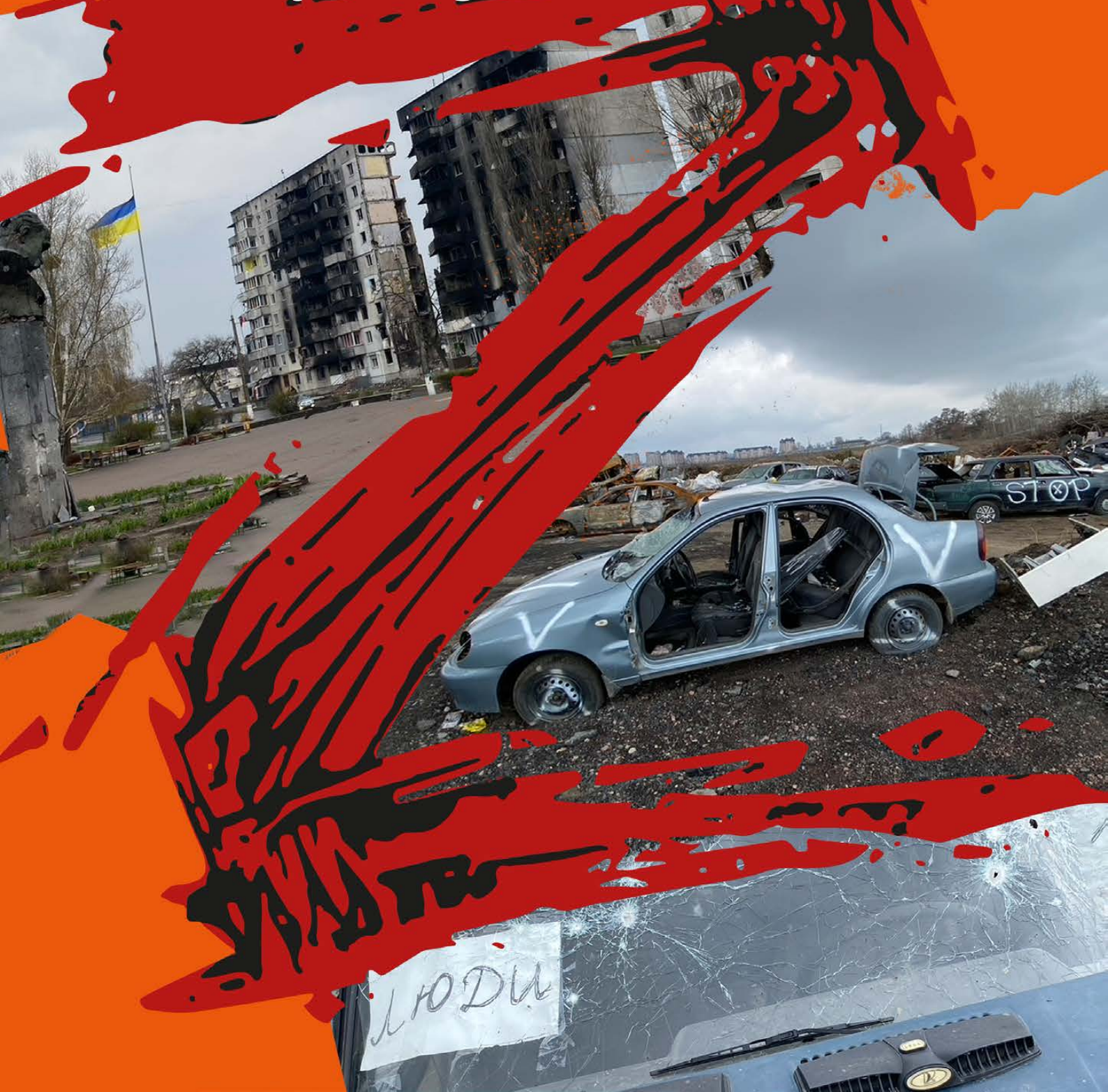




CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP

Documentation of War Crimes Committed After a Full-Scale Russian Invasion of Ukraine in Kyiv region





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DOCUMENTATION OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED AFTER A FULL-SCALE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE IN KYIV REGION

BRIEF REVIEW

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CONTEXT

Due to the launch of the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation (hereinafter — RF) against Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, and hostilities in the territory of Ukraine, civilian objects in numerous settlements of Ukraine have been attacked by artillery and aircraft of the RF Armed Forces that caused fatalities and injuries among the Ukrainian civilians. In addition, part of the territory controlled earlier by the Ukrainian government has been occupied by the RF Armed Forces.

imprisonment and enforced disappearances. The victims of such crimes are representatives of local authorities, veterans of the war with the Russian Federation and Russia-controlled 'DNR' and 'LNR', civilian activists and other persons whom the Russian military could «suspect» of a negative attitude to the Russian occupation, as well as random civilians. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as of April 27, 2022, the number of civilian war victims in Ukraine was 6,009 – 2,829 dead and 3,180 wounded¹. It should be noted that a significant number of dead and wounded are in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine and cannot be considered by international organizations when counting the number of victims.

DOCUMENTATION OF RF WAR CRIMES BY THE CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP IN KYIV REGION

From April 18 to April 22, 2022, the Crimean Human Rights Group went on several field visits to Kyiv Region settlements that were liberated by the Ukrainian Armed Forces from the RF occupation in late March 2022: town of Irpin', town of Bucha, urban-type village of Nemishayeve, villages of Sloboda-Kukhars'ka and Zaruddia of Vyshhorod District — in order to document potential war crimes and crimes against humanity. Considering a widespread scale of the crimes, and that law enforcement agencies are unable to investigate all facts when the war is still going on in Ukraine, using the previous experience in investigating war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in 2014-2015 by the Russian-controlled armed units of so-called "DNR" and "LNR", and given the fact that the Rome Statute of the ICC has not yet been ratified




Photo 1. A civil car of Ukrainian family shot by the Russian army when trying to evacuate from occupied Bucha, Kyiv Region, along a 'green' corridor

Photo by the Crimean Human Rights Group, April 21, 2022

In the occupied territories, the RF armed forces have committed systematic and widespread crimes against civilians, which can be classified as crimes against humanity or war crimes under international law: killings and executions of civilians, rape, torture, illegal

¹ <https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Ukraine%20-%20civilian%20casualty%20update%20as%20of%2024.00%2027%20April%202022%20ENG.pdf>



by Ukraine, the CHRG has aimed for interviewing Russian armed aggression victims, assisting the victims in applying to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, and submitting their evidence to the International Criminal Court and international organizations documenting and / or investigating war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Crimean Human Rights Group has interviewed persons who lost relatives due to attacks on civilian objects or became homeless because of hostilities, and also has taken photos and videos of the civilian objects shelled and destroyed/ damaged: residential buildings, schools and pre-schools — the locations related to the interview subjects .

Shelling and attacking residential buildings and other civilian objects, the Russian Federation violates its international legal obligations under the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, of 8 June 1977, Article 52 which prohibits attacks on civilian objects, and Article 51 which prohibits attacks on civilians.

In addition, the actions of the military and political leadership of the Russian Federation on ordering attacks on civilians and destruction of civilian objects may be qualified by the International Criminal Court as war crimes under Article 8.2. a i), and Article 8.2.a iv), correspondingly.

For instance, the victim — Mrs. **Nataliya Razkevych** — and her husband lived in the urban-type village of Nemishayeve, Kyiv Region, which the armed forces of the Russian Federation had been artillery shelled since March 3. It was that day, March 3, when the shelling of the settlement began while she and her husband were on the territory of Nemishayeve Secondary School №2. Nataliya's husband, Serhiy Hryhorovych Razkevych, was killed by this shelling. No military facility was on

the school grounds. There was a shelter with civilians inside, but the Russian armed forces shelled its territory with artillery.

Mr. **Ruslan Savchuk**, interviewed by CHRG, lived with his mother in the town of Irpin, Kyiv Region. On March 4, 2022, being in his apartment, he heard the sound of operating military equipment and aircraft, followed with explosions. Ruslan and his mother sheltered in the corridor of the apartment, where they stayed until dusk, when the explosions stopped. After the shelling, the apartment window glass was broken, and the balcony of the apartment was destroyed. In addition, the roof of the house above his apartment was destroyed, and a fire broke out in some apartments in the house. The buildings of the State Tax University seen from his window, were damaged during that day's shelling, and swallowed up by flames. The residential area of Irpin' where Ruslan lived, was next to the State Tax University where there were no military facilities, and where none of Ukrainian military was.

Mrs. **Oksana Hutsol**, a resident of Irpin', had to evacuate with her husband and a kid, when a full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation started and its troops approached to the town. During their absence, the apartment building in which they lived was partially destroyed by shelling and fire, while their apartment was completely destroyed.

Mr. **Mykola Tytenko**, a resident of the urban-type village of Nemishayeve, Kyiv Region, was at home on March 11, 2022, in his private house, together with his wife and a friend, when artillery shelling of the village began. When they had sheltered in the basement of the house, one of the shells hit it, but no one was injured. Other buildings of the village were also damaged by that day's shelling.

Ms. **Kateryna Il'chenko** lost her mother, who had lived in the private house in the town of Irpin'. On March 8, 2022, the RF Armed Forces



began artillery shelling of the part of Irpin' where only private houses were located. A shell hit the house where Tatiana Heorhiyivna, Kateryna's mother, lived, and caused the fire. As a result, the house was completely destroyed, and Kateryna's mother was killed. The daughter was able to bury her mother only on April 12, when Irpin' had been liberated from the temporary Russian army occupation.



*Photo 2. A house of Kateryna's mother after the Russian army attack in Irpin', Kyiv Region. Kateryna's mother was killed.
Photo by the Crimean Human Rights Group, April 20, 2022*

CONCLUSIONS:

Thus, the Russian Federation is a state that grossly violates its international legal obligations, in particular, of humanitarian nature. Russia is an aggressor state that destroys international peace and security, violates human rights. The death of dozens of thousands of people has been caused by aggressive, unprovoked attack on Ukraine. The Crimean Human Rights Group and other non-governmental organizations and law enforcement agencies of Ukraine have been collecting the information in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of this crime.

At present, all States as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to the extent of their mandate and capabilities, should contribute to:

1. provide Ukraine with all possible tools so that Ukraine may exercise its right to self-defense under Art. 52 of the UN Charter;
2. maximise economic and political pressure on the Russian Federation in order to force it to cease armed aggression against Ukraine and bear its international legal responsibility;
3. have the crimes of the Russian Federation military and its military and political leadership investigated under universal jurisdiction, and provide the International Criminal Court with all necessary support to consider the case concerning the events in Ukraine;
4. strengthen Ukraine's ability to effectively investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity at the national level;
5. establish and launch special mechanisms (as a special tribunal) to bring the military and political leadership of the Russian Federation to justice for committing the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

ABOUT THE CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

The **CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP** (CHRG) is a public non-profit organization of the Crimean human rights defenders and journalists, aimed at promoting the observance and protection of human rights in Crimea by attracting wide attention to problems of human rights and international humanitarian law in the territory of the Crimean peninsula, and the search for and development of mechanisms for the protection of human rights in Crimea.

CHRG has got an experience in documenting war crimes in the occupied, doing this since 2014, and has been efficiently cooperating for many years with the prosecutor's office in investigating war crimes and reporting this information to the ICC. The CHRG team members have been also properly trained in documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity. After February 24, 2022, the CHRG' team decided to expand the war crimes documenting area to Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Sumy, and Kherson Regions.

CHRG is a member of the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition. **Ukraine 5 AM Coalition** is a coalition of human rights organizations that collect and document war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Russian armed aggression in Ukraine.

If necessary, the Crimean Human Rights Group is also ready to share photos and videos from field monitoring, video interviews with victims, contacts of victims (with consent by the victims).

Please contact us to crimeahrg@gmail.com



Photo 3. CHRG team members during field missions in Irpin', Kyiv Region.

Photo by the Crimean Human Rights Group, April 19, 2022