



## Truth Hounds' Sixth Analytical Report, covering 1 March.

*An analysis of evidence of war crimes during the seventh day of Russia's invasion.*

### Disclaimers

Truth Hounds have been documenting international crimes committed by all actors during the armed conflict in and occupation of parts of Ukraine's territory since 2014. We have made submissions to the International Criminal Court and provided analytical reports to national investigative authorities, including the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

Our team has continued documenting war crimes during the current large-scale wave of aggression. Truth Hounds documenters are currently working in several cities affected by the invasion, across central, northern, eastern, and southern Ukraine. We also maintain a wide network of informers on the ground, including relatives and friends, who provide the latest up-to-date information.

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 We do not publish the exact addresses or detailed locations of the attacks, as hostilities in many such places remain ongoing and precise locations may be utilised to gain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

### Executive summary

On 1 March, Russia's armed forces waged active hostilities and carried out dense and heavy shelling, inflicting excessive damage and suffering on the civilian population of Ukraine in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Luhansk Oblasts. During the fighting on this day, the Russians committed a number of serious war crimes. The types of crimes committed can be divided into the following categories: **(1) Attacks on civilians and civilian objects; and (2) perfidy.**

#### *Attacks on civilians and civilian objects*

During the reporting period, Truth Hounds documenters reviewing evidence from open sources were able to record both targeted attacks on civilians and shelling and bombing of civilian buildings and infrastructure.

In Kharkiv, Russian troops launched a missile strike on Freedom Square. According to preliminary information, the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, the Opera House, the Philharmonic Hall and part of the local residential area (mostly four to five-storey residential buildings) were hit. Two Karazin Kharkiv National University buildings were damaged. Subsequently, the State Emergency Service of Kharkiv region reported that, as a result of the shelling of the building of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, seven people were killed and 24 injured, of which 11 were hospitalised (including one child). According to preliminary data, the Russians used high-precision weapons for the attack, specifically 3M54-1 Kalibr cruise missiles.

In Kherson, Russian troops entered the city and street fighting began. The bodies of both civilians and territorial defence fighters lay in the open. The attack was supported by shelling of civilian infrastructure. Indeed, at 10:53 EET (UTC+2) on 1 March, in Kherson, shells hit two nine-story apartment blocks, resulting in destroyed apartments on the second and third floors; a fire broke out in one of the buildings. As a result of



the shelling, approximately four people were injured. Most likely, the shelling was carried out using a Grad multiple-launch rocket system (MLRS).

### *Perfidy*

On 28 February, it was reported that in the town of Nyzy Russian vehicles were moving with a white flag raised and shooting at civilians. As is well known, international humanitarian law (IHL) prohibits actions aimed at forcing an adversary to believe that they are obliged to provide protection under international law (for example, using a white flag) in order to deceive them. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that the purpose of perfidy may be not only the killing or wounding of combatants, but also civilians. Thus, the use of the white flag to come closer to the civilians and to inspire trust so as to further injure or kill civilians should be considered a war crime.

### **Introduction**

As in the previous day's report, Truth Hounds will not distinguish between deliberate attacks on civilian objects and indiscriminate attacks that cause excessive civilian casualties and destruction of civilian objects, due to changes in Russia's methods of armed conflict and the intensification of artillery shelling. The nature of the attacks and their proportionality will be clarified and determined later. The report will therefore record only the facts of strikes on civilian objects, without further qualification. However, it is important to emphasise that compared to the previous day, there is more reason to believe that the attacks on civilian objects were intentional. This remark is primarily related to the cases of repeated shell hits in specific areas of Ukrainian cities, as well as the use of artillery fire for prolonged periods against areas with dense civilian buildings.

As in the previous report, the warnings described above regarding the accuracy of the circumstances of the attacks also apply to the type of weapons used. Without direct access to the shelling sites, it is sometimes difficult to establish beyond a reasonable doubt the type of weapon used to attack civilian targets. Such points will be clarified once access to impact sites becomes possible or after additional consultations with military experts.

### Attacks on civilians and civilian objects

At around 12:00 in Kherson, the occupiers fired at Masany District<sup>1</sup> from a Smerch MLRS using cluster munitions, as well as at an avenue exiting the city of Chernihiv in the direction of Belarus.<sup>2 3</sup>



*A fragment of a Smerch MLRS rocket beneath the windows of a residential building, Chernihiv, 01.03.2022.*

At 08:00, on 1 March, Russian troops launched a missile strike on Freedom Square in Kharkiv. According to preliminary information, the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, the Opera House, the Philharmonic Hall, and part of the local residential area (mostly four to five-storey residential buildings) were hit.<sup>4</sup> Two Karazin Kharkiv National University buildings were damaged.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, the State Emergency Service (SES) of Kharkiv Oblast reported that, as a result of the shelling of the Kharkiv Regional State

<sup>1</sup> "Occupiers shell houses in Kherson", 01.03.22 at 11:16, available at: [https://t.me/nexta\\_live/18800](https://t.me/nexta_live/18800).

<sup>2</sup> "Plainly visible: another war crime of the Russians", Chernihiv Regional State Administration, 01.03.2022 at 20:46, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/100064801354213/posts/326722616164448/?sfnsn=mo>.

<sup>3</sup> "Residential areas of Chernihiv under fire", Chernihiv City Website, 01.03.2022, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=3001092576819544>.

<sup>4</sup> "No title", SES of Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 09:17, available at: [https://t.me/dsns\\_telegram/4063](https://t.me/dsns_telegram/4063).

<sup>5</sup> "Kharkiv National University suffered from shelling", Kharkiv Today, 01.03.2022, 17:22, available at: <https://2day.kh.ua/kharkow/ot-obstrelov-postradal-kharkovskiy-nacionalnyy-universitet>.

Administration building, seven people were killed and 24 injured, of which 11 were hospitalised (including one child).<sup>6</sup>

At the same time, advisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs Anton Herashchenko, reported on his Telegram channel that the strike was carried out with Kalibr-class cruise missiles.<sup>7</sup> The message stated that after the arrival of rescuers, six to seven minutes following the first strike, there was a second strike by a missile of the same class. This information was later confirmed by the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration.<sup>8</sup> According to the available information, there were two hits on the building of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, as a result of which most of the building, including the head's office, was destroyed. The number of dead and wounded is still being counted. As such there is no definitive tally in terms of casualties. At the time of the explosions, territorial defence, soldiers, and volunteers were in the building.

Investigative journalists from Bellingcat conducted their own investigation into the circumstances of the missile strike on Kharkiv's Freedom Square and concluded that Russian forces used a 3M54-1 Kalibr cruise missile. Experts also noted that there are no such weapons in Ukraine. For the reference: 3M54-1 Kalibr is a Russian cruise missile, also known as a Klub. It is estimated that the range of the missile is around 1500-2500 km and it has become the main weapon in ground strikes by the Russian Navy.<sup>9</sup>



*The moment of the explosion caused by the air strike on Freedom Square, Kharkiv, 01.03.2022.*

<sup>6</sup> "No title", SES of Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 14:12, available at: [https://t.me/dsns\\_telegram/4087](https://t.me/dsns_telegram/4087).

<sup>7</sup> "No title", Pravda\_Gerashchenko, 01.03.2022, 12:50, available at: [https://t.me/Pravda\\_Gerashchenko/1131](https://t.me/Pravda_Gerashchenko/1131).

<sup>8</sup> "No title", Public Kharkiv, 01.03.2022, 14:53, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8397>.

<sup>9</sup> "Bellingcat identified missile that Russia used to strike on Kharkiv", Defense Blog, 02.03.2022, available at: [https://defence-blog.com/bellingcat-identified-missile-that-russia-used-to-strike-on-kharkiv/?fbclid=IwAR38lYvb8584Yyo-OK2sjrEISVGvtavp\\_8qw40\\_Y8jAsgV5WhSkAMj8p6PU](https://defence-blog.com/bellingcat-identified-missile-that-russia-used-to-strike-on-kharkiv/?fbclid=IwAR38lYvb8584Yyo-OK2sjrEISVGvtavp_8qw40_Y8jAsgV5WhSkAMj8p6PU).



*Consequences of the air strike on Kharkiv's Freedom Square on 01.03.2022.*



*A Russian 3M54-1 Kalibr-class cruise missile, the same kind which likely struck Kharkiv's Freedom Square on 01.03.2022.*

At around 13:20, Russian armed forces struck a five-storey building in the city's Novobavarskyi District. As a result of the attack, according to preliminary data, seven people were killed and around 10 were injured, while 7 cars were damaged, of which 1 burnt out entirely.<sup>10</sup> At time of writing, the actual number of dead and injured is still being determined. In total, three strikes were made, one of which hit a residential building, causing its partial destruction, while the other struck the Kharkiv Lifting Transportation Equipment Plant, the buildings of which were also damaged.<sup>11</sup>



*The location where the projectile hit during the artillery shelling of Novobavarskyi District in Kharkiv, 01.03.2022.*

Throughout the day, starting at 06:00, Russian troops attacked residential areas of Kharkiv. Residents of Saltivka (in the north of the city) and Kholodna Hora Districts suffered most. The SES and residents of these districts recorded about ten cases of fire ignition<sup>12</sup> and destruction<sup>13</sup> due to artillery shelling.

At around 06:00, an apartment building in the city's Shevchenkivskyi District was shelled. Video from the site of the shelling shows significant damage to dozens of apartments in the building.<sup>14 15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> "No title", SES of Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 14:12, available at: [https://t.me/dsns\\_telegram/4087](https://t.me/dsns_telegram/4087).

<sup>11</sup> "No title", Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office, 01.03.2022, 16:43, available at: [https://t.me/prokuratura\\_kharkiv/2945](https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/2945).

<sup>12</sup> "No title", TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine , 01.03.2022, 12:32, available at <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26791>.

<sup>13</sup> "No title", TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 07:31, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26544>.

<sup>14</sup> "No title", TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 06:22, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26467>.

<sup>15</sup> "No title", TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 06:55, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26501?single>.

Single shell strikes were recorded in residential areas in southwestern areas of the city,<sup>16</sup> as well as in the private sector,<sup>17</sup> and the cooperative garage.<sup>18</sup> Significant destruction of housing, utility buildings, and property, including cars, was recorded everywhere.<sup>19</sup> There is currently no information concerning civilian victims. In total, according to the SES, throughout the day from 1 to 2 March, 58 fire incidents were recorded as a result of air strikes and artillery shelling. In addition, rescuers made 21 trips to help the population and eliminate consequences of enemy shelling other than fires.<sup>20</sup> There is currently no information about the victims (except for those described above).



*Consequences of artillery shelling, Saltivka, Kharkiv, 01.03.2022.*

<sup>16</sup> “No title”, TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 00:11, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26389>.

<sup>17</sup> “No title”, TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 08:26, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26583>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26660>.

<sup>19</sup> “No title”, TRUKHA ⚡ Kharkiv + Ukraine, 01.03.2022, 09:57, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26666>.

<sup>20</sup> “No title”, Public Kharkiv, 01.03.2022, 08:01, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8459>.



*Consequences of artillery shelling in Kholodna Hora, Kharkiv, 01.03.2022.*

In addition, according to the police, during an air attack on residential areas of Kharkiv by Russian troops on 1 March, one shell hit a children's playground. According to the police, there are no military facilities near to the site of the explosion, only a playground surrounded by high-rise buildings. The blast damaged building facades and nearby cars. No one was injured or killed.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> "No title", Public Kharkiv, 02.03.2022, 20:28, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8559>.



*The location where the missile hit the nursery school playground area, Kharkiv, 01.03.2022.*

Information on the death of Maryna Fenina - a local member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine - on 1 March, during shelling in Kharkiv, was also confirmed. The OSCE has already confirmed the fact of its employee's death.<sup>22</sup> On 1 March, Mariupol City Council reported shelling of the northeastern area of the city. Several homes and a school were reported damaged. Residential buildings on the city's Left Bank and the adjacent residential area were also damaged. The number of victims remains unspecified, but tentative estimates suggest around one person killed and three injured.<sup>23</sup> The attack was carried out by 9M79 Tochka tactical missiles.

<sup>22</sup> "OSCE mourns death of National Mission Member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine", OSCE, 02.03.22, available at: [https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/513280?fbclid=IwAR3YPHK\\_gC9T2hsfMO4zbC08L5BUNLACI1psgu2ZXLe93QWUqp5JFRkzq74](https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/513280?fbclid=IwAR3YPHK_gC9T2hsfMO4zbC08L5BUNLACI1psgu2ZXLe93QWUqp5JFRkzq74).

<sup>23</sup> Mariupol City Council, Telegram, 01.03.22, available at: <https://t.me/mariupolrada/8660>.



*Photo of a rocket used during the shelling of a residential area, Mariupol.*

Human Rights Watch reported that the same tactical missiles equipped with cluster warheads were fired at the Central Hospital in Vuhledar on 24 February. Four people were killed and ten were injured in the shelling (six of them paramedics), while the hospital building was damaged, as were several civilian cars and an ambulance.<sup>24</sup>

Pavlo Kyrilenko, the head of Donetsk Regional Civil–Military Administration, reporting on the situation in Volnovakha, noted that the Russian Armed Forces have not allowed the civilian population to be evacuated from the city through the humanitarian “green corridor”.<sup>25</sup>

Serhiy Haidai, the head of Luhansk Regional State Administration, said that on the night of 28 February - 1 March, the home of a mother and child were shelled (causing no casualties) during the shelling of Severodonetsk.<sup>26</sup> During his daily evening address, he emphasised that the shelling of Severodonetsk continued, while access to the Hirske was still limited, with fires ongoing. During his address, the shelling of

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<sup>24</sup> Ukraine: Russian cluster munition hits hospital, Human Rights Watch, 1.03.22, at 8:12, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/ru/news/2022/03/01/381265>.

<sup>25</sup> Pavlo Kirilenko, Facebook, 01.03.22, at 17:49, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pavlokyrylenko.donoda/posts/497029011979658%D0%BC>.

<sup>26</sup> The regional orphanage in Severodonetsk was shelled. Without casualties. All children and staff evacuated earlier, Facebook, 01.03.22, at 10:01, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293022339586199>.



the village of Svatove began.<sup>27</sup> He also stated that the shelling of settlements of the Hirske community was conducted by Grad and Smerch MLRS.<sup>28</sup>

In Kherson Oblast, on 1 March, there were active battles ongoing, with many civilian infrastructure objects receiving some form of damage. Much as it has previously during this war, Russia's army conducted chaotic artillery shelling of civilian buildings. Most of these attacks are difficult to accurately describe and qualify without having been eyewitnesses to the events. Fights were also conducted in the city of Kherson using small arms and light armoured vehicles. As a result of fighting in the city, dozens were killed, but without having been an eyewitness on the scene, it is impossible to determine which of these deaths can be classified as war crimes and which are not, given that many battles were fought between Russian armed forces and Ukrainian territorial defence forces. The latter are often difficult to distinguish from civilians.

At 10:53, on 1 March, shelling attacks struck two nine-storey apartment blocks in Kherson, destroying apartments on the second and third floors and causing a fire in one of the buildings. As a result of the shelling, approximately four people were injured. Most likely, the shelling was carried out using a Grad MLRS.

At 11:09, a two-storey apartment building in the city was hit. At 13:07, there was a strike on the local school. At 14:00, a strike on the FACTORY shopping centre building.<sup>29</sup>

In the village of Daryivka, Kherson Oblast a car carrying civilians was shot at on the road.<sup>30</sup>

Shelling of civilians continues in Kyiv Oblast. On the day preceding the events described in the current report, 28 February 28, a shell hit the Adonis private maternity hospital, located in the village of Buzova, Bucha District, Kyiv Oblast. This was reported at 09:24. As a result, the staff and patients of the institution needed to be evacuated. Late in the evening, the same day, Adonis CEO Vitaliy Hyrin said that no individuals were injured. The next day, 1 March, two shells once again struck the same hospital. At the time of the first shelling, patients were present inside the hospital. At the time of the second shelling, there was only one guard. There were no military bases or units present either on the first or second days.

In the urban settlement of Borodyanka, Kyiv Oblast, targeted shelling of civilians continues. On 1 March, between roughly 16:00 and 16:10, as a result of an airborne missile attack, three apartment buildings were destroyed; two nine-storey and one five-storey. The entire entrance of the five-storey building was destroyed. In this case, where high-precision weapons directly controlled by humans were used, we can confidently speak of a direct attack on the civilian population. There were no reports of casualties and many locals were in shelters at the time of the attack.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Serhiy Haidai, Facebook, 01.03.22, at 17:28, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=647611016458660>.

<sup>28</sup> Luhansk Regional State Administration, Facebook, 01.03.22, at 9:09 a.m., available at: <https://www.facebook.com/odalug/posts/325408039630934>.

<sup>29</sup> Operational information on Kherson Oblast, as of 14:00, available at: <https://khoda.gov.ua/operativna-%D1%96nformac%D1%96ja-po-hersonshhin%D1%96-stanom-na-14%3A00>.

<sup>30</sup> Telegram, 01.03.22, at 13:18, available at: <https://t.me/hueviyherson/9613>.

<sup>31</sup> Yaroslav Dobrianskyi, Facebook, 01.03.22, at 4:40 p.m., available at: [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=2299424623556657&id=100004674252510](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2299424623556657&id=100004674252510).



*Consequences of the air strike in Borodyanka, Kyiv Oblast, 01.03.2022.*

On 1 March, it became known that an air strike on the village of Kalynivka, Fastiv District, Kyiv Oblast had taken place on 28 February. The exact time of the strike is currently unknown. Official information from the SES states the time as 19:00, though the photo shows daylight, indicating that the attack occurred earlier. It is also impossible to determine from the photo the type of weapon used in the attack, but, as a result of the explosion, a nearby house was blown up, tearing the body of the house's owner to pieces. The fate of her husband is unknown.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> SES of Ukraine, 01.03.22, at 4:40 p.m., available at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MNS.GOV.UA/posts/324008083100421>.



*The crater left by the air strike which tore the woman apart and completely destroyed her house. The fate of the deceased's husband is unknown. Kalynivka, Kyiv Oblast, 28.03.2022.*

On 1 March, around 17:00 to 17:10, a rocket fired by Russian forces hit a TV tower in Kyiv. A few minutes later, a second impacted nearby. The tower is located 500 metres from residential buildings and the Dorohozhychi Metro Station. The Babyn Yar memorial complex is located between the tower and the houses and was also hit by a Russian missile. As a result of the shelling, five civilians were killed, five were injured, and the broadcasting of several TV channels was temporarily suspended.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> "The occupiers fired rockets at Kyiv again: photos and videos," Apostrophe Kyiv. 01.03.2022 at 5:44 p.m., available at: <https://apostrophe.ua/ua/news/kyiv/podii/2022-03-01/okkupantyi-snova-udarili-raketami-po-kievu-foto-i-video/261018>.



*One of the strikes near the TV tower, Kyiv, 01.03.2022.*

In Kyiv Oblast, on the way from the village of Kukhari, Vyshhorod District, Kyiv Oblast, Russian armed forces shot dead those travelling in a private car transporting a wounded civilian to the hospital. As a result of the attack, a doctor (the owner of the car) died. This was announced by the Ukrainian Minister of Health at 22:48, on 1 March.<sup>34</sup>

In the town of Trostyanets, Okhtyrka District, Sumy Oblast, a shell struck a private house on 1 March. There is currently no information on the victims.<sup>35</sup> With the data available, it is impossible to verify the type of weapons used.

Around 22:16 on 1 March, a residential area of Bohunia, in Zhytomyr, was hit by an airstrike. The target of the strike was a unit of the 95th Mechanised Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, stationed in the area, that was without military personnel or military equipment.

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<sup>34</sup>Victor Lyashko, Facebook, 01.03.2022 at 17:44, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/viktor.liashko/posts/2572260516239390>.

<sup>35</sup>No title, Public Sumy, 01.03.2022 at 19:42, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnesumy/2827>.



As a result of the airstrike, 10 private houses were damaged and three caught fire, as did two medical institutions (including a maternity hospital) and three shops.<sup>36</sup> As a result of the shelling, three civilians were killed, 16 were injured, and 12 people (six adults and six children) were pulled from the rubble.

### **Perfidy**

On 28 February, it was reported that in the town of Nyzy, Russian vehicles were moving with a white flag raised, shooting at civilians.<sup>37</sup> As is well known, IHL prohibits actions aimed at forcing an adversary to believe that they are obliged to provide protection under international law (for example, using a white flag) in order to deceive them. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that the purpose of perfidy may be not only the killing or wounding of combatants, but also civilians. Thus, the use of a white flag to come closer to the civilians and to inspire their trust so as to further injure or kill civilians should be considered a war crime.

### **In lieu of conclusions**

In the first six days of the conflict, certain patterns of behaviour began to emerge in the actions of the armed forces. Indeed, the armed forces of the Russian Federation seem to be concentrating artillery and air shelling on areas with dense civilian buildings and other non-military facilities. Although it is not yet possible to determine exactly whether military targets were located near to the affected civilians, the continuing shelling, aside from the obvious significant damage to civilian infrastructure, may indicate that the attacks were intended to target civilian targets. In addition, facilities under special protection continue to suffer from attacks by the Russian Federation, including hospitals, maternity hospitals, and other buildings intended for medical purposes. Attacks on other types of objects under special protection according to IHL, such as those of cultural value, were also recorded.

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

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<sup>36</sup> Житомир, 7 днів війни, <https://zt-rada.gov.ua/?pages=15573> (офіційний сайт житомирської міської ради), 03.03.22.

<sup>37</sup>No title: Public Sumy, 01.03.2022 at 11:18, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnesumy/2800>.