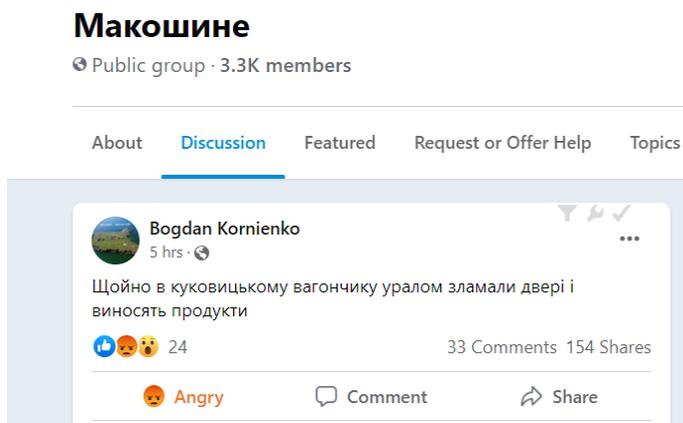
¹⁹ "No title", Facebook, 27.02.22 at 20:24, available at:
https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=65980831189181&id=100035879568019

²⁰ "No title", Facebook, 27.02.22, available at:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=5051073621581515&id=100000367826172&sfnsn=mo

On February 27th, 2022, at 10:10 – 10:35 Russian military robbed a grocery store in the center of Makoshyne village, Mena district, Chernihiv region.^{21 22 23}.

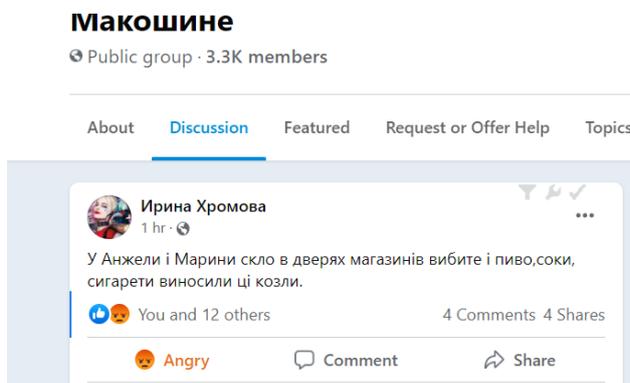


Screenshot with information about the robbery 27.02.2022



Screenshot with information about the robbery 27.02.2022

As at 14:52 Russian military robbed two more shops²⁴.



Screenshot with information about the robbery 27.02.2022

²¹ Скріншот, [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1086337852099131&id=100021687781683), дата публікації: 10:10 27.02.22, пряме посилання: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1086337852099131&id=100021687781683

²² Скріншот, [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), дата публікації: 10:35 27.02.22, пряме посилання: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329361167218393/posts/2220131278141373/>

²³ Witness evidence: вихідець з с. Макошине Корнієнко Богдан

²⁴ Скріншот, [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), дата публікації: 14:52 27.02.22, пряме посилання: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329361167218393/permalink/2220266691461165/>

A common rule about respect to private property in case of an armed conflict provides a ban for capturing of private property. This ban among other is enshrined in the Hague Convention of 1907. However, it isn't absolute. The Hague Convention and customary IHL allows capture of private property when military necessity requires this. Therewith it is expected that the value of the seized property will be compensated to the rightful owner. In earlier described cases captured property can be theoretically considered as such, that was necessary for successful military operation conducting by a side of the conflict. However, today there is no reason to think that seized property will be compensated. Property capture had the form of a robbery, not an organized seizure, because it was chaotic and unaccounted. Accordingly, we can talk about IHL violation about inadmissibility of private property seizure and perhaps war crime committing.