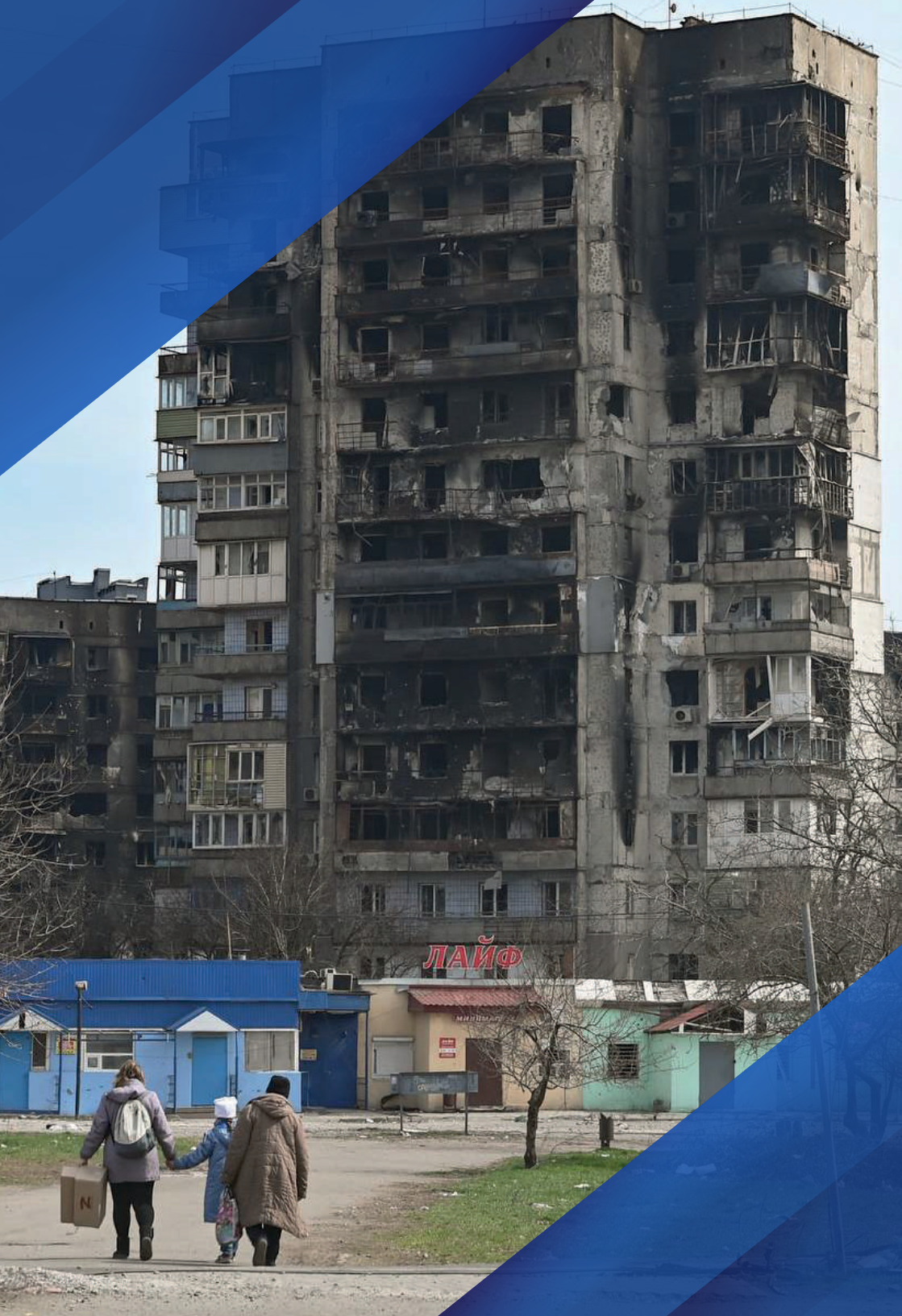




LARGE-SCALE WAR CRIMES OF UKRAINE'S ARMED FORCES AND NAZI GROUPS IN MARIUPOL AND VOLNOVAKHA



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UKRAINIAN WAR CRIMES: INTENTIONAL MURDERS OF CIVILIANS

Back in 1863, the Lieber Code prohibited the killing of civilians. The murder of the civilians has also been included into a list of war crimes in the Charter of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution in Nuremberg.

Customary Article 3 of Geneva Conventions declares, "Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those places 'hors de combat' by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria".

To this end, the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and any place with respect to the above-mentioned persons:

- a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;
- b) taking of hostages.

A murder is also declared to be a war crime in the Charters of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution in Rwanda and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Murder of civilians is prohibited in many Military Charters and Regulations, as well as in the legislation of many states.

Many victims and witnesses claim that the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Nazi groups intentionally killed civilians in Mariupol.



Anton Aleksandrovich Baitrakov, a marine soldier, 501st squadron of Ukraine' Armed Forces:

"We spotted two civilians at one junction. Cherednik, our Chief, says, "Stop, come here...". He opened fire on the ground, and they froze. He didn't like these people, he asked what Palianitsa means. He repeated his question three times to one of them... there was no answer, so he decided he was Russian, and I heard he shot him".



Svetlana Vladimirovna Surma, a resident of Mariupol:

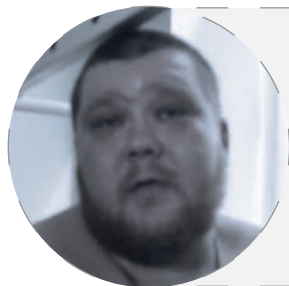
Did you see how the Ukrainian forces or Nazi groups shot people?

We had a sniper on Korolenko street and he shot kids. He targeted kids of three-five years of age. Then he killed their parents. Kids had no arms, no legs. Those snipers came out from the houses, from the lofts. A dark blue bandage, usual camouflage. I used to have some gallery practice, and I saw this scope sight".



Valentina Nikolaevna Borisenko, a resident of Mariupol:

"A woman with two kids lives somewhere near Kramatorskia street 18. Azov fighters occupied their house. She has two kids... underaged... They put a mortar right in her yard. ...Ukrainian soldiers heard the Russian language and said, "We hate Russian-speaking people". He already turned his grenade launcher to my son. My son said, "Kill me, leave my grandson and mum alone".



Mikhail Aleksandrovich Reznik, a resident of Mariupol:

"On 19 March, I decided to visit my father. So I drove to the house and parked my car near the neighboring house. When I cut the motor, I heard spurts of fire. My car was shot, glasses broken. I used passenger's door and quickly left the car, up my hands and shouted, "Don't shoot, civilians". At this moment, I could feel a shot above my knee and a broken thigh bone".



Diana Tsemeda, a resident of Mariupol:

"A young man, a kid and me were crossing the streets. Azov fighters were hiding along Karpinsky street. They started fire without any warning... Thank God they hit me, not the child".

What did they shoot from?

*"Probably, an assault rifle, I don't know... There were spurts of fire...
I have a bullet wound, hip fracture".*



UKRAINIAN WAR CRIMES: THE USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS

Geneva Conferences and Additional Protocols define human shields as the use of the presence (or movements) of civilians or other protected people to render some sites or regions (or armed forces) immune from enemy attacks. The Review of the International Committee of the Red Cross “Customary International Humanitarian Law” states Rule No.97 “The use of human shields is prohibited”.

This Rule is set forth in the Third Geneva Convention (relative to the prisoners of war), Fourth Geneva Convention (relative to the protection of the civilian persons) and Additional Protocol I (relative to the civilian persons on the whole) for the international armed conflicts.

Many military Charters and Regulations prohibit the use of human shields. This ban refers to all civilian persons. The use of human shield is a crime under the legislations of many states.

At the time of international armed conflicts, the use of human shields was and is condemned by the states and the UN, for example, in the conflicts in Liberia, Rwanda, Somali, and Sierra Leone.

The Review of the International Committee of Red Cross “Customary International Humanitarian Law” declares Rule No.96 “It is forbidden to take hostages”. A ban on taking hostages is recognized as one of the key guarantees for the civilians and those out of service in Protocols I and II Additional to Geneva Conferences.

Armed Forces of Ukraine and Nazi units committed these war crimes at any time and any place during war actions in Mariupol.



Svetlana Vladimirovna Surma, a resident of Mariupol:

“We cried, stood on the knees, begged not to place tanks, cannons, and mortars between our houses. They still did it. And then moved to another place. They put our people under fire”.



Tatiana Sergeevna Diler, a resident of Mariupol:

"Ukrainian military men came and started to place their machines in our area, including in school and near it. Then, fire started. I could hear the tanks, the house, windows were shaking. I was scared, I was hiding in a bathroom. I stayed there for three days. I hid my kid there – a 7-month old. A tank came to our yard, it fired. They (Ukrainian soldiers) planted bombs in the school... School No. 55, my daughter studied there. It is next to my house".



Taisiia Dmitrievna Norka, a resident of Mariupol:

"We lived on Zelenskaia street, house 17A, in Mariupol. Ukrainian military men occupied the surrounding area. They surrounded our house, if I may say so. Mortar fire was so strong that our walls were shaking... and there was fire... very close. We had an impression they were next to our house. They hid behind our backs... the backs of kids and elderly... and fired. The movies couldn't even show so much fire".



Ivan Alekseevich Puliakh, a resident of Volnovakha:

"Ukrainian military men, when the building was burnt, they forced people from a 14-floor building to move to us from that basement. They didn't let people go out, I know that for sure... When the building was on fire, they didn't let them out".





Igor Valerevich Parkhomenko, a resident of Volnovakha:

"About fifteen people – area defense, I believe. We had about 20 meters apart. He waved at me... come here, I understand they are not friends... And I shook my head saying "No". And he roughly fired at me... the bullet missed my head..."



Denis Vladimirovich Fomenko, a resident of Mariupol:

What do you know about the Ukrainian snipers?

"If the Ukrainian snipers spot some movements under water... they work to defeat. There are dead bodies everywhere, no one cares and takes them away... They kill civilians. Pervomaiskaia street"



Igor Vasilevich Nagorny, a resident of Volnovakha:

Have you seen the Ukrainian military hardware?

"I saw when they arrived and fired with mortars. In all districts of the city"

Why do you think they did this, and why did they place their hardware in residential areas?

"The answer is clear. To fire by hiding behind us. We were hostages..."



UKRAINIAN WAR CRIMES: ATTACKS AT HOSPITALS AND CIVILIAN BUILDINGS

The Review of the International Committee of the Red Cross “Customary International Humanitarian Law” contains Rule No.25 “Medical personnel exclusively assigned to medical duties must be respected and protected in all circumstances”.

This Rule was introduced in the 1864 Geneva Convention and was repeated in the subsequent Geneva Conventions in 1906 and 1929. It is now set forth in the 1949 First, Second, and Fourth Geneva Convention. Its scope was expanded in Article 15 of the Additional Protocol I: from now on, this Rule refers both to the military and civilian medical personnel in all circumstances. This extension is widely supported in state practice which is connected with medical personnel and does not distinguish between military and civilian medical personnel.

It is prohibited to attack healthcare personnel – military or civilian provided they perform their medical duties and do not act against the enemies.

Personnel must be respected and protected in all circumstances.

The same is true for all healthcare structures and vehicles, including hospitals, first aid units, blood donor centers, prophylactic centers, warehouses with medical stuff and medical pharmaceutical warehouses, maternity houses, etc. This is determined by particular rules applied to medical personnel, medical institutions and medical transport, as well as by the basic provisions of International Humanitarian Law which refers to warfare and states that the parties in the war distinguish between the civilians and combatants, civilian and military sites.

Armed Forces of Ukraine and Nazi groups committed this war crime at any time and any place during war actions in Mariupol.



Olga Sergeevna Suportkina, a resident of Mariupol:

“We live on Novosibirskaya street, building 10, about 100 meters from school... and they (Ukrainian fighters) took up their position there since 25 February... there was heavy shelling, houses were intentionally shelled...”.



Tamara Nikolaevna Davidenko, a resident of Mariupol:

"A Ukrainian tank was moving, I was just observing, and it aimed at my window. It wasn't damaged yet then. I ran to the corridor. Once I was there, it - bang! - missed... Bang! - engaged the target... bang again! It started moving and then returned... fired at the second, third window... Then from my side, it moved around the house and intentionally fired all windows, all balconies...It doesn't look like war, but like an intentional destruction of houses, destruction of people. I am a pensioner, where will I live now? Where? I am homeless now".



Elena Nikolaevna Shtalina, a resident of Mariupol:

"Ukrainian tanks intentionally targeted the flats of the houses and fired, burnt the flats".



Viktor Fedorovich Saranov, Chief Doctor of a hospital in Volnovakha:

"There is a church at the territory of our hospital, a temple of Moscow Patriarchate. When the Ukrainian fighters were leaving the place, they just fired on the church... they just fired on it. Crosses were in all four corners, we have only one left. The temple was on fire. Last day, when there were military men here... I don't know, squadrons or Ukraine's Armed Forces... their last shot was here (he is pointing at the hospital)..."



Valentina Kuzminichna Vasilenko, a resident of Volnovakha:

"Ukrainian tanks fired. You saw a two-storey building. You see there where the windows are burnt, this used to be my flat and my neighbor's flat... Fired and burnt. I left my flat just like that... in the clothes I am wearing now..."



Elena Ivanovna Kozlova, a resident of Volnovakha:

"I saw a tank here (she is pointing)... it was maneuvering in and out, finally, it came here (she is pointing), fired on all our houses around, all these three houses... It fired on those houses. Here we have one, two (she is pointing)... They were all at one level... Our house was completely destroyed, you will see... You see that they (shots) are all at one level..."



Raisa Georgievna Skidan, a resident of Volnovakha:

"Everything was shelled, that hospital and this one... Nothing is left"



Irog Nikolaevich Budukh, a resident of Mariupol:

"Two tanks drove in, there was a howitzer near a workshop (Azovstal Plant). Mainly, Azov fighters... I don't know who they were, Ukraine's Armed Forces, but everyone said - Azov fighters. People saw -hospital and houses were shelled"



**Nikolay Nikolaevich,
a resident of Volnovakha:**

"This happened at night from 2nd to 3rd of March. A Ukrainian tank started firing. Its first target was a multi-storey building. I was standing in that entranceway. Very close. Then it (the tank) left the place. And it returned again at about 4-5 in the morning on the 3rd of March, the day was breaking, and it started shooting those houses again. It fired the church"

UKRAINIAN WAR CRIMES: PILLAGE

Some military tactics are directly prohibited by contractual and customary rules of International State Law. Pillage, which is the forcibly taking of private property by an invading or conquering army from the enemy's subjects, is prohibited.

Pillage is defined as a war crime in the Report of the Committee for Responsibility established after the First World War, as well as in the Charter of International Military Tribunal (Nuremberg) organized after the Second World War. The Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons adopted in 12 August 1949 also prohibits pillage:

Article 16. Each Party to the conflict will facilitate the steps taken to search for the killed and wounded, to assist the shipwrecked and other persons exposed to grave danger, and to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment.

The Hague Provision also prohibits pillage at all circumstances. Pillage prohibition is set forth in many military charters and instructions. Pillage is a crime under the legislation of many states. This prohibition was applied in a number of proceedings in the national courts after the Second World War.

Pillage is also a crime during non-international armed conflicts connected with violence inside a country. For example, in its decision about the Military Junta in 1985, the National Court of Appeal in Argentina applied a pillage prohibition norm from the Hague Provision to the violent actions inside the country.

Many victims and witnesses claim that the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Nazi groups intentionally pillaged civilians in combat zones.



Andrey Viktorovich Kostyuk, sergeant, 54th armored infantry brigade of Ukraine's Armed Forces:

"The houses were robbed. I saw how they and their platoon commander carried a welding unit, barbeques... I don't remember the last name, but I know his name is Artem Vladimirovich. Besides the houses where we settled, they started unlocking the doors of other houses and took new welding units... They stole tools, expensive kitchenware, forged barbeques, pots. I know these things cost a lot. I saw people crying, they lost everything... this is terrible.

There were thefts in the shops. That was in Sladkoe, Taranchuki settlements. One shop was open, actually forced open. They came with sacks, "helped themselves", and took everything. There were nearly no residents in the settlements, only few lived there.

Motor scooters were stolen. Military men drove them. Where could they get them? I drive my own car, while some have just started their service and drove motor scooters, cars..."



Sergey Nikolaevich Salamatin, a resident of Mariupol:

"On the 15th of March, the father of my godchild and me decided to get some water. On our way back, we were stopped by two fighters. Their caps showed they were from Azov, they had swastika. They took our car. We were forced to get out from the car, were held still, they strayed gas and tried to beat us. When they got into our car, they took the keys from the father of my godchild, made him turn out the pockets, put down the car keys, took the keys and got into the car. The father of my godchild just threw himself on the car hood. He paid ten thousand dollars for this car just about three or four months ago. He had been saving for a long time. They pointed their weapon at him and said, "Get out or we'll kill you". They just got into the car when he was trying to stop them, they pointed their guns at him, forced him to get away, threatened that they will kill him. When he cleared their way, they just left".



Andrey Kodak, a resident of Mariupol:

"I entered the school to find some water. I saw a lot of stuff there. Laptops, heaters, there it was. School 67. Ukrainian fighters (were) in the basement, second floor and first floor. Silver with receipts, price tags. They stole cars, buses..."



Aleksey Vladimirovich Sergeenko, a resident of Mariupol:

"When I was going through the central market, I saw that Ukrainian fighters broke into a store with cell phones... Fighters themselves..."





Elena Ivanovna Kozlova, a resident of Volnovakha:

"We were in the basements... they (the Ukrainian fighters) fired, we ran into the basement, and they ran through the stairs – started clearing (robbing) the flats... They robbed everywhere. Cell phones, iPhones, washing machines... TV sets".



Vita, a resident of Mariupol:

What did the Ukrainian fighters do?

"What did they do?... They took everything they can from the flats. They robbed. For example, a woman. She entered her flat, her neighbor saw they had been there. She entered and found no gold, no food, nothing".

What is our address in Mariupol?

"Khmelnitskii Avenue".



Raisa Georgievna Skidan, a resident of Volnovakha:

"Ukraine's forces robbed. They kicked out the residents, while they... Look, I have two houses, when I entered my houses, they stole everything, cars... The car of our Chief (Doctor) was stolen. Even Germans didn't do like that, I believe...".



Natalia Viktorovna Kudinova, a resident of Mariupol:

"A man who has just returned from Mariupol said – they ran into the Azov fighters at the checkpoint where they stripped women, girls naked, took gold and money. A girl said, "I have only 27 hryvnias, no more"... they took this sum too".





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