



A Truth Hounds Analytical Report for 7 to 9 March 2022

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 Ukraine's territory since 2014. During this period 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 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 We do not publish the exact addresses or locations of the attacks, as hostilities in many such places remain ongoing and precise locations may be utilised to gain military advantage.

Executive summary

During the reporting period, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continued to carry out attacks that resulted in deaths of and injuries to civilians and the destruction of civilian objects. Widespread destruction of residential neighborhoods, the destruction of specially protected objects, numerous cases of repeated artillery strikes on the same civilian objects, use of indiscriminate weapons in urban environments, and the Russian Armed Forces' unchanging conduct in spite of such significant destruction and death suggests that there are reasonable grounds to conclude that they are intentionally targeting civilian objects. During the reporting period, the Russian military committed a number of serious war crimes. The crimes committed can be divided into the following categories: **(1) attacks on civilians and civilian objects and (2) intentional obstruction of access to humanitarian relief, as provided for in the Geneva Conventions.**

Attacks on civilians and civilian objects

Attacks on civilians. On the morning of 8 March, unknown individuals found the dead body of a man lying near to a car on the curb of a highway close to Kharkiv's Cemetery № 17.¹ There were numerous bullet holes in the windshield of the car, all in the area of the driver's seat. The circumstances of the case are being established. It is known that the route towards Tsukurine, where the incident took place, has been shelled by the Russian military.

¹ No title, ТРУХА ⚡ Харьков + Украина, 08.03.2022 at 18:20, available at: <https://t.me/truexanewsua/30995>.



Screenshot from a video showing the bullet-ridden car and the body of a man, Kharkiv, 08.03.22.

In Kyiv Oblast, on 8 March, servicemen of the Russian Army fired from a tank at a car carrying two people near the village of Shevchenkove, Brovary Raion. The people inside were killed. The same day, in Kozarovich, Kyiv Oblast, the Russian military used firearms against the local civilian population and wounded two people.² On 8 March, there were multiple reports of civilians being shot dead by Russian soldiers. However, even where such incidents have been officially confirmed, we are not always able to publish them in our reports, as police are unable to go to the scene to confirm the facts due to heavy fighting.

Attacks on civilian objects (including those under special protection). The Main Directorate of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kharkiv Oblast reports that on the night of 6-7 March, at least eight people were killed and apartment buildings were damaged or destroyed - as administrative buildings, medical facilities, educational institutions, and dormitories - as a result of Russian airstrikes.³ Mass bombing began at 19:15 EET (UTC+2), the regional State Emergency Service said. About 300 rescuers received more than 60 calls to put out fires and clear debris. Due to the bombing, large-scale fires damaged 21 buildings in the central part of the city. The next day, occupying forces continued to carry out artillery and rocket attacks and airstrikes on residential areas of Kharkiv. The regional defence headquarters recorded the shelling of residential buildings in Oleksiyivka, Pivnichna, Yuzhna Saltivka, Pyatihatki, the area of the Kharkiv Tractor Plant, Kholodna Gora, the airport, and Bilhorodske Shosse. The Barabashovo and Pershiy Kilometr markets also came under attack.⁴ The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation also raided the settlements of Chuguiv, Izyum, and Dergachi.⁵ On the evening of 8 March, the head of the Kharkiv National Police reported 27 deaths as a result of shelling during the day.⁶

² No title, Telegram, Офіс Генерального прокурора, 09.03.2022 at 17:03, available at: https://t.me/pgg_gov_ua/3103.

³ No title, Facebook, Головне управління ДСНС України у Харківській області, 07.03.2022 at 07:00, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/100064785063952/posts/329602642542569/>.

⁴ No title, Суспільне Харків, 07.03.2022 at 00:39, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8926>.

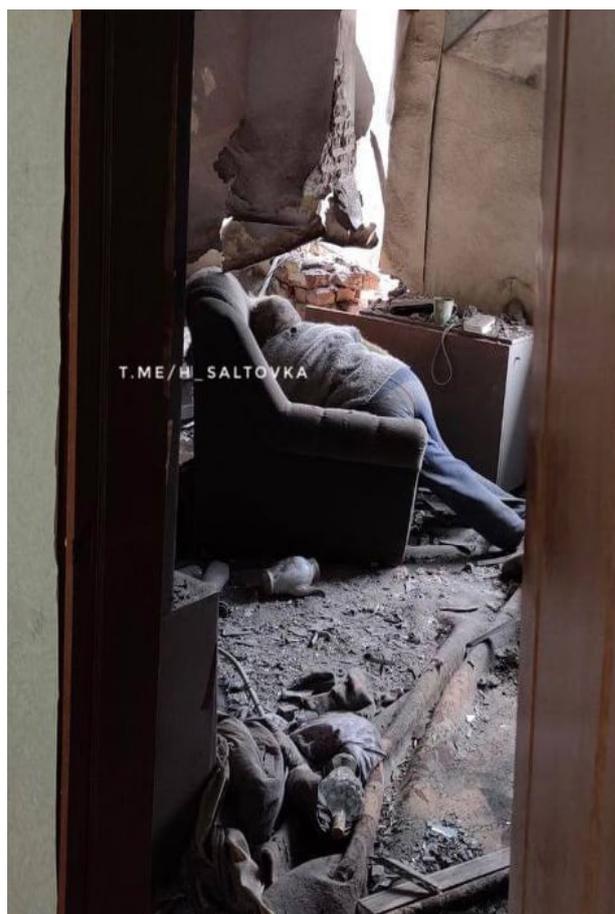
⁵ No title, Суспільне Харків, 08.03.2022 at 09:02, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/9028>.

⁶ 08.03. 23:20 <https://t.me/c/1347456995/40200>.

Two people, including a seven-year-old child, died as a result of an airstrike on a residential building in Donets, Chuhuiv Raion. Another person who sustained injuries was rescued from the debris.⁷ On 7 March, Vyacheslav Zadorenko, head of the Dergachi Territorial Community, said that Russian forces were shelling the town and other settlements. The attack killed at least three people and injured 15, including a four-year-old child.⁸

The director of Kharkiv's "Feldman" private zoo reported the deaths of two employees.⁹ According to Oleksiy Kostyuchenko, a spokesman for the zoo, two employees - a driver and a boiler room worker - were killed when they arrived to take care of the animals.

In Chuhuiv Raion, Kharkiv Oblast, a shell hit a residential building. One adult and a seven-year-old child were killed, according to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.¹⁰



Shelling of Oleksiyivka Raion, Kharkiv, 07.03.22.

⁷ Росія нанесла авіаударів по селищу Донець на Харківщині: загинула дитина, Суспільне новини, 08.03.2022 at 22:07, available at: <https://suspilne.media/215352-rosia-nanesla-aviaudariv-po-selisu-donec-na-harkivsini-zaginula-ditina/>.

⁸ No title, Суспільне Харків, 07.03.2022 at 21:09, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/9008>.

⁹ No title, Фельдман Экопарк, 08.03.2022, available at: https://www.instagram.com/tv/Ca158LQKKzn/?utm_medium=copy_link.

¹⁰ No title, Харьков Live, 09.03.2022 at 07:19, available at: <https://t.me/livekharkov/29600>.



Destruction in Oleksiyivka Raion caused by shelling of Kharkiv on 7 March 2022.



Consequences of an airstrike on Donets, Kharkiv Oblast, 07.03.22.

On 8 March, around 20:10, Russian troops launched an airstrike on the Korbutivka Microraion and the Izovat plant (Zhytomyr Insulation Materials Plant, IZOVAT TM) in Zhytomyr. As a result of the

strike, a former military dormitory was destroyed and factory buildings were damaged. Four people died,¹¹ while a further four were injured.^{12 13}



A dormitory in Zhytomyr was destroyed as a result of shelling on 8 March 2022.

In Malyn, Zhytomyr Oblast, around 20:50 on 8 March, an airstrike destroyed five private homes, killing six people, including three children, two of whom were born in 2021.¹⁴ On 9 March, Russian troops fired on several residential areas in Zhytomyr and other settlements in Zhytomyr Raion.

In Zhytomyr, after 19:00, as a result of Russian bombing, a private house was destroyed and a nearby petrol station was damaged, as was the Zhytomyrteplokominenerho Boiler House, which provided heat to 30% of the city, and a heating main. Windows in two city hospitals (the children's hospital and Hospital № 1) were shattered. Two Zhytomyr residents were injured.

In Korosten, a rocket attack took place around midnight, damaging the Yupiji Oil Depot, as well as nearby car service stations and surrounding buildings, which caught fire and exploded, killing one person and injuring two others.

¹¹ “Уночі Житомирщина знову потерпала від ударів”, Поліція Житомирської області, Facebook, 09.03.22 at 08:41, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/zhytomyr.police/posts/323488536477134>.

¹² “8 березня о 20:10 авіаудару зазнав гуртожиток”, ДСНС, Telegram, 09.03.22 at 10:17, available at https://t.me/dsns_telegram/4500.

¹³ “Четверо людей залишаються в лікарнях після бомбардування гуртожитка в Житомирі”, Перший Житомирський, 09.03.22, available at <https://1.zt.ua/news/zdorovia/chetvero-lyudej-zalyshayutsya-v-likarnyah-pislya-bombarduvannya-gurtozhytka-v-zhytomyri.html>.

¹⁴ “Оперативна інформація по м. Малин Житомирської області (ОНОВЛЕНО)”, ДСНС, Telegram, 09.03.22 at 14.28, available at https://t.me/dsns_telegram/4518.



A private house in Malyn, Zhytomyr Oblast, damaged by shelling on 8 March 2022.

An airstrike on Makariv Bakery was documented in Makariv, Kyiv Oblast, killing, according to official data, 13 people and injuring five. It is reported that the plant is not in operation, so it is difficult to say with any certainty who the victims were or the reasons for their presence on the facility's grounds or indeed whether there was a legitimate military target in the area.¹⁵

On 7 March, Russian aircraft fired on residential buildings in Sumy. At 23:09, rescuers arrived on the scene to dismantle the destroyed structures of the buildings and put out the fire. An injured woman was rescued and transferred to medics. The bodies of the dead were also retrieved from the debris. As a result of the shelling, 22 people were killed, including three children, and another eight were injured, including one child.¹⁶

On 7 March, Okhtyrka, Sumy Oblast came under continuous shelling, including by airstrike. One person was killed and 14 were injured.¹⁷ However, unfortunately, due to the state of the town and the numerous rounds of shelling that took place in the preceding days, we are no longer able to report with any certainty the consequences of specific attacks. The city is virtually destroyed and it is impossible to separate the impact of individual attacks without access to the location.

According to Serhiy Haidai, head of the Luhansk Regional State Administration, 8 March 2022, was the most horrifying day of the war so far for Severodonetsk. On this day, the city was subjected to three rounds of mass shelling, as a result of which 63 civilian buildings were destroyed or damaged. Shells struck a kindergarten, an ambulance, and more than 50 residential and civilian infrastructure buildings. Ten people were injured and eight were killed. The same day, a school and four residential buildings were damaged during the shelling of Rubizhne. Two civilians were killed.¹⁸

¹⁵ No title, Олексій Кулеба / Київська ОДА, Telegram, 07.03.2022 at 17:47, available at: <https://t.me/kyivoda/1787>

¹⁶ No title, Голова Сумської обласної військової адміністрації Дмитро Живицький, Telegram, 9.03.2022 at 02:51, available at: <https://t.me/Zhyvitskyv/927>

¹⁷ No title, Офіс Генерального прокурора, Telegram, 08.03.2022 at 18.03, available at: https://t.me/pgp_gov_ua/3094

¹⁸ Сергій Гайдай / Луганська ОДА (ОВА), Telegram, 09.03.22 at 08:35, available at: <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/222>.

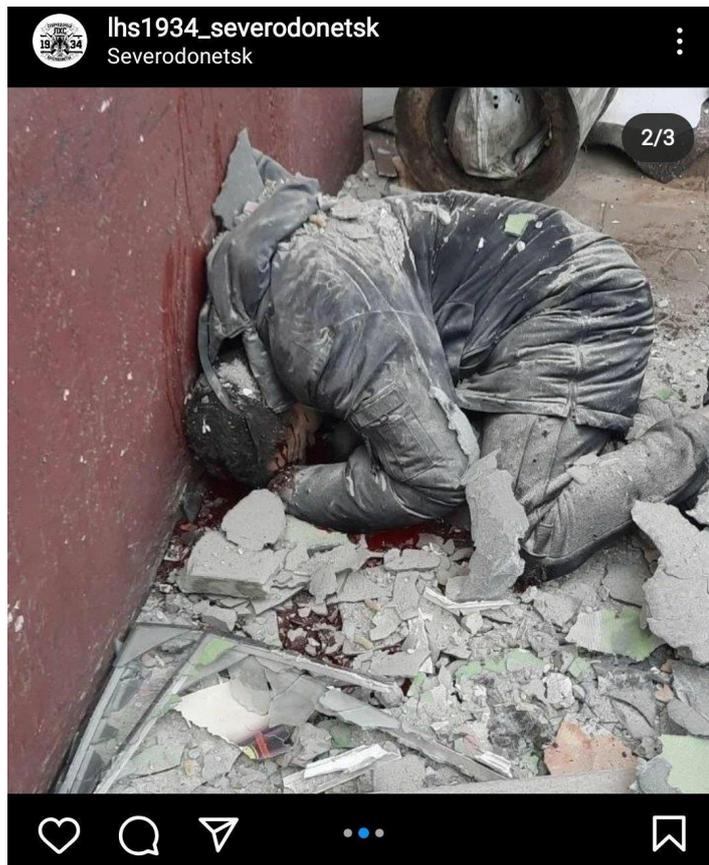
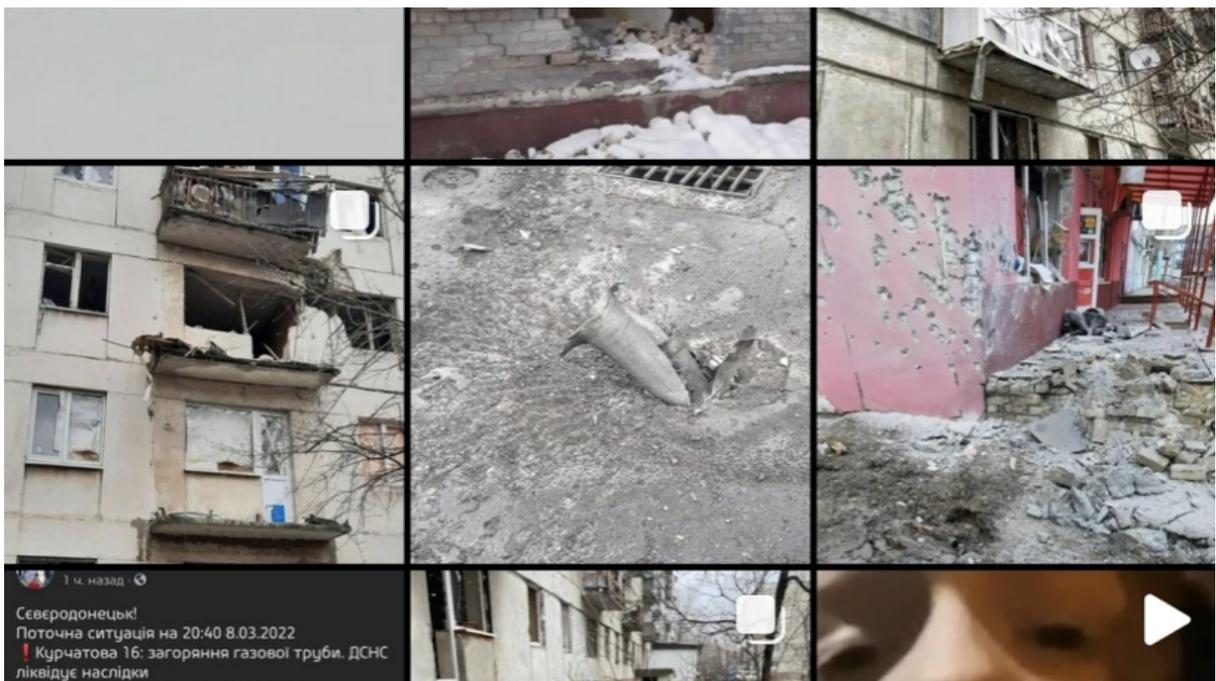


Photo of a person who died in shelling on Severodonetsk on 8 March 2022.

The weapons by which the shelling was carried out have not yet been established, but comments in closed social groups and a closed Instagram account for the city's youth community have indicated that the shelling was carried out by a Grad BM-21. However, one photo shows a fragment of a different type of missile. The question over the weapons used demands further clarification.



Screenshot from the "Sevyrodonetsk" closed youth Instagram group.

Truth Hounds contacts in the occupied area of Luhansk Oblast have suggested that the shelling of Severodonetsk may have been carried out from the temporarily occupied area of Luhansk Oblast as locals reportedly heard the sounds of missiles being fired.

As for the type of weapon used by Russian troops, again, it is not always possible to establish. However, accounting for shell remnants and the nature of the damage, in some cases, cluster munitions appear to have been used (probably Smerch BM-30, see photo below). The nature of the destruction and the testimony of some local witnesses indicate an attack by military aircraft using high-precision missiles or unguided bombs.



A Smerch BM-30 cluster munition, lodged in a private house in Kharkiv, 08.03.22.



An unexploded submunition from a Smerch BM-30 cluster munition, Kharkiv, 08.03.22.

During the aerial bombardment of Mariupol on 9 March, bombs struck a maternity hospital and the children's wing of a hospital.¹⁹ A separate strike hit a building of the Pryazovskyi State Technical University.²⁰ All three facilities are located in the centre of the city. It was reported that 17 individuals—including children, women in labour, and doctors—were injured, while a baby also died.²¹ Media in the so-called “Donetsk People’s Republic” (DNR) and pro-Russian media outlets reported that there were no civilians in the maternity hospital, instead claiming baselessly that members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces were being quartered there.²²



Photo of an injured person being evacuated after aerial bombardment of the Mariupol Maternity Hospital, 09.03.22.

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rockets, missiles, and other munitions have damaged 48 educational institutions, the Kharkiv City Administration has reported.²³

This included the full or partial destruction on 7 and 8 March of a music school, student dormitories, a kindergarten, and the campus of the Kharkiv National University of Civil Engineering and Architecture. Shelling also damaged the “Slovo” Building, a famous Kharkiv monument,²⁴ and the Kharkiv Fine Arts Museum.²⁵

¹⁹ Vyacheslav Abroskin, Facebook, 09.03.22 at 5:57, available at <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2841468042812518&set=a.1393213520971318&type=3>.

²⁰ Павло Кириленко, Facebook, 09.03.22 at 18:38, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pavlokyrylenko.donoda/videos/819333879461496>.

²¹ Мариупольська міська рада, Telegram, 10.03.22 at 09:06, available at: <https://t.me/mariupolrada/8783>.

²² Неофициальный Безсонов, Telegram, 09.03.22 at 18:27, available at: t.me/neoficialniybezsonov/8421.

²³ No title, Харківська міська рада, 07.03.2022 at 09:10, available at: <https://t.me/citykharkivua/3510>.

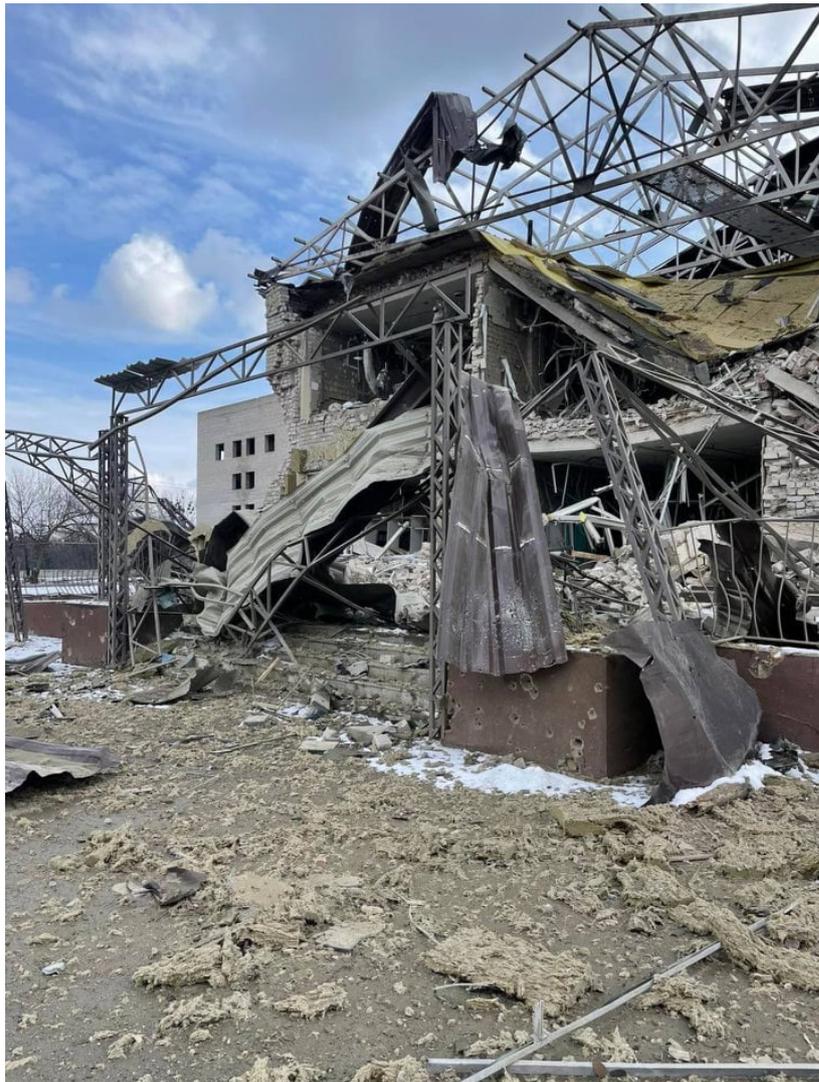
²⁴ No title, Anastasiya Kovalyova, Facebook, 07.03.2022 at 09:28, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/762888149/posts/10159639322873150/>.

²⁵ No title, Суспільне Харків, Telegram, 07.03.2022 at 20:08, available at: <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/9002?single>.



A kindergarten damaged by aerial bombardment, Kharkiv, 07.03.22.



The entrance of a hospital in Izyum following shelling, 08.03.22.



A hospital in Zhytomyr following shelling, 09.03.22.

The deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid, as provided for under the Geneva Conventions.

The city of Mariupol remains under siege, without a humanitarian corridor.²⁶ The Russian Armed Forces have every opportunity at their disposal to create such a humanitarian corridor.²⁷ Ukrainian authorities in Donetsk report that, in addition to a shortage of essential goods, there is a critical shortage of drinking water.²⁸ At least one child has already died from dehydration.²⁹ Under these

²⁶ Тетяна Ігнатченко, Facebook, 07.03.22 at 09:26, available at:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1804363213093253&id=100005587749108.

²⁷ Донецька облдержадміністрація, Youtube, 7.03.22, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJY9dJMa-lg&t=17s>.

²⁸ Антон Геращенко, Facebook, 07.03.22 at 14:21, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/anton.gerashchenko.7/posts/4893999680686840>.

²⁹ Володимир Зеленський, Facebook, 08.03.22 at 11:39, available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/zelenskiy.official/posts/3026468304270192>.

conditions, on 8 March, there was another report of an attack on a humanitarian corridor,³⁰ by which access was denied to aid trucks arriving from Zaporizhzhia.³¹ Later the same day, the Russian Armed Forces attempted to enter Mariupol via the humanitarian “green corridor” through which civilians were supposed to have been allowed to leave the city.³²

At the same time, it was reported that there have been restrictions on the supply of water in the so-called “DNR”. Vitaliy Kizhayev, the head of the “DNR” enterprise “Donbass Water (Вода Донбасса)”, claimed that it was impossible to repair the water supply system due to shelling. Yet, water supplies in the Upper Kalmius Reservoir “are enough for everyone”.³³ It should also be noted that proxy authorities in the so-called “DNR” have not once requested a ceasefire in order to repair the water supply system.

These actions qualify as the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian relief to civilians in need, thereby violating the norm of humanitarian access enshrined in Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocol I and customary international humanitarian law.

³⁰ Операція Об’єднаних Сил, Facebook, 08.03.22 at 11:44, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pressifo.news/posts/326687306153253>.

³¹ Маріупольська міська рада, Telegram, 08.03.22 at 10:56, available at: <https://t.me/mariupolrada/8755>.

³² Операція Об’єднаних Сил, Facebook, 08.03.22 at 18:00, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pressifo.news/videos/692996205389800>.

³³ «Что можно было починить — починили»: В «Воде Донбасса» рассказали, почему у многих дончан нет воды, 07.03.22, available at: <https://www.donetsk.kp.ru/online/news/4656106>.